

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Artists Enhance Downtown Windows

Michigan City, IN (December 3, 2004) - Local businesses and building owners have joined forces with local artists and Mayor Chuck Oberlie's office to decorate some downtown windows for the holidays.

Mayor Oberlie said, "This project was inspired by the delightful results of several recent banner projects by young Michigan City artists and the wonderful art displays at local schools, art centers and galleries. By displaying this creativity in our downtown windows, we have been able to bring a unique representation of holiday spirit to our parade route while celebrating our community's artistic skills."

"Artists Jennifer Nellis, Dinah Gumns, Marjory Crawford, Wayne Thornton and Madeline Schooley's art students from St. Paul's Lutheran School painted their beautiful designs on the windows of several Franklin Street storefronts," said Jan Kostielney, project coordinator. "Members of the LaPorte County Coalition of Youth-Serving Agencies - Safe Harbor, Hours For Ours, the Voyager Program and the Boys & Girls Club - partnered with the Lubeznik Art Center to have their students either paint on windows or create banners which were then hung in the windows along our downtown main street."

The illustrations of winter scenes will be completed by Saturday, December 4th, at these locations: 825 Franklin, Mother Goose/Head Start; 815 Franklin, dh2w; 803 Franklin, A & J Rehab; 703 and 701 Franklin, owned by Dan O'Brien; 619 Franklin, Unity Foundation; 618 Franklin, Computer Systems; and 613 Franklin, Pubco.

Edwin Shelton, Program/Education Director at The Lubeznik Center For The Arts, said, "The Lubeznik Art Center is grateful to collaborate with the winter holiday project on Franklin Street and Safe Harbor after-school students. These creative students are able to visually express their joy and excitement for the upcoming season with the Michigan City

community. Any opportunity for the children to have a public venue to display their artwork is wonderful!”

“We are thrilled with the creative work done by these local artists who have donated their time and materials to enhance our downtown windows,” Kostielney said. “In fact, the results of this inaugural project are so good, we hope to match local artists with downtown windows on a seasonal basis in 2005. Artists, business and building owners who would like to bring spring, summer, fall and winter paintings to life on storefront windows should contact me to plan for the next painting session.”

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