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Creative Minds Changing Minds: Genesee County Community Mental Health Presents Traveling Art Show

Second Two-year show promotes original art while fighting the stigma of mental illness

Flint, Mich. – Genesee County Community Mental Health (GCCMH) will be hosting the second Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards’ (MACMHB) statewide traveling art show, “Creative Minds Changing Minds,” in the food court area of Courtland Center Mall through the month of December beginning on November 26, 2010. The show features the original work of more than 30 artists who access Community Mental Health services across Michigan. The event is free and open to the public.

The goals of the two-year art show are to help de-stigmatize mental illness, developmental disabilities and addictive disorders by showcasing the multidimensionality of the artists and to highlight the recovery potential of art.

“We know that many great artists like Michelangelo, Van Gogh, and Jackson Pollock not only possessed exceptional creativity but also experienced mental illness,” said Danis Russell, CEO of GCCMH. “For hundreds of years, their famous works of art have helped change attitudes while enriching people’s lives. We are pleased to present this show of Michigan artists who have used art to help their recovery and build life skills.”

Michigan’s Community Mental Health (CMH) organizations were asked to submit works of two-dimensional art, including paintings, drawings, prints, fabric and photography. Entrants were asked to discuss what art means to them, including what they like about art, what creating art does for them and if art helped in their recovery and life skills development.

In Michigan, one in five adults will experience a mental health disorder at some point in their life, yet many of them do not access the treatment they need. Genesee County CMH provides services and supports to Genesee County residents who are adults and children with developmental disabilities, adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbance and for adults and children with substance use disorders. For more information call Customer Services at (810) 257-3705, TTY (810) 257-1346 or Toll Free (866) 221-5455.

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