

May 9, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the director of Weber Gallery in old Louisville, a program of the Council on Developmental Disabilities. The Council has advocated for people of all ages with developmental disabilities, such as autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, etc., for 61 years. It's accurate to say that the Council has changed lives and changed the landscape in Kentucky for these individuals and their families.



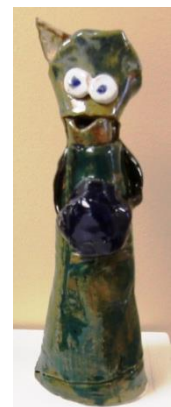
Weber Gallery is like “the pretty face” of the Council. Through art, it brings many people through the doors to experience beauty, and they do experience that, and more. Through Weber Gallery people who might never come through the Council doors learn more about the value of people with disabilities, and a community resource that serves them.

Weber Gallery operates on the premise that mixing established, professional artists with artists with disabilities, on a level playing field in a truly integrated gallery, benefits every participant, including the audience. That premise has overwhelmingly proven out in exhibition after exhibition, including those supported by *The National Endowment for the Arts*, who, apparently, really likes the idea. Most importantly, hundreds of people are coming to the gallery with each new project and learning to recognize and appreciate people with disabilities, through the power of art.



The key to success has been faith in the legitimacy of the program from the professional art community, and the disability community. That is where Candy Wheat and *Trinity Center for Faith & Art* come in.

Candy Wheat represents the combination of professional artist, teacher, and disability leader. Candy has exhibited both her own work and also a great variety of ceramic art from men and women with developmental disabilities who are her students. Their work is very popular, and much of it sells quickly!



In past years, Trinity Center for Faith & Art students participated in *The Striped Show*, *Women Work*, *Breaking the Mold*, *The Awful Revolting Terrible Halloween Show*, among others. Gallery patrons do not purchase their art to be charitable. Many times buyers do not realize the art comes from special needs artists. They purchase the art because it speaks to them, it is wonderful, quirky, touching, clever, humorous, interesting....they love it.

Candy works with artists with significant disabilities who have heard about the program or come from service providers such as Day Spring, St. Mary's, Dreams with Wings, Apple Patch, and Academy of St. Andrews. With Candy's guidance, these men and women,

some for the first time in their lives, learn the exhilarating fulfillment of creating something beautiful, and the pride that comes with it. They come to the opening reception with their families and beam; some stand next to their piece the whole evening. The meaning to their families can't be overstated. I have seen grown men cry as they told me that they never imagined seeing a loved one's art work in a real gallery, purchased by strangers who valued it.



Trinity Center for Faith & Art is giving opportunities to people who have had few in their lives. What the program does for them goes way beyond helping them make it through the day; it gives them something to look forward to, something of their very own, of their creation, that could not be duplicated by anyone else.

Your congregation can take pride in the fact that *Trinity Center for Faith & Art* is the only clay art program for people with developmental disabilities in Louisville. Besides its obvious benefits, the Center is a superb and unusual example of the Christian outreach of Trinity Presbyterian Church, honoring our community and Louisville's designation as an "International Compassionate City". You really have something special, there. On behalf of people with developmental disabilities, we thank you.



Sincerely,

Carol Mueller  
Director, Weber Gallery



All artworks by artists from the Trinity Presbyterian Center for Faith & Art, Candy Wheat, Director.