

# EVERHART MUSEUM

NATURAL HISTORY, SCIENCE & ART

**For Immediate Release**

**Date:** June 19, 2019

**PHOTOGRAPH ATTACHED**

Additional Press Photographs are Available Upon Request



In photo-

Top row, left to right- Dr. Jeremiah Eagan, NEPA HCF Board Member, Henry Sallusti, NEPA HCF Board Member, Natalie Gelb, NEPA HCF Board Member, The Honorable Terrence Nealon, NEPA HCF Board Member

Bottom row left to right- Laura Ducceschi, SAF President/CEO, NEPA HCF Administrator, James Clemente, NEPA HCF Board Chair, Robert Knowles, NEPA HCF Board Member

## **Northeastern Pennsylvania Healthcare Foundation Awards \$10,000 Grant to the Everhart Museum**

SCRANTON, PA. (June 19, 2019) – The Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art received a \$10,000 grant from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Health Care Foundation. The grant, awarded in 2018, will be used to expand the “Everhart Connects” program, a long-term artist-in-residence program that

benefits people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia and their caregivers. The hope is that participants that are cognitively impaired will be able to use the arts as a vehicle to recollect or recall things that have happened, learn how to do new things, and make individual decisions.

"The Everhart Connects program is unique because caregivers and their care partner have a chance to do an activity together while socializing with others, and where the emphasis is on possibility rather than limitation," said director of programming, Stefanie Colarusso.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's across the country, and a growing population in the greater Scranton area home.

Everhart Connects pilot program began in March of 2018 at the Wesley Village campus of United Methodist Homes with residents in the early stages of dementia and Alzheimers. The Everhart Connects program is also offered two times a month at the Everhart Museum in partnership with the Greater Pennsylvania Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association's early engagement program. By incorporating a nationally recognized Timeslips program into the design, we are working to improve the well being, communication, affect/pleasure, relationships between staff and residents with dementia and attitudes toward aging and people with dementia.

"This is an opportunity to utilize the arts to provide a human service that addresses the subject of social isolation and loneliness for the elderly," said Aurore Giguët, executive director of the Everhart, "research shows that both social isolation and loneliness are associated with a higher risk of mortality in adults aged 52 and older, with Alzheimer's patients more susceptible to social isolation."

Monies from the Healthcare Foundation support year three expansion of the program into Lackawanna, Luzerne and Wyoming Counties to include artist fees, travel of residents to and from the Museum, additional support staff and art materials needed. The Everhart Connects Program is also supported by United Methodist Homes and a partnership grant from the PA Council on the Arts Arts in Education Partner of the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit.

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MEDIA CONTACT: For further information, please contact: Kathy Bell, Director of Development and Marketing by emailing [development@everhart-museum.org](mailto:development@everhart-museum.org) or by calling 570-346-7186 ext. 521

About the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science and Art

Founded in 1908 and located in Scranton's historic Nay Aug Park, the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art is the largest general Museum in

Northeastern Pennsylvania. For over 100 years, the Museum has delighted the region with an ever-changing selection of exhibitions and programs.

The Everhart Museum is one of the region's leading resources for educational and cultural opportunities. Our programs encourage everyone to explore the wonders of the world - from mammoths to mosaics to mallards and masks.

MUSEUM HOURS: Mon., & Fri., Noon to 5:00 pm, Thurs. Noon - 7:00 pm; Sat. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Sun. Noon to 5:00 pm. Admission: \$7/adults, \$5/students & seniors; \$3/children 6-12, and free to Everhart Museum members. Contact 570-346-7186 or email us for additional information.