STUDIO BLUE NEWS

NEWS FROM UNIT I...

Since our last newsletter, we have had exciting growth in Unit I. The year has been filled with new ideas and possibilities; some working, some needing tweaked and some simply duds...but thanks to the enthusiasm of the residents we can" finesse" what we do and how we do it. Here is an update on the activity since August 2017 on some of new things that have occurred since the last newsletter. Thank you all! Ms.Florida



Winter Reflections



Volume II Issue 1 Winter 2018

Notable Staff Artists * * *

Yeah to Ms. Stevenson (Go Grandma!)!!!

For her art contributions over the years!

"1-Hood Media"

If you haven't experience the Music Studio in Unit I you are in for a surprise. Ms. Patterson connected with 1-Hood Media who will be here monthly helping you to "fine-tune" your musical talents. If you are an aspiring rapper, song writer or musician here is the chance learn from professionals and even record your own music!

But!... don't extend your stay here just for that purpose. There are many recording studios on the outside that will be happy to help you promote your talents.



*This year we welcomed Stephanie Jimenez, a social justice and environmental studies intern from the University of Pittsburgh who came to Shuman to serve her internship with Ms. Florida. Stephanie helped residents with the coloring posters, furniture painting and when time allowed gave keyboard lessons to residents interested in learning to play an instrument.

*Professional Artist Janice Schuler donated her time helping with coloring posters and gave a special painting lesson based on her own unique painting style.

It all about starting all over when we welcomed artists Nora Gilchrist and Melissa Mason in December when they visited Shuman armed with recycled supplies from Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse. The two artists showed residents how to make beautiful books from recycled wallpaper and gave the recycled materials a second chance to shine!

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BECOME A STUDIO BLUE AMBASSADOR

Thank You Past Studio Blue Ambassadors 2017

Kim A.	Devon J.	Natasha R
Taymon D.	John H.	Dremaje R.
Emma F.	Robin H.	Racquel S.
Danielle G.	Travon P.	Tyrek S.
Zakire G.	Laquay R.	Roger T.
Demiry J.	Tywuan R.	Damion W.

Yeah!!! Congratulations !!!!

Three of our residents have their artwork honored in the "Alleahenv County Sunset Review" June 2017 issue.

Richard M. * Lillian A. * Daziah S.









We have finally finished all twelve of our bus billboard posters for the 2017 year! They are now being viewed by hundreds of people in the Pittsburgh area. All twelve traveled the Pittsburgh area on the rear of Port Authority buses throughout the 2017 year for everyone in Pittsburgh to see! Now they will appear in a calendar printed by the County Manager's office....and the calendar is downloadable on the Allegheny County website for free!

Reflections

http://www.alleghenycounty.us/shuman/social-services.aspx

Wow! So How Cool is That!

Scholarships Available

Upon release, anyone interested in taking art classes in the downtown area at the Society for Contemporary Craft so please contact me. We have scholarship money available tor art classes in woodworking, metalsmithing, fiber arts, jewelry making, sculpture and more. These will be offered to you free and will include supplies. Scholarships are limited so you will have to give me a heads up on your

Studio Blue at Construction Junction!

We are now operating an offsite "Studio Blue at Construction Junction" on Lexington Avenue in Point Breeze. I am able to work with any Shuman resident who is currently interested in working upon their release creating painted furniture ... and who fits the criteria by having a focus and willingness to change their path in life. I am not concerned about age or skill level as much as desire, so you don't have to have any painting or art experience to be valuable to this project. We also have a retail space available where, in the future, we will sell the painted furniture we create. Anyone interested in working with me in Unit I and beyond Shuman Center, please let me or staff know and I will provide you information to forward to your probation officer, so you can serve your community service time with me at the offsite studio. Thank You! Ms. Florida

STUDIO BLUE REFLECTIONS...

IN YOUR OWN WORDS...

December 1, 2017

UNIT I

Unit I has been a delightful experience, I honestly don't know how I would ever find peace in the building if it wasn't for Ms. Florida. Doing artwork in Unit I let me know that there's always a way out. There will be times I would be stressed out and the only person that would make my day turn around would be Ms. Florida. I honestly start losing faith but Unit I gave me my hope back. Ms. Florida showed me she wants to see me be successful and that she absolutely cares about me. At times, I don't feel like I am not worth nothing she always makes me feel like gold. She is an amazing woman, I truly admire the way she operates. There was a time recently when I was going through a tough time up Shuman Center about my care for my Castleman's disease and I flipped out, so Ms. Florida dedicated her precious time to make me feel better. That made me so happy because it let me know that at least someone cares about how I feel and that I am not alone.

Love, Marquise. L

My whole two weeks all we did was having fun and having many good talks in Unit I. Thank you for everything Ms. Florida! Chris H.

My Experience in Unit I

I speak for many of us who work with you in Shuman Center and who have witnessed your growth; seen your endless talents; been an ear to your pain; watched you cling (despite uncertainty) to hope when your lives have spiraled so out of your control with your identities buried in a paper trail of "juvenile charges" and ourselves inspired by your strength and resilience in spite.



We get to see a clearer glimpse of you in the valuable versions of yourselves that you were created to be... and we feel the frustration of waiting for you to catch up to the realities of your true and priceless potential and all that you can accomplish and contribute in life.... all while you resist our positive input and fight us to keep your negative identities that serve no useful purpose to anyone...especially yourselves.

I can only urge those of you that come from fractured families, who live in uncertainty, fear and shame and carry the constant pain of failure and life's disappointments in your hearts instead of joy, that there are better ways to live within yourselves even when the world is unfair, which it is and truly always will be. You can learn to live in harmony with the real world and the one you can help create for yourselves. You are not alone in anything, neither your pain or joy, because there are always people out there that want to guide you through your journey to success. You need to know how to find and identify them and open your hearts, so you can see them. They are within this building...you might not be looking hard enough or maybe you are blinded by your own pain and anger. Collect the wisdoms of those that have faith in you. Create a "mental locker" and when you have collected enough encouraging feedback and positive experiences, then allow yourselves to remember, believe and re-live positive experiences to help carry you through the "bad hair days" ahead of all of us. Learn to forgive an enemy and understand that they too are reacting from their own inner pain.... and you might soon find that they are not that much different than yourselves. Mr. Florida

Rise Above....

Today "try on" being positive about yourself as if it were a new pair of shoes. Act positively for just ½ hour today...and I don't mean about the outcome of your juvenile court case or home predicament because you can't always control that, but feel positive about yourselves, attitudes, self-worth and your potential for a future of change which you can control. How do successful people act? Pretend if you have to but see how it feels and fits to believe in yourself and feel positive. What kind of shoes would you wear to walk proudly for a job interview? I am certain your world won't implode at the change in that ½ hour and although you might find it uncomfortable like a new pair of shoes at first you will find it rather painless as you keep walking in that direction...you can always go back to the safety of feeling negative but give it a chance to break in first!

Challenge yourself to feel empowered and open to change.

What kind of shoes would you wear in your successful profession? So many choices!









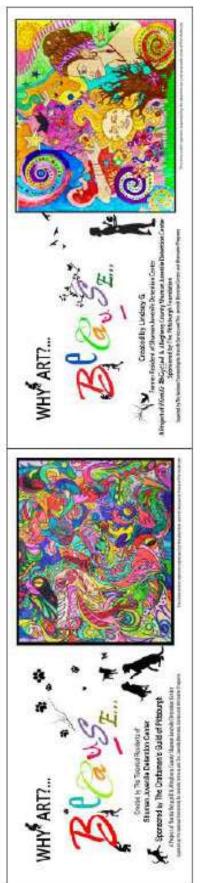




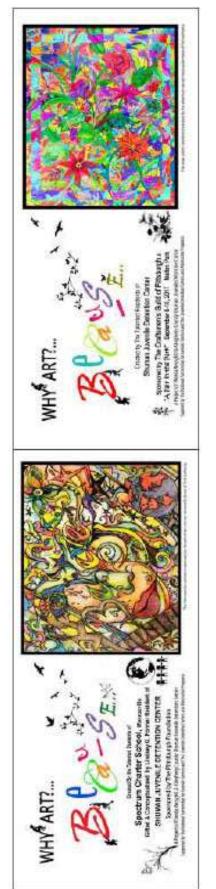














The Cold Within

Six humans trapped by happenstance In dark and bitter cold Each possessed a stick of wood, Or so the story's told.

Their dying fire in need of logs, But the first one held hers back, For, of the faces around the fire, She noticed one was black.

The next one looked cross the way Saw one not of his church, And could not bring himself to give The fire his stick of birch,

The third one sat in tattered clothes
He gave his coat a hitch,
Why should his log be put to use
To warm the idle rich?

The rich man just sat back and thought
Of wealth he had in store,
And keeping all that he had earned
From the lazy, shiftless poor.

The black man's face bespoke revenge
As the fire passed from his sight,
For he saw in his stick of wood
A chance to spite the white.

And the last man of this forlorn group
Did naught accept for gain,
Giving just to those who gave
Was how he played the game,

Their sticks held tight in death's skilled hands
Was proof enough of sin
They did not die from the cold withoutThey died from the cold within.

James Patrick Kinney

"The Cold Within" was written in the 1960s by an American poet known as <u>James Patrick Kinney</u>. It has appeared in countless church bulletins, web sites and teaching seminars, as well as magazines and newspapers, including <u>Dear Abby's</u> column on September 5, 1999. According to the poet's widow, he submitted the poem first to the Saturday Evening Post, but it was rejected as "too controversial for the time". Kinney sent it later to Liguorian, a Catholic magazine, which was the first commercial publication to print it.

According to Timothy Kinney (the poet's son), the poem was originally read at an ecumenical council meeting, after which the ministers, priests and rabbis in attendance requested copies of it. They read the poem to their congregations and, before long, "The Cold Within" became well known throughout the United States.[4]