

RHD artists reaching for the sky

Johnny, an artist at RHD's Imagine That! creative arts studio for people with intellectual disabilities, was one of the artists selected by the Charlotte Street Foundation for Mobank's 2018 Artboards. Johnny exhibited commissioned images on the exterior, double-sided billboards above downtown Kansas City. The "Artboards" will be visible to the public all hours of the day, and will remain on view through the spring.

It's just one of many recent honors and awards for artists at Imagine That!, which offers creativity-based healing and learning opportunities for artists of all abilities, empowering people to realize their creative potential and explore various means of personal expression.

Gilvon placed first in the annual Directors Creativity Showcase, sponsored by the Missouri Mental Health Foundation in partnership with the Missouri Department of Mental Health, and Daniel's piece "Dark Fusion" was accepted for the Art of Possibilities exhibition in Minneapolis in April.

In addition, staff art coordinator Jillian is one of three winners of the 2018 Visual Artist Awards from the Charlotte Street Foundation.

At Imagine That!, artists are supported by teams of other artists that help integrate the studio into the art community at a local, national, and international level. Imagine That! supports up to 50 individual artists with 13 staff members and a number of volunteers from the surrounding area. Since 2012, the studio for artists with intellectual disabilities has exhibited throughout Kansas City, as well as in several group exhibitions across the country.



Imagine That!: Artwork from Johnny, an artist at RHD's Imagine That! in Kansas City, was displayed on billboards above Kansas City.



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NONPROFIT RESOURCES FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

WHO WE ARE: Resources for Human Development is a national human services nonprofit founded in 1970 that specializes in creating innovative, quality services that support people of all abilities wherever the need exists. In partnership with government and those we serve, RHD builds better communities through more than 160 caring and effective programs in 14 states.

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Best and Brightest

RHD's Lower Merion Counseling & Mobile Services expands services for children and families

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Marco Giordano named RHD CEO

The RHD Board of Directors announced that Marco Giordano has been appointed to the permanent position of Chief Executive Officer.

"Marco brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this role, an untiring work ethic, and an ardent commitment to the values and culture of the corporation," RHD Board of Directors Chairman Michael Denomme said. "The Board is confident that he will provide the kind of wise, vibrant and empowering leadership that will enable RHD to continue its remarkable success as a highly effective and innovative human service organization."

Giordano had occupied an interim position as RHD's CEO since July. The Board made its official announcement in December 2017.

"I am honored, and very grateful to the board, for the opportunity to lead this extraordinary organization of caring, exceptional people dedicated to serving people across the country," Giordano said. "The excellence of RHD's person-centered, trauma-informed services will always be our highest priority. I am excited to lead RHD into the future, as all of us work together to make sure RHD is always a place that believes every person should be treated with respect and dignity, and have the opportunity to develop to their full potential."

Giordano joined RHD in February 2007, as Chief Accounting Officer and has been a member of RHD's Executive Management Team since 2008. He became Chief Financial Officer in 2013.

A Certified Public Accountant since 1996, Giordano joined RHD after five years of public accounting experience at Cogen Sklar Levick (now Morison Cogen LLP) and nine years at Temple University Hospital. Giordano attended Widener University and graduated with a BBA in Accounting.

"I am excited to lead this amazing organization, and look forward to the work we'll do together," Giordano said. "RHD works every day to meet challenges that make our communities better places. To see people change their lives, and know RHD played a part in it, how could you not get excited about that?"

Chief Executive Officer

Marco Giordano

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MyRHD is published quarterly, mailed to supporters, donors and government officials. It is meant to inform about RHD's activities, innovations and successes in the more than 160 human-services programs it operates throughout the country. If you wish to unsubscribe to MyRHD, please email info@rhd.org or write us at the address above.

How you can help

More than 50,000 people each year gain the support and encouragement they need to build better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities through RHD's many human-services programs. Their milestones and successes, large and small, are made possible through the generosity of people like you.

Your support helps provide the resources people of all abilities need as they work to build their most successful lives. You can help support caring, effective and innovative programs that emphasize the person in the service, with a belief that each human being, no matter what their challenges, should be treated with dignity and respect. You can help give people the opportunity to develop to their full potential, improving the quality of life and creating brighter futures for all RHD clients.

Please use the enclosed envelope to send a check or visit us at www.rhd.org to donate online.

Shared Living, Meaningful Life



Kenneth Kauffman | photos

Life Sharing: Jillian shares her home with Carol (R) in RHD's Life Sharing program. Jillian's mother Wendy-Jo supports two women in the family's home.

Wendy-Jo arranges Sarah's hair into soft coils, asking "Ready for some curls?" and gets Carol ready for a family photo. Wendy-Jo is an RHD Life Sharing provider, and Sarah and Carol are clients — but they are very much part of the family.

RHD Life Sharing provides shared living and supported living services for individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities and autism in the Lehigh Valley. The Life Sharing provider is a community-based, family-oriented home that offers people the ability to participate and contribute to the household, while promoting personal growth and independence. Wendy-Jo and her family have been part of the Life Sharing community for more than 10 years — Carol celebrated her 10-year anniversary with the family in October, and Sarah has lived with them for nine years.

"I like shared living because it's a long time commitment," Wendy-Jo said. "Lifesharing is family. Carol and Sarah are family, and family stays together."

Lifesharing providers receive extensive support, training and ongoing oversight in order to support and assist the individual in service. RHD Lifesharing combines housing and a full array of community supports to help individuals achieve stability and live successfully in the community.

"Lifesharing is a pretty old concept that's similar to foster care, except that foster care ends with individuals at the age of 18 or 21," said Patricia Kreil, Director of RHD Life Sharing. "The goal here is that it's a life-long commitment."

"We don't know how Wendy-Jo does it, but the whole family is that way — they are all involved in the care of Sarah and Carol. The most successful families all have family involvement. Wendy-Jo's family is the perfect example of this."

The family travels with Sarah and Carol on annual vacations. On a dolphin-watching cruise in New Jersey, Sarah swam with the dolphins. Carol celebrated her 60th birthday in November complete with a DJ, dancing, and her favorite foods.

"They care for Carol and Sarah as if they were their own flesh and blood," said Michael James, the RHD Lifesharing Specialist who oversees Carol and Sarah's care. "This is not something they are doing on the side; this is their life. They give 100 percent of themselves to Carol and Sarah."

"They are one huge family, right down to the five dogs. When you walk through the door, you feel a warmth that is undeniable."

RHD has years of experience in developing home- and

community-based supports for individuals who may have extensive and complex needs. With the success of RHD Life Sharing in the Lehigh Valley, RHD has begun implementing the Life Sharing model in other states, including Missouri, Nebraska and South Dakota, to hundreds of individuals who formerly resided in state centers and state hospitals.

Individuals supported in RHD's Life Sharing programs gain the stability and independence that comes with living in the community in a family-oriented model, and receive support in expanding their circle of friendships, pursuing community interests, and becoming active, full members of their communities.

"We started out with one home and grew to three homes in about a year," Kreil said. "Almost every year since then, we've doubled in size."

"The families that become Lifesharing providers are really proud of what they do. I have not had to do any recruitment — our families recruit each other."

RHD Life Sharing providers say the experience is beneficial for the whole family.

"Being an RHD Life Sharing provider has been one of the most rewarding experiences that I've ever had," Ruica said.

"I love being a life-sharing provider with RHD," said Avon. "It is very fulfilling when you see the strides people achieve while in your care."

"Being part of the RHD Life Sharing program has been a great experience," said Deanna. "It is a good feeling to see the people that live in my home continue to learn and grow. The people that live in my home feel part of the family and we all continue to grow, learn, and respect each other."

Wendy-Jo relishes making room in her family for two women with special needs in her role as a Lifesharing caregiver to Sarah and Carol. The family has remodeled the home several times over the years to accommodate Sarah and Carol's needs, and with support from RHD Life Sharing they moved into a new ranch home in January to better support Sarah and Carol.

"Patty was so helpful, making sure we knew what we needed," Wendy-Jo said. "When we moved in, Patty sent an organizer to help. I know if I have a problem, I can go to them and I am grateful for the help they provide me."

"We might be a big, loud, busy and crazy household, but we do what we need to do to keep everyone happy, safe and healthy. I wouldn't trade my life for anything. I love my family."



Valiant murals a family affair

RHD Valiant Studios: Mark and Natalie (below, right) contributed a mural at Valiant Studios to honor the impact the program has on their daughter, Alex. Billy's family's mural (above) graces the music room.

At RHD's Valiant Studios, the walls are decorated with murals that the families of the artists contributed, an innovative way to allow them to have a personal impact on the space and be involved in the program.

"I was attracted to Valiant Studios because of the way they met clients where they were," said Natalie, whose daughter Alex attends Valiant Studios. "Every person in the studio seemed to be able to express themselves creatively and do things based on their abilities and level of interest. We witnessed such freedom of expression."

"There's a lot of change in Alex since she transitioned to Valiant Studios. She wants to go to Valiant Studios on the weekends; she's very enthusiastic to show up. Her behavioral problems have really lessened since she's been here."

"Most importantly, when Alex is here, she's not a special girl, she's one of the girls — she's one of the community. She's respected and valued. It's a happy place for her to be."

Mark calls the day program "an oasis" for their daughter.

"Valiant Studios often hosts art events for all the clients to participate and present their art, and they've had events at some prestigious art galleries," Mark said. "It brought tears to my eyes to see our Alex showing her art. It wasn't 'special needs' Alex, or 'autistic' Alex, but Alex as an artist. That was very touching to me, and I really appreciated that."

When Valiant Studios director Jason Ackland offered Natalie the chance to do a mural at the studio, she jumped at it.

"I've always wanted to do a mural," she said. "To me it's a great way to give to the community. I thought it was brave, to give a newbie like myself the opportunity. I was excited to take a role in this beautiful collective space. It was a way to honor what's being done at the studio — that people can communicate through words, music, drama, or physical movement, all valued and all equal, everyone is heard and respected."

"It's a fun way to express how we feel about Valiant Studios and RHD, in a way that is semi-permanent."

Ackland said having families contribute in a way that reflects Valiant Studios' art-based mission is an extension of the way all RHD programs place a premium on involving families in their services. Staff facilitated family members working in the studio on nights and weekends to finish the projects.

A mural by Billy's family takes up a wall in the music room. Billy is autistic and nonverbal, and his behaviors can be very challenging. His parents, Dianne and Bill, went through a number of different providers before coming to RHD.

"When we heard about RHD coming to Omaha, they talked about art and music being the emphasis of the program, and I remember thinking, well that sounds wonderful and amazing but I just didn't see how that was going to fit our son at all, because he's quite low-functioning," Dianne said. "But it's just been amazing and we're pleasantly surprised by all they've been able to do for him."

"One thing that's been really fun is how our family has gotten involved. Billy is the middle of seven kids, and a lot of our kids are very talented in music and art. It's been really, really fun for Billy to do art and be in shows where his pieces are displayed. One of the first things we did was get a piece for each of the kids' families for Christmas."



"I keep chiding my family — Billy has been the most successful artist of the bunch," Bill said. "Everybody is amazed at what he does."

In the early days of Billy's time at Valiant Studios, staff sent them a photo of Billy at a keyboard in the music room with a staffer named Kealan. The image of their son happily interacting with people inspired his family to decorate the wall of that room with a mural that truly was a family affair. Dianne and Bill, Billy's brothers and sisters and their kids all came on weekends and worked on a piece of the wall.

"One of our daughters saw that picture, and she's very artistic, and she had a vision for a mural," Dianne said. "Kealan and Billy are the inspiration for the two figures in the middle of it."

"Everybody had a hand in it, and it was a chance to become a little part of Billy's life," Bill said. "RHD really gets the families to participate, invites them in, which is good. And this enabled the family to enter Billy's world on his terms, instead of the other way around."

"We've got seven children and 13 grandkids, and it was pretty much a family effort. Jessica (Taylor, Community Care Specialist at RHD Nebraska) was the one organizing and getting everyone to do their part. Everybody had a hand in it in some way."

For Dianne and Bill, the mural stands as a reminder of the support they've found at RHD.

"We'll always be thankful for RHD, and mainly the people who are part of RHD and Valiant Studios and their willingness to make a place for Billy that meets his needs," Bill said. "It's the people here; they're special!"



Best and Brightest



RHD's Lower Merion Counseling & Mobile Services, the oldest RHD program, expands services for children and families to meet increased needs in their community

Poppys is not just a client at RHD's Lower Merion Counseling & Mobile Services — he's one of the program's most enthusiastic supporters.

"People really listen to me here and are understanding of me and my experiences," said Poppys, who'd experienced homelessness and described his behavioral health challenges as "difficult." "The support they offered was very helpful in helping me to figure things out. At LMCMS they have a gift to make us all feel valued, heard and respected. I do not feel alone in the world anymore, knowing that I have a team of caring clinicians who want the best for me and have the skills to make sure I am happier and healthy.

"LMCMS has the best and brightest staff who care about each person who walks through the door."

LMCMS has been providing the highest quality outpatient mental health therapy, psychiatric, and mobile services to children, adolescents, adults, and families since 1970.

RHD's history of innovative services began with the founding of this very program, in response to a community need for outpatient services. Today LMCMS offers individualized support and community-based treatment to more than 500 people each month.

This year LMCMS expanded services with the opening of a Child & Family Center, serving children, adolescents, and families with behavioral health treatment in a holistic and compassionate manner in a safe and engaging environment.

"When my daughter started showing a significant amount of stress at school we knew it was time to pursue behavioral health services," said Alyssa, whose daughter Roxy is a client at

LMCMS. "I don't think my daughter knew what to expect when she started, but now she very much enjoys attending every week. The services at LMCMS have been great. My daughter finds the experience so valuable that she's signed up for an additional group. This school year, my daughter is having an easier time and feeling less overwhelmed.

"The skills she's learning are useful when something stressful does arise. As a parent, I'm so happy that my daughter has this kind of help."

The LMCMS clinical program is designed for children and adolescents ages 2-18 who need support with their transition into the next stage of development. Each year more than 800 children and adolescents receive specialized care at LMCMS.

It's an extension of the commitment to service excellence always found at LMCMS. Last year LMCMS became among the first providers in the nation to participate in a new program aimed at improving behavioral health services with the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) designation. CCBHCs provide the comprehensive array of services necessary to create access, stabilize people in crisis, and provide the necessary treatment for those with the most serious, complex mental illnesses and addictions.

"We listen," said LMCMS Director Kelly Clarke. "People's values are an important element in their treatment. We assess and understand their preferences, individual concerns, and expectations.

"Clinicians at LMCMS have education and experience that shapes their clinical skills. Skill is more than delivering a specific service, treatment, or practice. It is the combination of care

and knowledge, applied with the individual's needs in mind. We consider each person's unique characteristics, situation, and preferences. We understand that treatment must be individualized and ever-changing.

"LMCMS strives to educate ourselves, people who participate in our services, and our community about mental illness and substance abuse, and the hopeful possibilities of treatment and recovery."

"As a parent, I'm happy that my daughter has this kind of help."

LMCMS' person-centered services provide outpatient drug and alcohol services with integrated treatment at each person's own pace, helping hundreds of people each year sustain and maintain recovery.

"I had hit rock bottom in my life," said G.A., a client at LMCMS. "I was referred to LMCMS, and it is their support that I receive that helps me to keep on going.

"If it wasn't for the services I receive at LMCMS I think I would still be living on the street. The staff is very helpful and very supportive. I have someone to help me through challenges. My Certified Peer Specialist believes in me, and even helped me to get a tutor so that I can learn how to read. I am currently working on my GED and believe that I will get it. I feel better than I have felt in a long time."



'At RHD, you know you make a difference'

Success story at RHD Louisiana shows tenacity of our staff and commitment to service at RHD programs

Marco Giordano, CEO



Late in the afternoon the staff at RHD Mobile Crisis Service in Louisiana went on a crisis call and found a mother sitting with her adopted daughter in a parking lot. The little girl was struggling with behavioral challenges, the effects of past trauma, and the mother was making the decision to give up her daughter and place her back in the foster care system.

Several MCS staff members at MCS sat with her for six hours, staying with her until late into the evening. She was feeling overwhelmed with stress and didn't know where to turn.

"This child was a wonder — smart and personable, but really scared," said program director Kelly Sims. "The mom was just at a breaking point; she had nothing left to give."

MCS staff provided her with support and resources, but the mother seemed resigned to giving up her child.

"That stayed with us for a long time," Sims said. "It felt like a failure."

"But 72 hours later, that mother stood in front of a judge and said she wanted to keep her child because of MCS. She knew she had people out there that would help. She was provided with links to supports. The mom and her daughter are home and utilizing the supports available. She is a very strong woman who just needed help. Her daughter is a survivor who is getting the help she needs."

This story, I think, speaks to the tenacity that RHD staff across the country brings to their work each day. In human services the success of the work can be hard to measure — and sometimes, even harder to see. But at RHD, we believe that our commitment to service means we don't give up on people, we keep trying, we find a way to make an impact.

"Every day, we do something that may feel like nothing at the time, but it can really mean something to someone else, Sims said. "We don't always get to see it, but what we do has huge impacts on people."

"We are grateful to have a career that gives us an opportunity to be a positive force in our community. At RHD, you can come to work every day feeling like you have a purpose in life, and knowing that you make a difference."

MCS provides 24-hour crisis intervention for Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. MCS handles more than 300 interventions each month, over the phone or in person, and are provided by crisis workers and psychiatrists with an emphasis on "warm handoffs." RHD administers Mobile Crisis Services on behalf of the Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority.

"When people reach out to us, they always find someone on the other end who will listen," Sims said. "The most important point is that we have to do more than say: Here's a list of places to call. It's sitting down with people, and saying: Let's make this first phone call. Let's start."

"For people who don't know where to turn, just



Mobile Crisis Services: The staff at RHD Mobile Crisis Services in Louisiana worked together to help a mother in distress keep her adopted daughter.

making that first step is hard. So we sit with people and make those steps with them. It's important that people feel like they don't have to do this on their own."

RHD has been providing services in the New Orleans area since 1992, and today supports a diverse human-services network that provides an array of essential services to the community.

"It's important that people feel like they don't have to do this on their own."

RHD programs in Louisiana are uniquely positioned to respond to a wide variety of individual and community challenges, sharing resources and working together in partnership to better serve our clients in a number of different ways.

Some of this is geography; RHD's Louisiana programs are all grouped within a few miles of each other, and the people who work there simply interact more often. Some of this is the values of RHD; respect, independent decision-making and open communication are among the cornerstones of every RHD program.

But some of it is about New Orleans, a tight-knit community that is always there for each other. RHD Louisiana is an extension of that spirit.

At RHD programs in Louisiana, and across the country, dedicated and caring staff works to provide caring, effective, efficient and innovative services that help people of all abilities achieve the highest level of independence possible and build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities.

"What RHD provides is the opportunity to reach people, to support an individual who needs something — and that something may not be us in every instance, but they need something," Sims said. "The way RHD organizes programs and services gives us the freedom to do that. Jefferson Parish, our community, operates differently, than, say, Iowa."

"RHD gives us the freedom to meet our community's needs in unique ways. We fit into our community, we're part of the community, our community knows us — and that makes a huge difference."

"Things are done by the book in that the highest standards of quality service are met. But RHD gives programs the freedom to be creative in problem-solving, and innovative in building and delivering services that really benefit their communities. We feel like we have the freedom to find creative solutions for our clients — and each other."

RHD IN THE NEWS: CHANGING LIVES, MAKING HEADLINES

For more on these stories and other news about RHD's innovative programs around the country serving people of all abilities, please visit the media center at www.rhd.org.

RHD hosts Mayor's Task Force to Combat Opioid Epidemic

RHD hosted the Mayor's Task Force to Combat the Opioid Epidemic for a community forum to help the public learn about the Task Force's work and how the city will increase harm reduction efforts through the development of Comprehensive User Engagement Sites (CUES). Commissioner of the Department of Public Health Dr. Thomas Farley, the commission co-chair, appeared with Roland Lamb, DBHIDS Deputy Commissioner, Strategic Planning and Innovation Division, and Sharon Kopyc, program director of RHD's Womanspace.

Womanspace is a residential treatment program for women in recovery from chemical dependence. Recovery and therapy in a home-based atmosphere are aimed at rehabilitation and a return to the community. RHD has been a leader in fighting opioid addiction, and specializes in creating and providing trauma-informed, person-centered services that work in any community setting.

RHD DeFuniak Springs celebrates 20 years of service

The *DeFuniak Herald Beach Breeze* highlighted RHD DeFuniak Springs, which this year celebrated 20 years of services for people with intellectual disabilities. "It is amazing that our clients have come so far," RHD DeFuniak Springs co-director Sandra Spann said. "They have exceeded all of our expectations ...Our staff is so dedicated and the community has embraced us over the past 20 years. We are very thankful."

RHD DeFuniak Springs is a community-based day program serving adults with developmental disabilities. Services include training in activities of daily living, pre-vocational skills, job exploration, volunteer services, work enclaves, community resource utilization, community organization participation, recreation skills, residential rehabilitation, respite care, and personal care services. In 2002, the program expanded to provide supported living services.

RHD's One Step Away featured on FOX-TV

Bill Anderson of Fox-29 featured RHD's *One Step Away* and the Big Sell Off, an annual community event that brings people together to raise awareness and supports *One Step Away* vendors working to break the cycle of homelessness:

"The hope is that the more people that feel for even a moment what homeless trying to get back on their feet deal with the more understanding we'll be. Bill Arrowood was a guest vendor last year as well and feels like the experience definitely changes you. "One of the things you really see when you're out here in the shoes of the guys who are out here doing it is you see how hard it is to get people's attention and recognize you as a person," Arrowood said. "Even the times that I can't help them out with food or buying a paper or reaching out to them, I know them and they know me. We see each other we make eye contact we say good morning just like neighbors do."

RHD launched *One Step Away* in 2009 as a voice of advocacy and social justice, joining a worldwide movement of more than 100 street newspapers in 34 countries. With a long history of providing quality services in Philadelphia, RHD started *One Step Away* as an innovative way to solve gaps in social services that would help more people achieve self-sufficiency and break the cycle of homelessness.

Billypenn.com profiles RHD's Morris Home: 'Valentine's Day in rehab'

Billypenn.com profiled RHD's Morris Home on Valentine's Day, noting that for people in recovery, the holidays can be particularly challenging — and looking at how Morris Home meets those challenges with caring, compassionate support:

Morris Home plans special programming for Valentine's Day. The staff takes the holiday as an opportunity to teach self-love, especially as it pertains to recovery. "It's not bad for me, because I'm a trying to learn how to let go and live life," Regalbuto said. "I know he's happy because I'm doing the right thing. I'm off drugs. I know he's watching my every move."

Sorensen said she loves to see residents bring their holiday traditions to Morris Home. It can help smooth the transition to celebrating without using substances.

"A lot of the folks that we serve at Morris Home are facing a lot of things that feel like the opposite of love," Sorensen said. "A really important thing we can do is focus on the fact that everyone who lives here deserves to be loved and is worthy of love."

Morris Home supports trans and gender variant individuals as they develop the knowledge, skills and supports necessary to promote sobriety, manage emotional and behavioral difficulties, choose and maintain safe and healthy lifestyles, and develop healthy relationships with peers, family and the community. Morris Home provides a safe, recovery-oriented environment for individuals in transition.

RHD welcomes Congressman Dwight Evans for health care roundtable

Congressman Dwight Evans (PA-02) attended a roundtable symposium on health care and community health centers at RHD's Family Practice & Counseling Network. Congressman Evans, a steadfast supporter of community health centers, joined FPCN Director Donna Torrissi, health center staff, nurse practitioners, and FPCN patients.

"Now more than ever community health centers like ours need the continued bipartisan support of our legislators," Torrissi said.

RHD's Family Practice & Counseling Network has been at the forefront of this effort for more than 25 years as Pennsylvania's first nurse-led health center, meeting the healthcare needs of underserved individuals and families regardless of ability to pay. RHD founded FPCN in 1992; Today FPCN is the largest nurse-led health care network in the country, serving more than 24,000 patients each year.

RHD artists draw a (famous) crowd at New York Outsider Art Fair



Enchanted: Among the admirers of RHD's Center for Creative Works was actor Hugh Dancy, who purchased artwork and visited with Paige at the Outsider Art Fair in New York. This year Paige and 10 CCW artists with intellectual disabilities were accepted to the nation's biggest showcase for outsider art.

"I met Hugh Dancy!" exclaimed Paige, an artist at RHD's Center for Creative Works. "And I sold two paintings to him. He did a movie called *Ella Enchanted*. He played Prince Charming. He got my two paintings!"

The Center for Creative Works is a unique, creative arts day program for people with intellectual disabilities with a focus on arts and arts based skill-building, education, in-house generated vocational opportunities and community involvement. Paige and 10 of her fellow CCW artists were accepted to The Outsider Art Fair in New York Jan. 18-21. It's the nation's biggest showcase for outsider artists, and among the many people who flocked to see the work of artists from CCW was indeed actor Hugh Dancy. Dancy visited with the artists, posed for a picture with Paige and purchased three paintings.

Outsider art is created by self-taught or naïve art makers who are not typically part of the artistic establishment. After an extensive vetting process that began last June, CCW was one of 63 art galleries from seven countries that were selected to show work by outsider artists.

"It's a terrific accomplishment for the studio to be curated into the show, and an honor to represent our artists," CCW Director Lori Bartol said. "It puts us on a different level of visibility and viability with other art studios like ours."

"Our booth was very engaging because it had a lot of different kinds of things in it — some weavings, some sculptures," said Samantha Mitchell, CCW's Exhibition Coordinator. "People were drawn into the area. It was exciting for people to get a chance to talk to those who work directly with artists to get a sense of their process."

Bartol said, "I honestly heard people say it was their favorite booth."

The Center for Creative Works sold most of the pieces they brought to the Outsider Art Fair.

"They loved my art," artist Mary said. "It made me feel great!"

Bartol said the Outsider Art Fair already invited CCW back next year, and the studio is looking forward to its artists exhibiting in New York for years to come.

"It was good for us as an organization and really good for our artists," Bartol said. "It's interesting, it's fun and we made money! What was really important by being at the fair was that our artists not only got exposure in front of all those people, but we have also potentially developed collectors who will continue to follow our artists' work and the work of the Center."

Paige wants to return to the Fair next year for a simpler reason, saying: "I'm really happy when my paintings get sold. It melts my heart."



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Sen. Casey visits FPCN

U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) visited RHD's Family Practice & Counseling Network to see firsthand the impact FPCN has on its community. Sen. Casey toured the health center, met the staff and spoke with patients like Eugenia Turner (pictured, right) who told him: "This place saved my life." FPCN delivers quality affordable health care to more than 24,000 people each year.



2 RHD Life Sharing provides meaningful life in family home

About Resources for Human Development

A national human services nonprofit founded in 1970, Resources for Human Development serves tens of thousands of people of all abilities every year with caring, effective and innovative programs addressing intellectual and developmental disabilities, behavioral health, homelessness, addiction recovery and more. In partnership with local governments and those we serve, RHD builds better lives, families and communities.



3 RHD's Valiant Studios gets families involved with mural project



7 Actor Hugh Dancy among admirers of RHD art program



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