

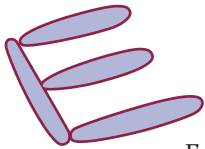
Artist for a Day

By Andrea Iolan

Painting provides creative outlet for adults with developmental disabilities



Ellen Siciliano, right, displays her painting "Sunshine & Rainbow" at The Barber Institute Art Show in South Fayette Township. Andrea Gaines (below) sits next to her painting of butterflies, "Summer," which was chosen for Barber's regional art show in Erie. She holds "Flower Power," completed in collaboration with another artist, Devan Lindsay.



Ellen Siciliano proudly displayed her painting "Sunshine & Rainbow" at the Barber National Institute Art Show in South Fayette Township in February.

The second annual show featured work from 100 adults with developmental disabilities who participate the Barber Adult Day Services program. Ms. Siciliano said she'd spent a day creating her colorful work using a paintbrush and sticks.

The art program offers participants sensory stimulation, social interaction and alternatives to using verbal expression, director Thad Jackman said. "It gives them a nice creative outlet."

The clients' families, Allegheny County support coordinators, state representatives, and others were invited to attend the show and bid on the paintings, with proceeds going to the artists.

Many paintings were produced by individuals, while some larger works were completed by groups. Top paintings were chosen to be sent to a larger art show at Barber's main campus in Erie.

Some artists, such as Ms. Siciliano, live in one of Barber's six group homes in the South Hills, while others live with their families and participate in activities such as art and music classes, computer training, educational trips and exercise groups.

The Pittsburgh regional office—located in South Fayette for about 11 years—serves about 200 adults and their families through

day services, residential services and community activities. The aim is to help participants develop daily living, social and job skills in order to foster greater independence and community involvement.

The Barber National Institute, founded in 1952, provides educational, vocational, residential and behavioral health services across the state to more than 4,200 children and adults with intellectual disabilities and behavioral health challenges. 📍

The South Fayette office is located at 20 Emerson Lane, Suite 905, in Abele Business Park. Details: www.barberinstitute.org or 412-220-6030.



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