



**Did you know** that art is a great way to treat anxiety and stress in children? As we know, our children have lived through one of the most challenging and stressful times in recent history. They NEED a vehicle for expression, the opportunity to create and share their thoughts, feelings, and imagination.

When the pandemic hit on March 13th, we were worried and uncertain as to if and how Art From the Heart would continue to be viable. As it turned out our program was needed more than ever! We are pleased to let you know that Art From the Heart is alive and well. We have continued our mission of bringing art enrichment classes to low-income, under-served children in Marin County - even during this devastating pandemic. Collaborating with our sites, we found ways to help.

**At the Irene M. Hunt School** at Side by Side we planned to have an Art Show last May which was naturally cancelled. But that didn't stop us from exhibiting the students' beautiful artwork. We created our first Virtual Art show including over 200 pieces of art created by the students. To see our fabulous Virtual Student Art Show visit our website at [Art-fromtheheartmarin.com](http://Art-fromtheheartmarin.com).

The Irene M. Hunt School has students who have returned to in-per-

son classroom learning, while others have chosen to remain virtual. Whether in-person or virtual, all students are participating in our art classes! The campus is only open to students and staff, so in October Art From the Heart returned teaching Zoom classes to their 1st through 12th grade students. Each month, we prepare individual art supply packages for each student, for each session, and drop them off at the site. While the interaction is very different working remotely, we are thankful for the ability to see how engaged and excited the students are to be doing art again.

*"Art is the only way to run away without leaving home."*

*- Twyla Tharp*



## AFTH PROGRAM SITES

- Hamilton Child Development Center
- Old Gallinas Children's Center
- Side by Side – Irene M. Hunt School
- North Marin Community Services

**At North Marin Community Services** we organized a weekly Zoom art class for any students interested in participating. For 12 weeks we introduced projects using materials that the students had at home. We had a good response from children of all ages, and enjoyed watching the older students helping their younger siblings with each project. When NMCS opened its doors for a summer session, we taught 8 weeks of classes, outdoors and in-person, to their middle school students. Now, during the spring semester, we are teaching 21 classes to 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, as well as middle school students.



**We believe, today more than ever, that art has the power to change and enrich lives.** Art brings joy, it challenges us with different points of view, and gives us the opportunity to use our imaginations and express ourselves. All children need and deserve the opportunity to have access to the arts. With your help, Art From the Heart will continue to bring our hands-on art program to our under-served children in Marin County. Thank you for your continued support!



**Our Novato and Old Gallinas** sites through Community Action Marin brought us back in September. The kids were thrilled to be doing art again, so we decided to have weekly classes at these two sites. All classes are taught outdoors and in-person, with precautionary measures taken to keep everyone safe. We currently work with children of essential workers and class sizes are limited. Our students range from kindergarten through 5th grade. It's been wonderful getting back to face to face learning. Each day we see just how much our kids need and crave the opportunity to create and express themselves.

**Our heartfelt thanks to you, our donors and sponsors! Together we bring the arts to life for the under-served children in Marin County.**



**The Frankie Poulos Foundation** is once again sponsoring our program at the Novato Children's Center, and supporting our work at North Marin Community Services. Created in honor of Frankie Poulos who died in a car accident in 1993, this charitable foundation raises money to support youth organizations in Novato.



**Marin Charitable** continues to support our work at Side by Side and offers grants to enrichment programs for school-aged children in Marin County.



*From our heart to yours...*  
**Happy Valentine's Day!**

- Kathy Eggert & Sheila Jones

