

# Access the Arts

CREATE. CONNECT. INSPIRE

## MANDALA MURAL PROJECT AT MCJDC

Thanks to a generous grant from GPD Group Employees Foundation, Access the Arts has collaborated with the Akron Art Bomb Brigade (a non-profit that paints murals in downtown Akron) and the Medina Juvenile Detention Center to help the youth create individual mandalas painted on large 18" x 18" wood boards that together make a giant quilt-like mural. The kids absolutely loved learning this painting technique and spent over 8 hours completing them! The two instructors from The University of Akron, Marissa McClellan and Elisa Gargarella, were wonderful with the teens, teaching them the history of Mandala painting and how to be focused and persistent while tapping into their inner artist. They spent 5 consecutive days directing this project balancing individuality and unity. The twenty finished mandalas will be hung together in Judge Dunn's Juvenile courtroom.







## OTHER THERAPEUTIC ART AT THE MCJDC

- Cheri Smith, from Brush Tips Studio in Wadsworth, has been volunteering her time each Saturday to teach the kids at the Medina Juvenile Detention Center painting on canvas. "Doing painting with the kids at the detention center is something I value most," Cheri says. "Not only do I get to interact with these kids, I get to teach them a different way to express themselves through painting. I know that it helps with their anxiety, depression, confidence or anything else that they might be feeling. Building their self esteem is very important. These kids hold a huge piece of my heart and if just one walks away knowing that they are loved and amazing then I did my job, and now they can paint to express it."
- Joan Zacharias has also volunteered her time to teach the detention youth about clay sculpting. She radiates energy and joy during every project she directs, even by Zoom! The children have made Day of the Dead skulls and bowls for the Feeding Medina County program. The hands-on process of molding clay is a positive outlet for frustration and stress, and the kids find it relaxing.
- Nirali Shah is a Henna artist that has taught the residents how to do henna painting on their canvas hands and dot painting on rocks. She is always reminding the kids of their potential and their value as artists and humans. Thank you to Cheri, Joan and Nirali for teaching wonderful life lessons along with art skills.



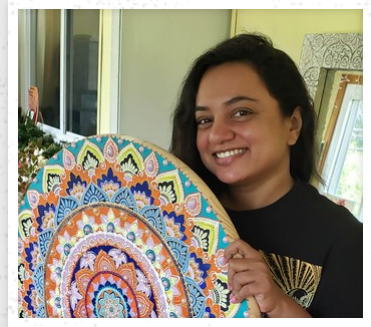




JOAN ZACHARIAS LOVES  
TEACHING CLAY  
SCULPTING!



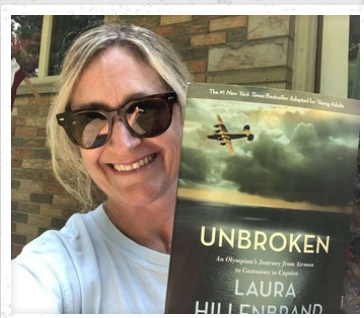
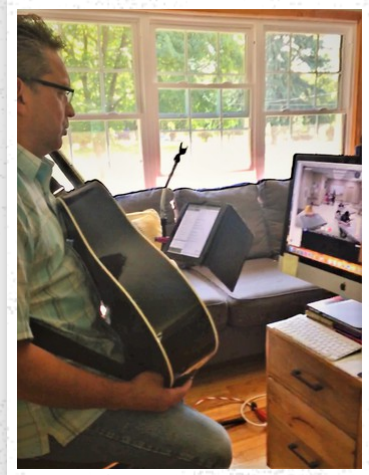
JDC RESIDENT'S  
AMAZING HENNA HAND!



NIRALI IS A BRIGHT  
LIGHT AT THE JDC!

## MUSIC SOOTHES THE SOUL

The GPD Group grant has enabled Rolando to continue his Saturday morning music lessons with the youth in the detention center. He helps them forget about their troubles with his music and connects with them by telling stories about music genres they love. He also sneaks in a few important life lessons along the way. Being a professional musician and a public school teacher makes him the perfect role model for these teens!



## BOOK CLUBS TEACH IMPORTANT VALUES

Lisa Tecco and Jane Back led another ten session book club using the young adult version of the Laura Hillenbrand book, *Unbroken*. The kids were absolutely enthralled with the book, often volunteering to read aloud. They were amazed at the sacrifice and heroism of Louie Zamperini, the Olympic athlete and WWII veteran. Despite the masks and virtual meetings, we were excited to have them engage in enlightening discussions.

## YOGA EVENT FUNDRAISER AT BLUE HERON

On Saturday, July 25th, about 40 people gathered to do yoga together at Blue Heron Event Center and support the causes of Access the Arts. Thanks to everyone who did yoga for a great





MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE  
DETENTION CENTER 2020

# ART EXPERIENCE

*Help us celebrate and appreciate the art created by our youth by*  
**JOINING US VIRTUALLY!**

**SEPTEMBER 24<sup>th</sup> – OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Auction begins Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm and ends October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm

online at 32auctions  
[www.32auctions.com/ArtX2020](http://www.32auctions.com/ArtX2020)

A collage of various colorful children's art projects, including drawings of sunsets, dandelions, palm trees, and abstract patterns. The artworks are displayed in a fan-like arrangement on the right side of the poster.

Access the Arts was happy to sponsor the Medina Juvenile Detention Center annual art auction from September 24th - October 1st. This year, the event was a virtual auction with 100 pieces of art made by the residents of the detention center. Janet George and Julie Spaitte helped Jaclyn Balliet organize, catalog and enter the artwork into the online system. The large mandalas were sponsored by donors and other pieces were bid on and purchased throughout the week. All proceeds from this auction will go toward continuing therapeutic art programs for the children at the detention center.

We are so happy to be spending time with the adults who live at the Medina County Home. Covid 19 has really isolated the 40 people who live there. Even during the pandemic, residents enjoyed concerts out in the pavilion, dancing and singing to their favorite tunes. Ohio Crossroads played old traditional songs and bluegrass while Rolando got them moving to some class rock. Access the Arts volunteers, Kelley Welch, Janet George, Gail Hickey and Jane Back provided refreshments.



**OHIO CROSSROADS  
PLAYING BLUEGRASS**



**ROOTBEER FLOATS -  
YUM!**



**DANCING TO ROLANDO'S  
SOUND**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mark your calendars for the next Sharon Showcase! June 12th, 2021 is set for this fun music and art festival in the Sharon Center Circle.
- Access the Arts is working to provide guitars and ukuleles to the residents at the MCJDC. This winter, we hope to offer instrumental lessons to the children there. We know that playing music is a calming and creative outlet for these troubled youth.
- AtA will be bringing arts and crafts, as well as music sessions to the Medina County Home residents this winter. Through their recently installed smart TV, AtA artists and musicians will be able to enrich their lives with the arts!
- Our Sister School Program is in the planning stage. After the first of the year, we will bring Medina County and Akron Public School children together to experience free programs in the arts. The third graders will be able to learn about music, painting, sculpting, and dancing, among other disciplines. The best part is, they will build lasting friendships with children of other cultures and backgrounds while celebrating the arts!



# BEND AND BREATHE AT BLUE HERON - YOGA FOR A CAUSE

## WHEN

SATURDAY, NOV. 14TH, 10-11AM

## WHERE

3227 BLUE HERON TRACE, MEDINA, OHIO

## MORE INFORMATION

**Roots Yoga and Barre** is offering a donation-based class to benefit Access the Arts (suggested min. donation \$15). Grab your mat, a friend, and some clothing you can easily move in for this yoga event for a great cause. No experience needed. **FREE Mimosa**, and **door prizes** from area businesses. Afterward, lunch is available to purchase at Blue Heron Brew Pub.

**All proceeds will help Access the Arts bring free arts programs to The Medina County Juvenile Detention Center and to The Medina County Home.** Safety protocols apply: Everyone will remain 6' apart. Please wear a mask until you are on your mat. Register ahead by going to [www.RootsYogaOhio.com](http://www.RootsYogaOhio.com) or RSVP to [JaneBack@AccessTheArts.net](mailto:JaneBack@AccessTheArts.net). Walk-ins are also welcome, but space is limited. Door prizes will be drawn from names of those who register ahead.



### Sharon Center Community - Arts...

[accessthearts.net](http://accessthearts.net)

We are a non-profit organization bringing education, arts and entertainment to communities in Northeast Ohio via music concerts, festivals and teaching events.