



MEDINA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

Probate and Juvenile Divisions

93 Public Square, Room 104, Medina, Ohio 44256

KEVIN W. DUNN
Judge

MEDIA RELEASE
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MCJDC Residents Submit Art Project for 45th International Children's Exhibition of Fine Art in Lidice, Czech Republic



MEDINA – Residents of the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center are commonly given the opportunity to create artwork during their detainment in order to express their struggles, goals, and hopes for self-improvement. They took it one step further this month, collaborating to create a three-dimensional project to enter into the annual International Children's Exhibition of Fine Art in Lidice, Czech Republic.

The International Children's Exhibition was established in 1967 to commemorate the child victims from the Czech village of Lidice, who had been murdered by German Nazis, as well as other children who had died in wars. The exhibition became international in 1973 and has since become well known among children and teachers around the world.

Residents of the MCJDC collaborated to create a piece called "Sunburst" to address this year's exhibition theme of travel. Under that theme, children were invited to create works of art related to traveling, both current day and throughout history, home sweet home, or forms of transportation. In a less literal sense, children could also submit works of art related to a somewhat different journey, including migration in nature, virtual travel, or as the residents of the Juvenile Detention Center chose to create, artwork expressing "my own way" – a journey of self-discovery, self-improvement, way to happiness, and working towards one's own goals.

Using unrolled toilet paper rolls, the residents wrote negative words or statements inside of them that they have been called or that have been said to them during their lifetime. Some of those phrases included "you're nothing," "you're nobody," and "I hate you."

"A lot of these kids keep their guard up to prevent getting hurt," said Carrie Sellers, Alternative Paths Licensed Independent Social Worker who works with the youth in the MCJDC. "Writing those words and

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phrases forces them to think about the feelings and emotions they may have oppressed and work toward moving past the hurt to create a positive self-image.”

The toilet paper rolls were then rolled back up and band aids were placed on top to symbolize mending old wounds. Positive words and phrases were then added as a symbol of processing the previous negativity, healing, and ultimately finding happiness. Those words included “strong,” “inspired,” “good day,” “love,” and “family.”

The art project was coordinated and supervised by Sellers, Danielle Lino, Case Manager, and Alexis Lee, Intern at the Juvenile Detention Center. Dr. Kristine Quallich, Director of Educational Services for Medina City Schools, also supported the project and acted as point person with the Lidice Museum. In total, 15 residents housed at the Juvenile Detention Center ages 13 to 16 contributed to the piece of work.

“If the museum does not end up putting our projects on display, it will not be for lack of effort,” said MCJDC Superintendent Ron Stollar, noting the amount of detail and criteria required for submission to the exhibition.

If chosen for the exhibition, the artwork will remain on display May 30 through November 30 in Lidice, Czech Republic.

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