



ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMA TEEN BOARD COLLECTS ART SUPPLIES FOR LIBERTY HOUSE KIDS

Deerfield-Windsor School Partners with Albany Museum of Art on Project

[For Release Jan 29, 2021 – Albany, GA] – The Albany Museum of Art Teen Art Board will be collecting art supplies throughout February for children at the Liberty House of Albany.

The *Love for Liberty House* art supply drive by the AMA Teen Art Board will get underway on Feb 1 and continue throughout the month, AMA Director of Education and Public Programming Annie Vanoteghem said.

"I am so proud of the Teen Art Board's desire to be involved in our community during this difficult season," Vanoteghem said. "The Liberty House of Albany is near and dear to our community. Having access to supplies for creative expression is incredibly important to a child's wellbeing. These individual art bags will allow for self-expression and give the kiddos items that truly belong to them during an unsure time."

"We at the AMA are moved by the passion our Teen Art Board demonstrates in making this worthy program a reality," AMA Executive Director Andrew J. Wulf, Ph.D., said. "This program is symbolic of the AMA's mission to be relevant and to make available creative experiences for all members of the Albany community. This partnership with Liberty House drives home the reality that art and art-making is a right that belongs to each and every one of us, everywhere."

Liberty House, observing its 40th anniversary this year, is a non-profit organization that provides services for victims of domestic violence and their children. The organization, which serves 17 counties in Southwest Georgia, provides a wide range of services, including emergency shelter, to meet the needs of domestic violence victims, their children and families. It operates a crisis line around the clock and provided domestic violence education and prevention programs. Liberty House services are free of charge, and are available to all men, women and their children who are victims of domestic violence.

"I'm so excited to start this project," said Sarah Katherine Harris, the president of the AMA Teen Art Board who had the idea for the project. "Art is my favorite thing ever, and I love to use my passions to serve others. I'm excited to get the entire community involved!"

Liberty House Executive Director Diane Rogers said the donations will help her organization work with the children they serve.

"When people think of Liberty House, they think of adults, but we serve children, too," Rogers said. "Last fiscal year, 50% of the percent of the population of those in shelter were children."

While the children are with them, they try to expose them to opportunities they may not have had, including enrichment activities. "Art is part of that," she said. "We do lots of activities with the kids, incorporating some therapeutic ways of dealing with their trauma."

Collection boxes for the art supplies drive will be at Deerfield-Windsor School and the Albany Museum of Art.

"We'll place the art supplies we supply in bags that will be given to each child who comes to Liberty House," Vanoteghem said. "These children are going through very difficult times, and our hope is these art packages will make things just a little better for them."

Rogers said Liberty House officials are appreciative of the collaboration between the AMA and Deerfield-Windsor.

"Our staff and board appreciate all the love and support we get from our community and other organizations," she said. "All non-profits struggle for funding and support, and for someone like that (another non-profit) to come out and support and partner, it just means the world to us. We greatly appreciate it, and we appreciate what you (the AMA) do in the community. Art is a very important part of what we do. We're just glad we were in your minds and Sarah thought of us. It means a lot for you to help us and what we do for our kids."

"I'm excited about it. Our child advocate is going to be so ecstatic. She is so creative with our kids. She's going to love that she will have an array of items to pull from when she's doing an activity with the kids."

Deerfield-Windsor Director of Advancement Lauren Ray said Harris is an inspiration to others.

"We are really inspired by our DWS senior Sarah Katherine Harris's devotion to serve her fellow community members through two of Albany's treasured non-profits—the Albany Museum of Art and the Liberty House," Ray said. "A commitment to serving others is always encouraged and celebrated in our school, and we are super thankful that she has engaged in this worthwhile endeavor."

Vanoteghem said the Teen Art Board is looking for donations of new or unopened non-toxic art supplies that are appropriate for elementary school-age children. Included in the wish list are markers, color pencils, small watercolor palettes, watercolor brushes, crayons, sketchpads or sketchbooks, drawing paper, glue and safety scissors.

"They don't need to be a certain brand or a certain size," she said. "We will create art kits for each child who comes to Liberty House that the child can keep, and art supplies not used in the kits will be given to Liberty House for use in their programs."

"If anyone wants to donate cash or a gift card from a business that sells art supplies, those will be given to Liberty House as well so they can purchase those items at a later date."

CURRENT AMA EXHIBITIONS

- *On the Wall*: murals by David Hale, Shanequa Gay, Amanda Jane Burk and Chris Johnson, and paintings by Sarah Emerson, is in the Haley Gallery through Feb 20, 2021.
- *Midlands*, works by Courtney McClellan, is in the East Gallery through Feb 20, 2021.
- *Escape Plan*, works by Elinor Saragoussi, is in the West Gallery through Feb 20, 2021.
- *Georgia Artists Guild of Albany 27th Annual Exhibition* is in the McCormack Gallery.
- *Selected Works by Tom Ferguson* is in the Hodges Gallery.

ABOUT THE ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART

The Albany Museum of Art is located at 311 Meadowlark Drive in Albany, Ga., adjacent to Albany State University West Campus just off Gillionville Road. The museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The Albany Museum of Art is open to the public 10 am-5 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 10 am-7 pm Thursdays. Admission is free.

For more information about the AMA please visit our website, www.albanymuseum.com or call 229.439.8400. Be sure to follow the @AlbanyArtMuseum on Twitter, AlbanyMuseum on Instagram and AlbanyMuseumOfArt on Facebook.

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