

VILLAGE VOICE



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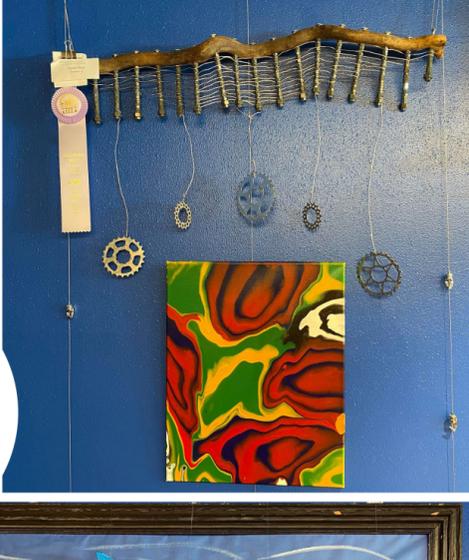
IMAGINE ART ROOM

The Imagine Art Room in the Wansink Center is full of just that, imagination. The possibilities are endless when it comes to what is done in the art room. Patrick Charbonneau, the Creative Arts instructor, always has new ideas up his sleeve but essentially, it is up to the individual to decide what they want to do. Art classes are offered weekly and residents can be involved in group art or individual art projects. All classes are up to the individual if they want to take them or not. A recent group project has been pour paintings. Patrick balances a canvas on a stand and each individual takes turns pouring paint on the canvas. The results are different every time but always beautiful. They also create these by putting a canvas face down on a bowl of paint. Someone in the group flips the bowl and canvas over, another person lifts the bowl up and everyone watches the paint run all over the canvas. The best thing about the Imagine Room is that everyone has a say in what they want to do.

The variety of individual projects are all over the place. We have some made out of car parts, some hand drawn and painted and others are sculptures made from their imagination. Our residents get to decide on whatever they want to do with their time in the art room. This teaches independence, individualism and self-motivation. The beauty of the Imagine Art Room is that anyone can participate no matter the level of their ability.



IMAGINE ART ROOM PROJECTS



PANTHER BASKETBALL

On January 29, VNU had 13 individuals compete at district basketball skills in Sioux Center, IA. Out of those 13 participants, there were six first place winners, five second place winners, one third place winner and one fourth place winner. The athletes that placed first moved on to the state competition which was held on March 11 and 12 in Iowa City, IA. On February 5, the VNU Panther basketball team competed at the West Region Basketball Tournament and placed third, they also moved on to the state tournament on March 11 and 12.

Special Olympics coach, Deb Middle said, "The athletes and us coaches are very excited to be back to playing sports and doing Special Olympics. It is so great to see the smiles and excitement on their faces as they compete again. When we told the athletes we could do basketball skills and the basketball team again we had high fives, and players saying "YES!" and "It's about time!". It is just so great to be back to live Special Olympics at VNU and within the State of Iowa."



RESIDENTS VOLUNTEERING

Over the past two years, volunteer programs and opportunities have become popular with VNU residents. Currently our residents volunteer at nine different locations, mostly nonprofits. Volunteer opportunities range from filling Easter eggs for the Sheldon Chamber to sorting clothes for foster children to collecting food for food banks. A favorite volunteer opportunity for our residents is meeting with 2nd graders at East Elementary school to listen to students as they practice their reading skills. Some volunteer opportunities are weekly while others are monthly, and some are on an as needed basis. The third Monday of the month, a group helps with setting up for Unity Meal at Living Water Community Church. Residents help with setting up tables and chairs and putting place mats on tables. They wrap silverware in napkins and sometimes help with getting food distribution items on tables. The first Monday of the month a group helps with the Siouxland Food Bank distribution. Volunteer jobs have given residents a sense of purpose and they truly enjoy serving others in our community. As we look to the future we hope the enthusiasm our residents have for helping others in our community leads to new opportunities to bring our skills to those in need.



CARF CERTIFICATION

VNU is proud to announce that we have once again received the highest accreditation possible from CARF International (Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). In order to maintain our CARF accreditation VNU must meet or exceed 1,200 standards. To meet these standards and receive the accreditation VNU had to go through a rigorous peer review process. In the process, VNU demonstrated to a team of surveyors its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable and of the highest quality. The CARF Survey Report included a list of 25 strengths, which the CARF survey team identified.

Barry Whitsell, VNU President and CEO, commented, "Accreditation for VNU is an ongoing process that our team of dedicated staff perform on a daily basis. This signals to our residents, families, guardians and the public that VNU is committed to continuous performance improvement, accountability to deliver quality, comprehensive care and services to our residents and responsiveness to feedback".

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Summer is fast approaching which means summer fundraisers and events will be here soon. Sign up is open for the Run, Walk & Roll at www.villagenorthwest.org.

- 17th Annual Run, Walk & Roll- June 4th
- Independence Day Celebration- July 1st
- 21st Annual Golf Benefit Tournament- July 18th

