

the arts

Hopeful ARTS

By LYNN MACHON



Inspiring Art, Changing Lives

ON A BRIGHT MORNING IN SEPTEMBER, THE HUGE FOUR-BY-SIX-FOOT UNFRAMED canvas lay blank and unimpressive, essentially void of character or potential. Enter three passionate young artists, armed with buckets of color and a few stir sticks. Soon after, the canvas is transformed into a unique work of art, exuding both dimension and promise.

If that's what art does for a simple canvas, imagine what it can do in the life of a child.

That's precisely the mission of Hopeful Arts, a community outreach program formed in 2008 with a focus on exposing children to the magical world of visual arts.

The idea was the brainchild of three Oak Ridge High School friends and aspiring artists, Gabby Zeagler, Jordynn Wood and Maddy Hames who, along with their moms, turned their passion for arts into a community benefit.

As a result, Hopeful Arts has touched the lives of hundreds of less-fortunate families, and forever sculpted the three young artists.



Photos by Charm Photography

LEFT TO RIGHT: Artists Jordynn Wood, Maddy Hames and Gabby Zeagler look on as proud moms Eldore Wood and Renee Hames discuss the impact of their daughters' unique community service efforts.

A Childhood Passion for Art

For the founders of Hopeful Arts, art has long been an important part of their lives.

"I've liked art since I was in second grade, and even more so after taking different classes over the years," says Zeagler, 15, who currently takes art classes at Oak Ridge High with cohorts Wood, 16, and Hames, 15.

According to her mom, Luz, Zeagler was involved in art even at the young age of six. "She always was so proud and would display her art work in her room as well as in other rooms of our home," she says.

Hames' passion for the arts goes back even further. "Art has always been a huge factor in my life," she says. "Actually, my mom has pictures of me when I was about four on our front lawn and I'm wearing my dad's giant t-shirt and painting. She says I would just go outside everyday and paint."

To get involved in Hopeful Arts, contact Luz Zeagler at zeagcc@comcast.net.



Gobby Zeagler holds a display board featuring the Hopeful Arts logo designed by the three high school friends and photos of the team's outreach art projects.

VICTORIA SULLIVAN, DDS DIPLOMATE

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry



14 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Sensitive Care For Children
With Special Needs

- Complete digital charts and x-rays
- Various forms of sedation
IV - Oral - Nitrous Oxide
- Evening/Weekend Appointments
- Most Insurance Plans Accepted
- 24 hr. Emergency Care

916-941-2341
530-677-6222



5009 Windplay Dr. #1
El Dorado Hills
www.magicsmilesdds.com

Wood met Zeagler in the fourth grade while taking advanced art classes together at Art & Soul, a private Folsom studio. "When I started those classes, I noticed that I really enjoyed painting," says Wood, who is described by her mom, Eldore, as a "phenomenal artist."

While art certainly is a shared passion for the three young ladies, the collaboration for Hopeful Arts actually started on the Lacrosse field, where they have played together since sixth grade.

While the girls played over the years, their moms bonded on the sidelines. When one day the Lacrosse moms realized their girls were all searching for a community service opportunity, the art outreach idea unfolded.

Painting with a Purpose

In launching Hopeful Arts, the team successfully received a grant from the El Dorado Grant Advisory Board for Youth (EDGABY) for needed materials and supplies.

Then last fall, in their first official project, the Hopeful Arts girls mentored a group of children at White Rock Village in creating a Jackson Pollock-inspired painting project.

Zeagler explains, "We wanted to do something that was easy and would work well with kids of all ages. With the Pollock technique, the kids only needed their imagination and sticks dipped in paint."

Over several months, the girls taught the youngsters the abstract drip technique, using one color at a time on three large canvases.

The children were encouraged to individualize their portions of the artwork with embedded symbols of their own creativity, while staying true to the style of the greater team project. "We wanted the kids to be able to express themselves creatively, but still work as a team," Wood says.

In her own artwork, Wood says she celebrates her South African heritage by subtly incorporating an African symbol for endurance into many of her pieces.

DE LA MUSE

Salon & Spa

7700 Folsom Auburn Rd., Suite 120

Folsom, CA 95630

916.987.7779

www.delamuse.com

Winterizing Treatment
Rejuvenating Microdermabrasion
Facial \$69 (reg. \$100)

Hair, Skin, Massage & Nail
Specials Available

Gift Certificates available for
Holiday Gift Giving

We'd like to welcome Neon
our new manicurist to our Spa

Your Serrano Specialists



COMPLETE PEST CONTROL SERVICE

- Guaranteed Complete Control of Insects and Rodents Inside and Out!
- Residential & Commercial
- All Technicians Experienced

KOBY KICKS ANTS!

We Control

- Ants • Spiders
- Fleas • Bees
- Scorpions • Roaches
- Wasps • Mice
- Earwigs
- Black Widows

COUPON

\$25 OFF ANY PEST CONTROL SERVICE

(New Customers Only)

Must present Coupon.
Not Valid with other offers.
Limited Time Only.

SERVING ALL OF EL DORADO COUNTY
Bonded • Licensed • Insured

916.984.0964



At project completion, the stunning murals were hung to adorn the walls of the Village's community room.

Last summer, on a second Hopeful Arts project, the team worked with children at the Mustard Seed School in Sacramento, a private school established in 1989 to meet the educational needs of homeless children.

The high schoolers helped students create another Pollock-inspired mural that currently is on display in the school's Dorothy Day classroom. In an effort cleverly entitled, "Walk in Your Art," the girls also gave the kids canvas tennis shoes and helped decorate them.



Through "Walk in Your Art," students at Sacramento's Mustard Seed School colorfully decorated their own canvas shoes.

Through these projects, the girls say they've discovered several budding artists. "We've met a lot of kids with hidden talent," says Hames. "It has been amazing to see them work hard and exhibit a passion for art."

To expand their reach, Hopeful Arts has partnered over the years with El Dorado Hills Community Vision, Inc., Faithful Stewards and Mercy Housing. In 2009, the girls' efforts in the community earned Hopeful Arts the "Youth Star" award from the Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills.



Art has long been a passion for Maddy Hames, showing off a photo of herself at age four painting in her front yard.

Artistic Rewards

For most artists, reward lies not just in completion of a piece, but also through the creative process itself.

"I think that through doing these art projects, kids are able to express themselves in ways they couldn't do with words," says Hames. "Art has no language barriers."

Hames' mom, Renee, remembers that when her daughter was younger, she would escape to her room for hours and draw or write poetry to relieve stress and anxiety. "You could really tell what was going on with her," she says. "She might not speak it, but you could see it. She was speaking through her art."

For Wood, art offers kids a way to relax. "I've seen how it's really therapeutic," she says. "Art really calms the kids down, and helps them think about what is going on around them."

Wood knows firsthand about the curative properties of art. "I've had really bad ADHD since the third grade," she shares. "But I've found that art really helps calm me. I have a sketch pad that I pull out in class and use it to help pay attention, and focus on what the teacher is talking about."

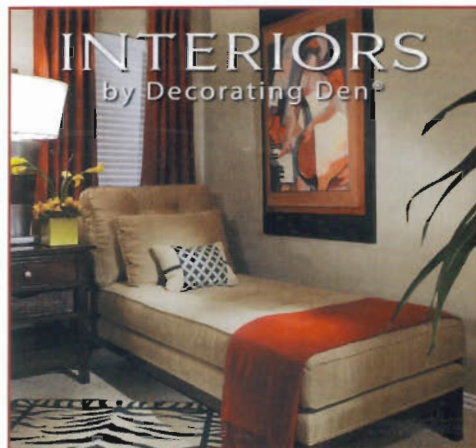
Eldore Wood says her daughter's unique experiences have drawn her toward a career in art therapy. "Jordynn has had to work around her disability, and with her knowledge of what kids with learning disabilities go through, she feels she can help other kids get through something like ADHD much easier."

Inspiring the Artists

While the passionate work of these three young ladies has changed the lives of so many, their moms see a marked difference in their daughters as well.

"Hopeful Arts really has taught Gabby some important life lessons," her mom says. "She's learned about giving back to others, being patient with younger children, providing encouragement and support to her peers and the importance of working with youth from all walks of life."

Wood also has watched her daughter flourish in the area of leadership. "By using her art to inspire other kids, Jordynn has now developed a sense of who she is and how she can lead by example." As an illustration, she notes her daughter recently



INTERIORS
by Decorating Den®

*From Concept to
Completion
We Do It All!*

INTERIOR DESIGN
WINDOW TREATMENTS
FURNITURE • LIGHTING
ACCESSORIES • FLOOR COVERINGS

Jane Reed
916.294.9777

JaneR@DecoratingDen.com
www.decdens.com/janer



moved into a leadership role at the Rolling Hills Church youth group.

Renee Wood feels her daughter has become more empowered over the last two years. "She now knows that she'll always need art in her life, and she feels other kids need it too," she says. "She really wants Hopeful Arts to be able to expand their outreach by getting more people volunteering and helping out."

Future Projects for Hopeful Arts

Moving away from the canvas, this past fall, Hopeful Arts held a photography project with a group of middle school youth. Eldore Wood is a professional photographer and taught the girls how to use a Holga old-style film camera with the kids. At the end of the project, a showing of the youth's photographs is planned. REVISE

Eldore Wood sees a bright future for Hopeful Arts. "I truly believe that because these girls are still young, they don't truly realize what their involvement with other children is teaching them and what great stuff they are doing. The possibilities really are endless." 🐾



The girls display one of their Jackson Pollock-inspired paintings that was donated for auction at the El Dorado Hills Community Vision's Oct. 30 Masquerade Ball.



**FUN AND PLAY
WHILE YOU'RE AWAY!**

- 🐾 We know how special each pet is and treat them like family.
- 🐾 Our attention to detail and TLC separates us from all other pet care facilities.
- 🐾 Your dog's happiness will keep you coming back!

Call NOW to book your HOLIDAY RESERVATIONS!
525 Levy Road, Folsom | 916.439.7202
www.folsomdogresort.com

**FUN DAY CAMP
PREMIUM LODGING
PROVEN TRAINING**



<p>FREE NIGHT STAY!</p> <p>One FREE Night with 3 Night Stay. NEW Customers Only. Some restrictions apply. Limited Availability. Call for Details. Offer code: SER-Nov10, Offer Expires: 1/31/2011</p>	<p>FREE DAY CARE VISIT!</p> <p>One FREE Day Care Visit. NEW Customers Only. Some restrictions apply. Limited Availability. Call for Details. Offer code: SER-Nov10, Offer Expires: 1/31/2011</p>	<p>FREE TRAINING EVALUATION!</p> <p>FREE Dog Training Evaluation. NEW Customers Only. Some restrictions apply. Limited Availability. Call for Details. Offer code: SER-Nov10, Offer Expires: 1/31/2011</p>
--	---	---