

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WASHINGTON FINANCIAL GRANT FUNDS PROGRAM IN TRINITY AREA

School district receives \$9,400 worth of Art Expression programming at elementary schools

Washington, PA—The Washington Financial Charitable Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Washington Financial Bank, has awarded \$9,400 to Art Expression Inc. to conduct its inclusive after-school art enrichment programming at all four of the elementary schools in Trinity Area School District. The grant will cover the costs of Art Expression programs at Trinity North, South, East and West in 2016.

“Philanthropic support has been a hallmark of Washington Financial’s business for more than four generations,” says Elizabeth Guerrieri, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations for Washington Financial. “The Bank is truly committed to helping its communities, both through monetary support and volunteer hours.”

“The students of Trinity Area need quality after-school programming,” added Christina Oravetz, Washington Financial’s Community Reinvestment Officer, “and we’re proud to help make that possible for them.”

According to Angela Lowden, Art Expression’s founder and president, “This enrichment opportunity is so important to children in these four elementary schools. We’re very grateful to Washington Financial for making this opportunity possible for the students of Trinity Area School District.”



Students at Trinity South elementary school working on a project in an Art Expression class, Spring 2015

“Art Expression strives to strengthen children’s socialization and self-esteem and grow their self-confidence through improving their artistic skills,” Lowden continued. “We are already seeing results in Trinity Area. One of the teachers we worked with last fall told us that the program brought together students who normally would never have gotten to know one another. She said it was gratifying to listen to them support each other through their artwork. That’s exactly what Art Expression tries to do in every class we conduct.”

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Art Expression Inc. is a non-profit foundation established in 2001 by James and Angela Lowden as an expression of their passion for alleviating the social inequalities that exist among children of different abilities and backgrounds. The organization's mission is to facilitate positive socialization through expressive art activities and provide academic enrichment in an inclusive educational environment. Art Expression has been designated as a "Model Art Therapy Program" by the American Association of School Administrators & American Art Therapy Association in 2011, and in 2013 received a Certificate of Excellence from the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. In addition to its flagship Creative pARTners program, Art Expression Inc. has developed six specialty programs that combine science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts with art to create STEAM programming. Art Expression conducts programming with masters-degreed arts therapists, faculty from partnering school districts and educational staff in homeless shelters and community organizations throughout southwestern PA. Since its founding, Art Expression has served over 7,300 children in Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

About Washington Financial Bank

Washington Financial Bank, headquartered in Washington, PA, is a state chartered savings bank with assets in excess of \$1 billion. The Bank provides a complete array of both retail and commercial banking services through its eight-branch office network and loan production offices in Latrobe, PA and the North Hills of Pittsburgh, PA.



l-r: Steve Morrison, Grant Writer and Angela Lowden, Executive Director, Art Expression; Christina Oravetz, Community Reinvestment Officer, Washington Financial Bank; Diane D'Orazio and Jordan Merchant, Art Teachers, Trinity School District.

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