

Life Is Connections *by Amy Rich*

“Life is connections.” That was one of the lessons from Susan Fowler during this summer’s Arts & Smarts program.

Susan told stories about the writing of Indiana’s Constitution in the shade of an elm tree in Corydon during the sweltering summer of 1816. She brought a boy named Ashton to the center of the circle of children and had Ashton play the elm tree. She explained that the Constitution Elm was overcome by Dutch Elm Disease and died, but its trunk was enshrined in tar and stone. Ashton could now stand for ash trees, like the one in front of Patchwork. Now ash trees are dying from nonnative emerald ash borers. We gather as a group beneath the ash tree at the end of every day of our summer Art Garden program. During that time, we do a recap of the day and say a prayer of thanksgiving and of the hope that we will all return safely tomorrow.

This idea of connections is important to me and to my work at Patchwork. Every day, there are many small moments: talking to Caroline as she looks through items in our free area, laughing with Herschel as he steps through the main office door and pretends to be The Fonz, talking to Clyde about the picnic he cooked up for his apartment complex, helping the mother of two-year-old twins send a fax, or taking a moment to look carefully at the details Addy has added to her Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.

I believe that the consequences of these small moments ripple outward from Patchwork, touching our immediate neighborhood, the city, and beyond. When my neighbors have things like food, safety, transportation, access to resources, respect, health care, and new knowledge, their lives are better. Patchwork cannot provide everything that someone may need, but we can surely help. When my neighbors’ lives are better, all of our lives are better. We have a stronger community in which we can all live together.

In this issue of Patchwork’s *Stitches* newsletter, we thank those who have given to Patchwork financially. As I created this list, I thought of everyone on it and their connections to me and to Patchwork. Some I know well, many I do not. Some have been giving for Patchwork’s entire 40-year history. Some have given just once. Some are clients who gave just because they wanted to and were able. I read each name and I am grateful.

This list is a network of interconnected people all working together to keep Patchwork strong and to maintain our presence in this neighborhood. Rippling inward. Rippling outward. Linking together and making connections to make this place and through it, the world, better.



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Alicia Lopez in Memory of Victor Jorge Lopez Downs



This list includes gifts received between 7/1/2015 and 9/30/2016. We are very grateful for every donation we receive. While we have worked to assure that this list is correct, we apologize for any errors we may have made.

Reflecting on the Summer

In July we wrapped up another successful summer of children's programming at Patchwork. As always, the summer was a family-like experience with multiple generations of people all participating together. We had everyone from three-year-old Calvin participating in his fourth summer with us (yes, you read that right!) to 90-year-old Helen Belleville being introduced to the children of the children she used to teach here as a volunteer.



Thanks to our two Sculpture Weeks, we have some new sculptures in our Blackford's Grove Forest at the corner of 6th and Blackford. Every participant had an opportunity to try welding, under the tutelage of this summer's visiting sculptor, Adam Rakestraw. The group worked together to design, fabricate, and install gates for the garden made from old bike parts and a one-of-a-kind bottle tree. In the process of installation, we used neon string to stabilize the piece as its concrete base dried. The group decided the string added to the piece, so we left it connected. Participants during Art Garden Week II created bottle tree jewelry to add to the tree as well. Stop by and check out our fun and quirky new art!



Dance Week was presented in collaboration with the Children's Center for Dance Education. Participants had a wonderful time jumping, moving, and dancing with Sadia. The week included learning Spanish dances, large and colorful streamers, and a Soul Train dance line for which everyone laughed and had fun.



Reflecting on the Summer *(con't)*

Our summer activities opened and closed with Patchwork's signature Art Garden Weeks. Susan Fowler returned for her tenth summer at Patchwork and told stories from Indiana's history in honor of Indiana's bicentennial. We learned about the writing of the constitution; Abraham Lincoln's early life; the plight of elm and ash trees; the state's rivers, streams, canals, and native animals; Larry Bird; the history of women's basketball; and the Olympics. In the studio, we created ceramic mushroom sculptures and created tree jewelry for the bottle tree from Sculpture Weeks. In the garden, we tended our native butterfly garden, planted beans, and picked plums, blackberries, cucumbers, and zinnias. We also dug a bountiful harvest of potatoes and onions. In the kitchen, we roasted the potatoes and onions, chopped up the plums and cucumbers, mixed up Jello and cookies, made cobblers, and scrambled fresh duck eggs.

Special thanks to the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana, the Evansville Audubon Society, the Indiana Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Vanderburgh Community Foundation for providing special funding for our summer arts activities.



Helen Belleville's 90th Birthday



Helen turned 90 this October and we celebrated with a party at Patchwork. She has been volunteering here since 1999, and in that time she has cared for the children who come to us and has given to them from her years of experience as an art teacher. She previously taught art in Mount Vernon, Indiana for almost 30 years.

These days, Helen is able to visit us only occasionally, but at times she was here three to four days each week. Her influence can still be seen in our arts programming, most notably during easel painting time which she began early in her tenure. Even today, participants eagerly wait their turn at the big easels where they can paint whatever they want. They find joy in mixing this color and that color, dunking different kinds of brushes into the paint, and swirling them across the page.

If you know Helen, you can send her birthday wishes in care of Patchwork. You can also make a donation to our Arts & Smarts program in her honor in order to help more children learn about and love art.



Save The Dates!

We're excited that Patchwork is turning 40!

Look for special events in 2017 that will celebrate this milestone including our annual Soup, Salad, & Style luncheon on Thursday, February 23, and a special birthday party in July.

We'll also be celebrating Alan Winslow's 95th birthday on Saturday, July 15th.

Mark your calendars now and keep an eye out for further details. We hope it will be an opportunity to connect with friends here in Evansville and across the globe!

NAP Tax Credits Available

Patchwork anticipates that we will receive additional tax credits to make available to our donors through the State of Indiana's Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP). We are allotted a set number of these credits each year and can give them to our donors on a first-come basis.

NAP donors receive a credit on their state taxes that is equal to half of their donation to Patchwork. For instance, a donation of \$200 through the NAP program will result in a \$100 tax credit for the donor. As usual, the full amount of the donation can be deducted from your federal taxes. Individuals and businesses who owe Indiana state taxes can take advantage of this program. The minimum NAP donation is \$100.

If you would like to know more about how to give through the NAP program, or if you would like to be contacted when Patchwork has tax credits available, please contact John Rich (812-424-2735 or JohnRich@Patchwork.org).



E-Newsletter

More Stories! More Photos! More News!

Sign up for our bi-weekly e-newsletter! You will receive email updates highlighting the most recent happenings at Patchwork.

Simply visit our website, www.Patchwork.org, and click the "join our mailing list" link!

Bequests

The next time you update your will, please consider adding Patchwork Central, Inc. as a beneficiary. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Patchwork is eligible to receive donations from bequests. Any size of gift makes a big difference in providing for our programming and contributing to our long-term stability.

Sunday Worship

The Patchwork Community meets for worship every Sunday 5:15 p.m. at the Meetinghouse, 100 Washington Avenue, followed by a covered dish supper.

All are welcome!

Patchwork Central, Inc.

100 Washington Ave.

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(812) 424-2735

www.patchwork.org

-S-T-I-T-C-H-E-S- STAFF

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Please be generous as you consider sending your cash contribution in the envelope provided for your convenience. Your generosity will help us continue the Patchwork tradition of providing these many creative programs.

PATCHWORK'S MISSION STATEMENT

Based in Evansville, Indiana, Patchwork Central, Inc creates community and encourages spiritual and social growth

by offering hospitality,

by providing opportunities for learning,

by fostering creativity and involvement in the arts, and

by working toward a more peaceful and just world.





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