Sholom Residents Share Their Lives Through Their Paintings

Through a recent partnership between Sholom and COMPAS (a statewide non-profit arts organization), residents were able to participate in a 3-day intensive art “camp” at both Sholom Home West and Chapman Sholom Home East. Professional artist, Pat Owens spent 12 hours (over a 3 day period) teaching

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We’re all born creative. Here at COMPAS it’s our mission to help people stay that way. Why? Because when we build up the creative part of our minds we hold on to a piece of ourselves that make us better suited to not only survive in this world, but thrive.

COMPAS brings innovative, creative, art-filled learning to people of all ages. Working side-by-side with Minnesota’s most talented artists, individuals develop their creative selves, take risks, try something new, learn and grow.

From classroom residencies to public art projects, COMPAS writers, visual artists, musicians and performing artists inspire individuals and build community.
water-color techniques and overseeing the creation of a graphic memoir by each of the participants.

The camp provided intensive exposure to artistic learning with the goal of jumpstarting or enhancing a quality arts learning program. The camp culminated in a community celebration and display of the creative work done by the participants, as each explained to visitors, family and staff the story of their life through their painting.

"This was a fantastic experience for all involved," says Jennifer Zinnel, Director of Therapeutic Recreation at Sholom Home West. "It was so delightful to see residents 'blossom' before our eyes, doing things they never thought they could do. Their pride in their projects and joy at sharing their stories with others during the celebration was obvious and wonderful to see." The art program continues with eight 2-hour art classes over the next several weeks with Ms. Owens, whose goal is to help Sholom residents discover their own creativity while learning a new skill.

Sholom resident Bob Gretch, an artist himself, who participated in this program says of his paintings, "I see the world as a piece of art and paint with my heart."