

2023

Annual Report

Celebrating 40 years of art, empowerment, healing, and inclusion







 $Artist-Clients\ Pictured\ Above,\ Micah\ J.,\ Angela\ S.\ \&\ Rachel\ K..$



Artist-Client Pictured, Tonia W.



SHOP OUR ARTIST-CLIENTS' WORK, **SCAN THE QR CODE**



Artist-Client Pictured, Grace M.

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We Care Arts 2023 Annual Report







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letter from leadership

Dear Friends of We Care Arts and art patrons,

As we reflect on the remarkable journey of the past year, we are thrilled to share with you throughout this annual report the achievements, growth, and impact that our collective efforts have brought to life. As you know, 2023 marked the 40th anniversary of We Care Arts. Four decades ago, **Terry Schalnat** envisioned a welcoming and inclusive space that would not only teach art but would harness its transformative ability to empower healing and foster a sense of community.

As we celebrated this significant milestone, we realized that while Terry's legacy continued to inspire us, it is YOU and the vibrant We Care Arts community that is the backbone of our success. We are so grateful to our dedicated supporters. It is each one of you that makes everything possible. It is generous donors like Donna Berkeley and Wilda Overly, longstanding Board members such as Paul Gruner and Ed Kimmich, invaluable Annual Sponsors like Bockrath Flooring & Rugs and Molina Healthcare, passionate volunteers such as Ron & Sue Labatzky, and the generous grants from organizations like the Ohio Arts Council and the Charles D. Berry Foundation that have fueled our journey. It is your ongoing generosity that has brought to life the profound impact of art on the lives of those we serve across the Greater Miami Vallev.

In our 2023 Annual Report, you will see that our journey last year was one of rebuilding and growth after the challenges of the global pandemic. The numbers speak volumes about the impact we collectively made:

- 41% increase in ArtWORKS services provided, along with a 33% expansion in classroom
- 25% rise in the distribution of free Transition to Work art kits to more school districts,
- 50% increase in our Outreach Services to nonprofits, hospitals, and community centers.
- The creation of an Annual Curriculum, which is a crucial step toward aligning with the ODE standards.

These achievements are not just statements or statistics; they are a testament to the collective power of our community and the profound impact of our shared mission. Throughout this 2023 Annual Report, you will see over and over examples of how your generosity has continued to make it possible to bring our mission to life for our neighbors living with developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, and mental health diagnoses.

However, with that said, we also know that our work is far from over. As we look ahead to 2024 and the next

40 years, we are reminded of the critical importance of maintaining our momentum and expanding our reach.

- **Your support enables** us to build our Transition to Works programs.
- Your generosity sustains our community partner Outreach & virtual opportunities.
- Your on-going commitment provides ArtWORKS to those who, even in a postpandemic world, continue to face isolation and

As you peruse this report, we encourage you to look beyond the articles and the numbers. Take a moment to truly see the artist-clients in the pictures, the dedicated instructors, and the art that has blossomed thanks to Terry Schalnat's vision 40 years ago. Witness the impact of your dedication to the We Care Arts community come to life. Each brushstroke, every smile, and all the connections are a testament to our enduring legacy and the boundless potential of our We Care Arts' community. So together, as we look back on 2023, let's celebrate the last 40 years, as well as recommit to our shared vision of empowerment, healing, and inclusion. Together, we will ensure that We Care Arts continues to be a beacon of hope and possibility for all who come through our classes and programming.

With heartfelt gratitude, Katie Neubert, Executive Director Tami Kirby, Board President



Board President



Katie Neubert **Executive Director**



P.S. We invite you to join us in reaffirming your commitment to shaping the future of We Care Arts. Your donation today whether via check or the "DONATE TODAY" QR code is instrumental to our success. Thank you in advance for your ongoing generosity.



Scan QR code to donate today!

mission, vision, values

Staff Recognition Through Peer Voted Awards



ARTIST-CLIENT SPOTLIGHT



Artist-Client Pictured Above, Jo E.



What I like about Jo is how humble she is, and she's always willing to encourage her classmates and tell them they are capable and good artists.

LACEY LANTZ, TEACHER

Each year, We Care Arts honors team members who exemplify the organization's core values and mission. These extraordinary individuals are selected by their peers through a voting process. These awards serve as a testament to their unwavering dedication and devotion to our artist-clients and our mission, which revolves around fostering healing through art and community.

By honoring individuals who exemplify the core values of integrity, empathy, community, vision, safety, and mission, staff awards not only acknowledge outstanding performance but also reinforce the importance of these values within the workplace. Ultimately, these awards promote a sense of unity and purpose among the staff which reinforces a positive organizational culture.

Congratulations to our 2023 award recipients!

MISSION - Anthony Dietz VISION - Kelsey Wolford COMMUNITY (Core Value) - Micah Karr EMPATHY (Core Value) - Lacey Lantz INTEGRITY (Core Value) - Brandi Frederick SAFETY (Core Value) - Nicole Erickson







who we are & who we serve

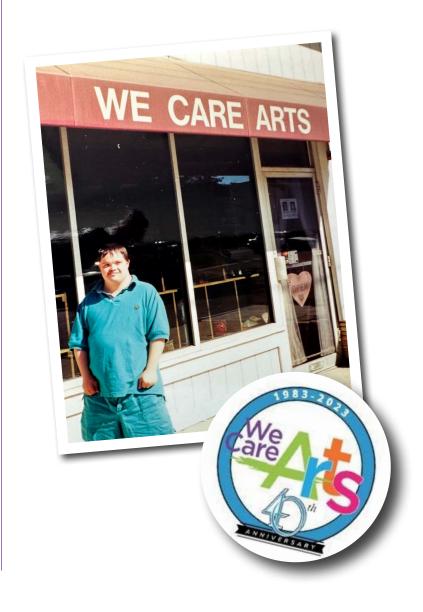
We Care Arts Celebrates 40 Years of Impactful Service

In 2023, as We Care Arts marks its 40th anniversary, it's a time to reflect on the remarkable journey that began in 1983 when Terry Schalnat founded this organization in the basement of a Lutheran Church. What started as a response to the distress caused by widespread layoffs due to factory closures has now blossomed into a comprehensive support system for individuals facing developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, and mental health diagnoses. The vision and dedication of Terry Schalnat led to the establishment of the first facility on Watervliet and later the acquisition of the current 10,000 sq. ft. building, equipped with classrooms, offices, a kitchen, a woodshop, and a kiln room.

Over the years, We Care Arts has not only expanded its physical presence but also broadened its impact on the community. With 430 artist-clients currently participating in its programs and collaborations with schools and outreach initiatives, the organization has become a beacon of hope and creativity. Despite facing challenges, including the recent pandemic, the resilience of We Care Arts shines through, thanks to the unwavering support of generous donors. As classes resume and the organization continues to thrive, it stands as a testament to the transformative power of art and compassion in changing lives for the better.



Scan to watch We Care Arts Founder, Terry Schalnat share her Story





strategic plan

In the 2023 Annual Report, we are excited to share significant updates on our Strategic Plan, particularly in the areas of enhancing the artist-client experience, staff growth, and accreditation.

To further Enhance the artist-client experience, safety measures were prioritized. Grants were secured to install a ramp, improving accessibility for all. Additionally, security was bolstered with locks on doors and the limiting of entrances to the building to improve the safety of our artist-clients.

Staff Growth has been a pivotal focus this year, beginning with the restructuring of departments to optimize efficiency and productivity. Following the challenges posed by the pandemic, where our staff was reduced to just 4, several positions needed to be filled to begin our journey back to pre-pandemic service impact. One notable addition was the hiring of Brandi Frederick, ISP Specialist at the end of 2023. Brandi embarked on a significant project, which was the conversion of all paper files into digital format. However, the transition to digital files offers many advantages beyond just meeting accreditation recommendations. It also ensures access to the most up-to-date ISP information which means our staff is better able to serve our artist-clients. Certain situations may demand urgent intervention from the WCA team and having immediate access to up-to-date information at the click of a button ensures that our team is better equipped to meet the needs of our artist-clients more efficiently and effectively.

As part of our commitment to excellence, we embarked on the journey towards CARF re-Accreditation, DODD Compliance, DODD recertification and OHMAS certification. CARF, or the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, plays a crucial role in ensuring the quality and effectiveness of services provided to the populations we serve. This accreditation not only signifies our dedication to high standards but

also reinforces our credibility within the industry, but most importantly preserves continuity and a safe environment for our artist-clients.

These strategic initiatives reflect our unwavering commitment to growth, excellence, and artist-client satisfaction. We look forward to continuing this trajectory of success in the coming year, building upon the strong foundation laid out in our Strategic Plan and 40 years of success.

ARTIST-CLIENT SPOTLIGHT



Artist-Client Pictured Above, Ruth H.



Ruth is gentle and caring and loves helping everyone.

SHAREN ENINGER, TEACHER

STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS



Enhancing the Client Experience



Staff Growth and Empowerment



Build a New Generation of Donors and Reengage Former Donors



Growth and Engagement of Volunteer and Partner Network

by the numbers









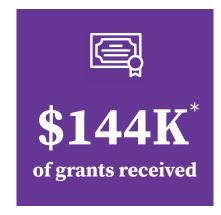
















^{*}Referenced financials are unaudited and subject to change pending the completion of the upcoming annual audit.





BLACK & WHITE GALA

The Black & White Gala was a resounding success thanks to the generous contributions and support of the community. The evening was filled with excitement and elegance, featuring live music, pop-up store and both silent and live auctions.

One of the highlights of the night was the unveiling of the stunning rug created by Bockrath Rugs and Flooring for the annual rug design contest. The winning design was crafted by the talented artist-client, Abbey K.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the individuals and businesses who played a part in making the Black & White Gala a memorable evening. Special recognition is extended to our Community pARTners, Bockrath Flooring and Rugs and Tudor Financial.



EVENING AT THE RACES

Our Evening At The Races was a night to remember! The event featured 10 thrilling races that had attendees on the edge of their seats, eagerly placing their bets and cheering on their chosen horses. The atmosphere was electric as guests enjoyed delicious food and drinks while cheering and hoping for a win!

In addition to the heart-pounding races, the owners of the winning horses could choose a piggy bank custom designed by our talented staff. For those feeling lucky, there were games of chance to try their hand at, adding a fun and interactive element to the event. It was a night filled with laughter, cheers, and unforgettable memories.

Save the date for the 2024 Evening at the Races scheduled for April 26th at the Presidential Banquet Center. *Visit the We Care Arts website or scan the QR code below to purchase tickets and horses.*



THIS YEAR'S EVENT IS ON APRIL 26

Purchase your tickets now!

ART SCRAMBLE

The inaugural We Care Arts Art Scramble held at The Mall at Fairfield Commons was a resounding success. Teams comprising 2-10 individuals vied for the coveted Artie S. Scramble Award. Here's how the Art Scramble unfolded: Teams visited various local businesses, such as Gem City Catfé, Wholly Grounds, and Wilmington-Stroop Library, to gather items for constructing an art project. On the event day, participants brought their collected items to The Mall at Fairfield Commons and utilized them alongside supplies provided by We Care Arts to craft their art piece. Teams had one hour to complete their projects, which were then judged by Jessica Berry from The Modern College of Design, Mayor Peggy Lehner, and Xavier Hershovitz, WHIO, TV anchor.

Andrea and Carlee's creation, "Ponyta," and Team Blue's creation, "Princess of the Sea," advanced to the finals. Ultimately, it was Team Carlee and "Ponyta" that emerged victorious after public voting. The winning team was announced on Good Day Dayton, and Team Carlee received the grand prize.

This event was made possible through the generous support of various sponsors and community partners, including Bockrath Flooring and Rugs, Tudor Financial, Molina Healthcare of Ohio, Altafiber, Fifth Third Bank, Brixey & Meyer, Porter Wright, Cox Media Group, Cox Media, Jimmy John's, Matthew J. Scarr CPA, LLC, Epic Loot, and Rocky's Ace Hardware. Beyond the competition, the event exemplified community spirit and inclusivity.



Scan the QR code to view the event video!

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

October is a month of pumpkins, candy, and spooky fun, and We Care Arts Trunk or Treat, "friend"raiser. People from all over the Miami Valley showed up to reveal some of the most creative costumes! There were over 25 decorated cars participating in the Trunk or Treat, along with engaging activities like cornhole, face painting, and costume contest. The event was a hit for attendees of all ages.

Special thanks goes out to our presenting sponsor, Molina Healthcare, our Community pARTners, Bockrath Flooring and Rugs, and sponsors, Digestive Specialists and Tudor Financial. We are incredibly grateful for their support, and we couldn't have done it without them.

COOKIE WALK & SANTA'S TOT SHOP

The 12th Annual Cookie Walk, sponsored by Day Air Credit Union, was a delightful event that left attendees with hearts full of joy and stomachs full of delicious cookies. This year, the addition of Santa's Tot Shop added an extra layer of magic to the festivities. Not only were there over 300 dozen cookies generously donated by local bakers, but kids aged 5 and up also had the opportunity to explore the Tot Shop, filled with artwork ranging from \$5 to \$25.

The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the presence of Santa and Mrs. Claus, who warmly greeted everyone with a smile. The kids were thrilled to have the chance to sit on Santa's lap, sharing their Christmas wishes and spreading holiday cheer. Santa's Tot Shop truly added a special touch to the beloved Cookie Walk tradition, making it a day to remember for all who attended.

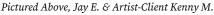


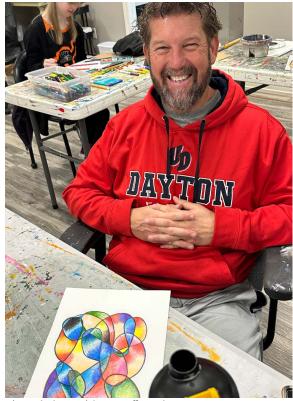




staff updates







Pictured Above, Rick W., Staff Member



Pictured Above, Amelia R., Staff Member

During the pandemic, We Care Arts was reduced to just 4 staff members due to all services becoming virtual. However, with resilience and determination, We Care Arts has embarked on a journey to rebuild and recover. One key area of recovery in 2023 was an investment in current staffing and the welcoming of new teammates to meet the growing needs of its programming. These strategic decisions paid off as the new positions and the skills and enthusiasm that they brought with them to We Care Arts created significant growth across all service areas. This growth included but was not limited to a 25% rise in our Transition to Work program, a 33% expansion in classroom capacity, and a 50% increase in our community outreach programming across the Greater Miami Valley in 2023. This investment in our staffing, their training, and the improvements to our infrastructure have all led to a revitalization of We Care Arts. Today, the organization is proud to be back on the mend and set up for success in 2024 as it continues its mission to make a difference through art and community thanks to the dedicated and talented staff who are there to support our artistclients in their artistic journey.



Scan the QR code to view our new staff members



The We Care Arts outreach program, overseen by Claudia Burnell, is instrumental in realizing the organization's mission of promoting healing through art and community. Claudia extends the healing impact of art beyond the organization's premises to reach schools, hospitals, and other service organizations like the YWCA. She transports the necessary art supplies to designated locations, conducts classes, and guides individuals through creating projects from start to finish. Claudia's role frequently places her in scenarios where individuals may be grappling with severe health issues; however, she approaches these situations with a positive attitude, ultimately uplifting her clients and improving their well-being.



"Hello friends! I visited the KMC Infusion Center today and just wanted to share a story with you. . . I had the absolute pleasure of meeting these two ladies today (pictured above). I could immediately tell that they shared a strong bond as a mother and daughter. They were in great spirits and excited to make keychains with their fingerprints on them. They both automatically knew which colors they would be choosing and exactly what would be written on the back. They expressed so much joy, saying "This is so much fun!" and shared smiles and laughter. They both loved their finished keychain, saying "That's so cute. We're so cute!" You cannot see it in the picture, but on the back of the keychains, they wrote XOXO, which has a very special meaning to them. Kala (Pam's daughter) has it tattooed on her wrist and Pam plans to do the same when her treatment is finished. It felt like a special moment, and I was really happy to be part of it. — Claudia Burnell

TRANSITION TO WORK PROGRAM

One of the initiatives falling under the Outreach department is the Transition to Work Program (TTW), designed for High School Special Education students. This program, funded by grants and donations, is free for schools. We Care Arts provides art kits for ten projects per student twice a year, along with instructional videos by skilled art instructors, available to high school teachers. TTW aims to impart students with essential life skills such as project management, enhancing motor skills, creative problem-solving, selfexpression, and fostering perseverance through artistic endeavors. Additionally, the program offers graduates a familiar pathway for continued involvement with We Care Arts post-graduation.



Artist-Client Pictured Above, ITOP Student (TTW Program)

supporters

BLUE-CHIP \$10,000+

ADAMHS Board of Montgomery County Anonymous Donor Bockrath Flooring & Rugs Community Foundation for Kettering Donna Berkeley Molina Healthcare Montgomery County Arts & Cultural District

Nick & Edna Weller Charities Ohio Arts Council Synchrony Financial The Charles D. Berry Foundation The Clair & Theodore Morse Foundation Tudor Financial Wilda Overly

CURATOR \$5,000 - \$9,999

American Online Giving
Department of Developmental
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Kathryn & Bill Ashbrock
Kettering Health Network

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The Berry Family Foundation
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ESTABLISHED ARTIST \$1,000-\$2499

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Launch Dayton
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TRIBUTE GIFTS

IN HONOR OF

Abbie Kingham
Carl Miller
Carol Otte & Bill Linesch Anniversary
Donna Berkeley
Ed Yoeckel
Jack & Pam Schlegel
Jessica Jordan
Leesa Happapauro

IN MEMORY OF

Bob Meckstroth Corrine Davis Dale Alan Herbeck Ella Yoeckel Elyse Abraham-Linesch Jane Beacon Jane Blackson Leo Thieman Shelli R. Weller Suzann Michael



Scan to continue supporting today!

Choice Program

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Pamela Terzian
Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur, LLP
Pure Ohio Wellness
Reynolds & Reynolds Associate Foundation
Terry Schalnat
The Entrepreneurs Center
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EMERGING ARTIST \$500-\$999

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Carol Meckstroth
City of Beavercreek, Parks, Recreation &
Culture
Dayton Foundation
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Matt Arntz
Dr. Jim & Mayor Peggy Lehner
Susan & Mike Craig
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Tami Kirby
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APPRENTICE \$100-\$499

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Greg Goodner
Jack & Jamie Hanna
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Claudia Burnell

Cynthia Walker

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Dan Molnar David Jewell David Karr Dawn Leonard Debbie Fox Denise Alsept Don Shields Dorothy Lane Market **Dustin Isaacs Dwight Bartlett** Eva & Benjamin Thornber Gerald Croop Gerard Chadwick Gloria & Peter Carusone Heather Cornell Heather Finlayson **Heather Lewis** Holly Studebaker Jami Lewis Jayne Miller Jeffrey Connor Jeni Blackburn Jenny Keene Jessica Kucinski Jessica & Doug Barry Jill Dawson Io Anne Vincent Joan Schneider

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Missi Demoss

Nancy Achor

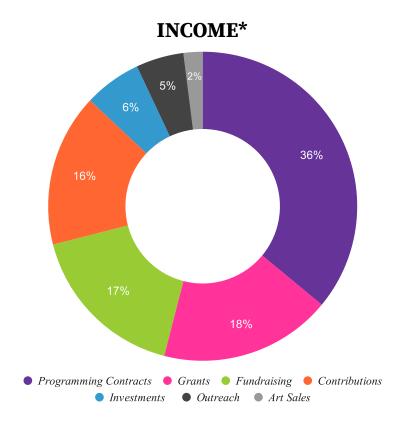
Nancy Myers

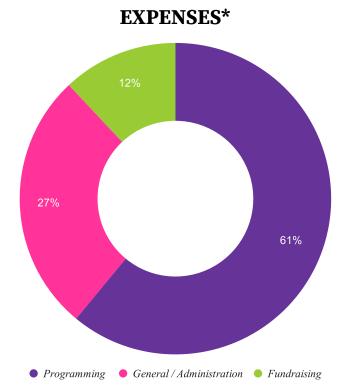
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We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all our generous donors. While we have made every effort to ensure the accurate and comprehensive listing of all contributors, if you discover any omissions, please know that they were unintentional.

Vince Lintner

financial overview





^{*}Referenced financials are unaudited and subject to change pending the completion of the upcoming annual audit.

supporting our mission

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play a crucial role in the success of We Care Arts, contributing their time and skills in various capacities to support the organization's mission. Whether serving as event committee members and assisting with event preparation and clean-up to providing valuable aid to the art instructors during classes, tending to the garden, or organizing and cleaning spaces, volunteers are the heart of We Care Arts. Their dedication and selflessness ensure that the organization can continue to positively impact the community.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers who generously stepped in during 2023, helping to keep everything running smoothly and making a difference in the lives of our artist-clients

If you are interested in volunteering please scan the QR code and complete the volunteer application form.



Sign-up to volunteer today!







Volunteers Pictured Above, (Top,L-R) Hamid & Pressler, Rachel (Bottom) Chaminade Students

ARTIST-CLIENT SPOTLIGHT







Elliot is wonderful to have in class because they are so creative and supportive to everyone in class. Eli is always learning and trying new techniques to become a better artist. I enjoy seeing what Eli will come up with in class and confident that they will finish a project with great quality.

LANCEY LANTZ, TEACHER

SUPPORT BY DONATING

Help We Care Arts empower and heal through art and community by making a donation. You can donate by scanning the QR code or fill out and mail the envelope included in this report!



Scan to support by donating today!

staff & board members

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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A Special Thank You to Our Executive Board

As we reflect on another successful year, we are compelled to express our deepest gratitude to the Executive Board. Their unwavering dedication, strategic guidance, and tireless efforts have been instrumental in driving our organization forward and achieving our goals. Their leadership and vision have steered us through challenges and opportunities alike, ensuring that we stay true to our mission and continue making a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve. Their commitment to excellence sets a standard for all of us to aspire to, and their passion for our cause inspires us every day. We are immensely grateful for their generosity of time, expertise, and resources. We recognize that without their unwavering support, none of our achievements would be possible. As we look towards the future, we are confident that with their continued guidance and leadership, we will reach even greater heights and continue to make a profound difference in our community.



Pictured L-R Allison Swanson, Cox First Media; Brd Secretary-Devon Stinson, Parallax Advanced Research; Shannon Phelps, The Miami Conservancy District; Brd VP-Heather Finlayson, PNC Bank; Brd Pres-Tami Kirby, Porter Wright; Jessica Jordan, Brixey & Meyer; Matt Arntz, Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley; Steve Niswonger, Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley, Brd Treasurer-Ed Kimmich, Retired, RSM US LLP; not pictured Paul Gruner, Montgomery County Engineer, Not Pictured: Jamie Owens, Nathan Reiter and Alicia Rubin

accreditations & affiliations



GREATER DAYTON NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023

We are so excited to announce that We Care Arts has received the award for Nonprofit Of The Year in the Education category of "Arts and Crafts Instruction". We're overjoyed to be recognized for our mission to empower healing in the lives of people living with developmental disabilities, addiction, and mental health issues. A big huge "Thank You" to everyone that voted for us.

CARF ACCREDITATION

We Care Arts is proud to announce that they have once again earned a three-year accreditation.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows We Care Arts substantial conformance to the CARF standards. Dr. Brian Boon. Ph.D., President/CEO of CARF International stated "this achievement is an indication of your organization's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the persons served. Services, personnel, and documentation clearly indicates an established pattern of conformance to standards."

An organization receiving a three-year accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable. We are incredibly proud of our staff, whose hard work is reflected in this prestigious accomplishment.

"I love your art program. I just absolutely love the program. I would like to take all of it home with me, but I don't think it will fit in my car...and my husband probably wouldn't like it!" —Kathy L., CARF Surveyor



LIST OF REMAINING ACCREDITATIONS & AFFILIATIONS













































3035 Wilmington Pike Kettering, OH 45429

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Thank you for your on-going support!



EVENING AT THE RACES: APRIL 26 Scan to purchase tickets today!

Save the Date!



April 26 Evening At the Races

July 27

Art & Jazz

September 21 Art Scramble

October 26 Trunk or Treat **November 8**Donor Night Open House

December 14Cookie Walk with Santa's Shop for Tots

Scan QR code to check out our up-to-date list of events on our website at www.WeCareArts.org.







Artist-Clients Pictured Above (L-R), Danielle-H., Debby L., Matthew G











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