

## Arts & Smarts: Having Fun and Changing Lives

■ By Amy Rich

During this fall's Arts & Smarts children's program, we've greeted both familiar faces and new ones among our participants and our volunteers. We've marveled at how much some of our returning participants have grown over the summer. We've introduced ourselves to new children and their parents.

We've helped families with children who need some extra help in school to make tutoring appointments with Dixie and her group of volunteer tutors. We've celebrated the start of Book Club with balloons from Melody, a volunteer. We've traveled around the world without leaving Patchwork's kitchen thanks to treats brought for an International Party hosted by students who are part of the University of Southern Indiana International Community Service Program.

We've taught our older participants in grades 6-8 how to be good leaders, and we've helped build their team spirit in preparation for leading the younger participants. We've built everyone's creativity and ceramics skills in our studio while constructing nativity figures that the children will sell in November at Patchwork's Holiday Art Sale. Along the way, we've had a lot of fun, and we've built a strong and supportive community of program participants and adults.

Another activity we've engaged in is sharing our "sparks". Sparks are things like playing guitar, creating a woven wall hanging, or something else that represents an interest or passion that someone has within themselves. These sparks light a fire within that person's life and express the essence of who they are and what they offer to the world. Research by the Search Institute has shown that sparks promote healthy, positive development and contribute to psychological well-being and resilience and that students with sparks engage in fewer risk-taking behaviors, such as substance use or violence, than other students. Students who have identified their sparks and who feel that their exploration of those sparks is supported by family, friends, school, and community have better interpersonal skills, more empathy, and are better able to work in teams. (Search Institute, Insights & Evidence. Vol 5, No 1. December 2010.)

Our programming also emphasizes building high quality relationships between participants and adult staff and volunteers. This is in line with additional developing research from the Search Institute on the value of developmental relationships like these. The Search Institute's research defines relationships as developmental if they help young people 1.) Discover who

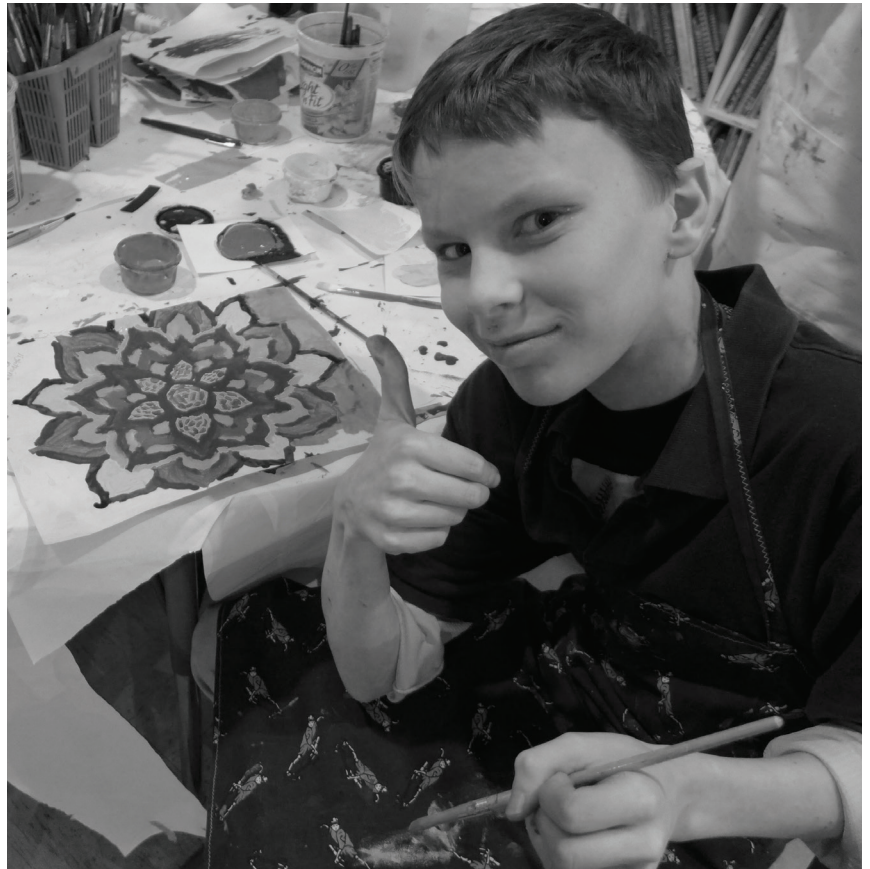


## Arts & Smarts: Having Fun and Changing Lives (con't)

they are, 2.) Develop abilities to shape their own lives, and 3.) Learn how to engage with and contribute to the world around them (Search Institute. Relationships First: Creating connections that help young people thrive. PDF file. 2017.). The Search Institute reports that “the evidence is clear that students who have higher levels of developmental relationships also are more likely to be successful at school and in other ways (Scales & Pekel. Remember the Relationships: the missing link that makes measures of students’ social and emotional learning more understandable and actionable. PDF file. 2018).

This relates to existing research on the value of “protective factors” within children’s lives. The term “protective factors” refers to the characteristics of environments that appear to alter—or even reverse—potential negative outcomes and enable individuals to transform adversity and develop resilience despite risk. These protective factors fall into three basic categories:

- **Caring relationships** that convey compassion, understanding, respect, and genuine interest in the individual; are grounded in listening; and establish safety and basic trust.
  - **High expectation messages** from adults that communicate not only firm guidance, structure, and challenge but convey a belief in the youth’s innate resilience and look for strengths and assets as opposed to problems and deficits.
  - **Opportunities for meaningful participation and contribution**, including opportunities for valued responsibilities, for making decisions, for giving voice and being heard, and for contributing one’s talents to the community.
- (Benard, Bonnie. “The Foundations of the Resiliency Framework.” *Resiliency in Action*, 2012. Web. October 8 2013.)



Combining this research with Patchwork’s nearly four decades of experience supporting and educating children after school, we have created the following outcomes for our Arts & Smarts program:

- All program participants will feel that they have adults at Patchwork who care about them and who challenge them to do their best.
- Participants will do better in school and will have more positive attitudes about learning and school.
- Participants will feel that they have new opportunities to explore their individual talents and interests, new opportunities to develop new talents and interests, and caring adults who acknowledge and support their talents and interests.
- In particular, arts participants will feel their talents in the areas of creativity and visual art are nurtured.
- Participants will be challenged to think of positive futures for themselves, and they will gain skills to help them reach these goals (including substance abuse prevention skills and knowledge of college and how to attend).

So if you stop by our Arts & Smarts program on an afternoon after school, you may see us creating a ceramic unicorn camel to join a nativity set or daring to nibble on raw okra slices or helping to memorize spelling words or constructing marble runs or practicing the guitar. Sure, we’re having a lot of fun, but we’re also doing the important work of building valuable skills and relationships that will help children succeed.



# THANK YOU!

## Individuals:

Leola Ahrens  
 Pat & Salim Akrabawi  
 Greg & Mary Allen  
 Elaine & Phil Amerson  
 Anonymous  
 Don Apple  
 Margaret Ashworth  
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Betty Worthington  
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Peiyu Wu  
Scott Wylie  
Laura Yoder  
Angela Zeller

## **Businesses, Organizations, & Foundations:**

Advanced Network and  
Computer Services  
Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana  
Banana Republic Factory Store  
Blackford's Grove Neighborhood  
Association  
Boilermakers Local 374  
Bristol Myers Squibb Matching  
Gift Program  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
CDBG Provided By The City of  
Evansville, Indiana  
Craddock Finishing  
Crescent City Civitan Club  
Crescent-Cresline-Wabash Plastics  
Culligan

Deaconess Hospital Foundation  
Dileggie's  
Encom  
Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis  
Evansville Bicycle Club  
Evansville Downtown Optimists  
Foundation  
Evansville Garage Doors  
Evansville North Civitan Club  
Eye Mart  
First Bank  
First Federal Savings Bank  
Fresh Thyme Farmers Market  
G.R. Freeman Heating and Air  
German American Financial Advisors  
Green River Kiwanis Club of Evansville  
Head's Construction  
Henry F Koch Foundation  
Holiday Management Foundation  
Housecall Home Inspection  
Indiana Arts Commission  
Madisonville Garage Doors  
Mamie Young Trust  
McMahon Exterminating  
Mead Johnson Nutrition Matching  
Gift Program  
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Order of the Owls  
Pet Food Center  
River Bend Ladies Auxiliary  
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St. Philip School  
Indiana State Employees'  
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United Capital  
United Way of Gibson County  
West Side Nut Club  
Wilderman and Associates  
Wildflower Boutique  
Wolfe's Auto Auction  
Woodward Commercial Realty  
Youth Resources of Southwestern Indiana

## **Churches:**

Aldersgate UMC  
Baker Chapel UMC  
Bethany Christian Church  
Bethel United Church of Christ  
Blue Grass UMC  
Christian Fellowship Church  
East Side Christian Church  
Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
Fairlawn UMC  
First Baptist Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
First Presbyterian Women's Association  
Fletcher Chapel  
Indiana-Kentucky Women of ELCA

McCutchanville Community  
Church  
Methodist Temple  
Salem UMC  
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
St. Peter's UMC  
Trinity Rockport UMC Women  
Trinity UMC  
Trinity UMC Women

## **In Kind Donations:**

Anonymous  
Bethany Christian Church  
Jean Beckman  
Darlene Blagg  
Susan Bonhotal  
Meg Connolly  
Phyllis Donahue  
East Side Christian Church  
Edge Body Boot Camp Evansville  
Kathy Edmondson  
Evansville Coffee Company  
Evansville Garage Doors  
Evansville North Civitans Club  
Walt & Shirley Everett  
Fairlawn UMC  
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First Bank  
First Baptist Church  
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Parenting Time Center  
Peg Ray  
Red Door Preschool  
Red Spot Paint & Varnish  
Salem UMC  
Robert Schirmer  
Smile on Down Syndrome  
Kenneth Sparks  
Stitching with Joyce  
Helen Templeton  
The Pool Posse  
Tri State Orthopedic  
Trinity Anglican Church  
Debbie Whitfield  
Judy Williams  
Jen Wood

## **In Memory and In Honor:**

**In Honor of Alan Winslow:**  
Martha Alldredge  
Belle Hagey  
Brian & Barbara Williams  
Michael Winslow

**In Honor of Calvin & Nelia Kimbrough:**  
Dave McIntyre  
Ann Craney  
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## **In Honor of Phyllis Donahue:**

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## **In Memory of Judi Jacobson:**

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Susan Laird

## **In Memory of Pauline Burgdorf:**

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Esther Saltzman  
Mary Schauss  
Wilfred & Marilyn Thielman  
Laura Weaver  
Maggie Weber  
Michael & Jo Wolf

## **In Memory of Tobi Loesch:**

Darlene Blagg  
Robin Church  
Wanda & Angela Duncan  
Judith Prince  
Jane & David Vickers  
Judy Wargel  
Laura Weaver

## **Others:**

Anonymous in honor of  
Darlene Blagg  
Anonymous in memory of  
Mark Slaughter  
Gloria Bryant in memory of  
Nancy Shively  
Jon & Lynette Calvert in memory  
of Judi Jacobson & in honor of  
Alan Winslow  
Jerry Cheadle in honor of his  
sister Carna Manthey  
Ann Kautzmann in honor of  
her brother

# THANK YOU! (con't)

Gail & Bill LaFief in memory of  
Fred Zuck  
Alicia Gatti Lopez in memory of  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Gatti  
Paul McAuliffe & Roberta Heiman  
in honor of Phil Lieberman

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honor of Mary Miller  
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Helen & Phil Fisher

Joann Schwentker in memory of  
David Martin  
Connie Warren in memory of Judi  
Jacobson, in memory of Gene  
Kennard, & in honor of Alan Winslow  
Laura Weaver in memory of  
Elizabeth Kottler

*This list includes gifts received between  
10/1/2017 and 9/30/2018. 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.*

## Back to School Sale

In the last week of July, I got a report of a school supply explosion at Patchwork Central. Everything was OK, though. It was all in good fun.

The report came from someone who had volunteered as a “Bagger” to help prepare for Patchwork’s 22nd annual Back to School Sale. The group had moved a mountain of boxes and bags of supplies out of storage before unpacking, sorting, counting, and arranging everything in Patchwork’s main room.

The majority of the supplies were organized by grade level and placed in paper bags so parents would be able to purchase an entire kit that contains most everything that their children would need to begin the new school year. Extra supplies were sold a la carte. New socks and underwear were also available to help parents outfit their children for the new year.

Yes, we charge a small fee for the supplies we distribute, but this fee comes nowhere near the actual cost of the supplies that families will receive. The fee allows families to actively invest in their children’s educations.

On the Sale day, the doors opened at 8:30 am and the room flooded with families who are working hard to get their children ready for a new school year. Parents were glad to have a few less things to worry about in the rush to get their kids ready for school, and children eagerly peered into the bags of supplies to see what goodies lay inside.

Many thanks to Jane Johansen, our amazing Back to School organizer, who keeps her eye on updated lists of school supplies requested by area teachers and who spends the year searching for low cost sources for those supplies.

Additional thanks to the generous donors who have contributed additional supplies, funding, and volunteers that made this year’s event possible. These include:

- Red Spot Paint and Varnish
- Evansville Garage Doors
- East Side Christian Church
- Simpson United Methodist Church
- Bethany Christian Church

We’ve already begun shopping for our 2019 Back to School Sale. We would love to find additional groups who would help shop for materials, who would donate money to help us offset the cost, and who would help supply volunteers.





# New Collaborations for the Sozo Health Ministry

■ By John Rich



A friend of mine started a new job at the Evansville-Vanderburgh Public Library recently. She loves working at the library. One day, I was browsing through the audio books section of the library. Seemingly out of nowhere, this friend rushes up to me, grabs my arm, and pulls me into a small study room where she is apparently having a meeting with her supervisor. A little shaken and confused, I shake the supervisor's hand as my friend introduces us.

"This is what we need." My friend tells the supervisor, "This is John Rich. He's a nurse and a minister and runs the Sozo Health Ministry at Patchwork Central." My friend goes on to explain that just a few days ago, she noticed a homeless patron in the library with a nasty, hacking cough. She thought of me and wished I had been there to listen to the guy's lungs with my stethoscope. "We should have him come in regularly to do blood pressure checks and talk with people about their health issues."

The three of us continue talking and agree that this sounds like a great idea. So the Sozo Health Ministry started a collaboration with the Evansville-Vanderburgh Public Library. We're calling it "Friday Mornings with Patchwork."

On the first Friday of each month, the Sozo Health Ministry will be at the Central Library branch from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. to take blood pressures, talk with people about their health situations, and provide education, advocacy, and support for whatever health issues people have.

Our partnership with EVPL has been so successful that we were approached by the USI School of Nursing to have USI nursing students come and participate. In September, the first class of USI nursing students held a Service Learning project so that nursing students could work and learn alongside our nurses in the library setting. We will be repeating the project with a new group of students in November.

## Sozo Health Ministry (con't)

The library may not be the first organization that comes to mind when you think of health care, but it is an important part of the fabric of relationships that create community. In the same way that individuals build friendships (like my friendship with my arm-grabbing library employee buddy), organizations build collaborations.

The Sozo Health Ministry is honored to be partnering with the Evansville-Vanderburgh Public Library to help bring greater access, awareness, education, and care to improve the health of the Evansville community. Collaborations like this have begun to pop up in larger cities, but it is unusual to find one in a city of Evansville's size.

### 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](http://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 Ave,  
followed by a covered dish supper.  
**All are welcome!**

## Patchwork Central, Inc.

100 Washington Ave.  
Evansville, IN 47713-1521  
(812) 424-2735  
[www.patchwork.org](http://www.patchwork.org)

### MISSION STATEMENT

Patchwork Central creates community, honors personal dignity, empowers people, and encourages spiritual and social growth through its programs and hospitality, its opportunities for learning, its creative atmosphere and cultivation of the arts, and its work toward reconciliation and a more peaceful and just world.

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

<b>Amy Rich</b>	Editor and Photos
<b>Laura Weaver</b>	Proofreader
<b>Ling Lin</b>	Layout

### Patchwork Central Staff

<b>John &amp; Amy Rich</b>	Co-Executive Directors
<b>Shawn Craddock</b>	Administrative
<b>Dee Stein</b>	Assistants
<b>Jane Case Vickers</b>	Director of Arts and Education Programs
<b>Dixie Wilsbacher</b>	Tutoring Coordinator
<b>Karley Garrison</b>	Program Assistant
<b>Robert Clegg</b>	Program Assistant
<b>John Schaeffer</b>	Food Pantry Coordinator
<b>Pete Emry</b>	Bike Shop Coordinator

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 CENTRAL

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Updated photos, useful information, newsletters, online giving, and more!  
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