



The Everhart Museum More than the Building in the Park

For Immediate Release

Date: July 22, 2019

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Images attached

The Everhart Museum believes in the profound positive effect that the incorporation of art into the lives of individuals dealing with an assortment of difficulties can have. Educational programming and community outreach are both essential means for achieving the Museum's mission. Through partnerships, the Museum can provide ongoing programs and outreach. Recently the Everhart partnered with United Methodist Homes, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Women's Resource Center, Lackawanna County's Office of Youth and Family Services (OYFS) and their Arts and Culture Departments.

In conjunction with University of Scranton professor Dr. Catherine Cullen, and with funding provided by Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and United Methodist Homes' Everhart Connects was developed. Everhart Connects provides art therapy to individuals with dementia and early-stage Alzheimer's disease who reside in Wesley Village, a United Methodist Homes' assisted living facility. Each session of the program, which is led by artist-in-residence Elizabeth Faist, focuses on an element of the Everhart Museum's collection and incorporates a specific medium into a hands-on experience. Everhart Connects features guided discussions about art, often including live musical performances promoting healthy cognitive function and sparking participants memory. The program aims to decrease the loneliness and isolation often experienced by senior citizens and their caregivers through positive social interaction. The results of Everhart Connects, which takes place at Wesley Village, will add to a growing body of research on non-pharmaceutical therapies, enhancing the lives of older adults.

In addition to the Everhart Connects program, through a partnership with the Office of Youth and Family Services (OYFS) and the Lackawanna County Arts and Culture Department is ARTSEngage! The funding provided to the Everhart's ARTSEngage! allows artistic programming to be developed for all youth pre-K through high school, ensuring of children, youth, and families from OYFS participate in these programs.

And finally, Surviving and Thriving, a workshop for residents of the Women's Resource Center. Through immersive experiences with art, Surviving and Thriving provide an outlet for the residents, helping them deal with the negative emotions stemming from physical and emotional trauma. Each participant confronts their experience with their own distinctive visual vocabulary of images represented through embroidery, of mixed media fabric pieces. The work symbolizes the fabric of the human soul, family connects, and the act of mending. The intention was to promote survivor attitudes, healthy coping mechanisms, and social discourse. Each artwork was created under the guidance of artist-in-residence, Gina Rice, and staff of the Women's Resource Center.

Researchers say that by incorporating art into our lives improves self-esteem, strengthens brain retention, improves critical thinking, reduces anxiety, and gives us a deeper understanding of our emotions. Artwork is vital for economic development, and the Everhart is a beautiful resource right here in Northeast Pennsylvania.

Works created by the residents of Wesley Village and the Women's Research Center will be exhibited August through December.

The Everhart Museum is open: 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm on Thursday, Friday, Sunday and Monday; 10:00 am – 5:00 pm on Saturday. Admission is \$7/adults, \$5/students & seniors, \$3/children 6-12, and free to guests 5 and under as well as Everhart Museum members. For more information, contact the Museum at 570-346-7186 or email general.information@everhartmuseum.org.

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About the Everhart Museum: Founded in 1908, the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art is the largest general museum in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The Everhart Museum, located in Nay Aug Park in Scranton, is a not-for-profit institution dedicated to the collection, care, and display of a diverse array of artifacts, including natural history, science, and fine arts. Through our exhibitions and programs, the Everhart Museum has become an invaluable regional resource for educational and cultural opportunities. General support for the museum is received from the Lackawanna County Office of Education & Culture, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the City of Scranton. For more information on the Museum, visit our website at www.everhart-museum.org or contact us at 570-346-7186.

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The Women's Resource Center provides comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. The Women's Resource Center (WRC) is a non-profit organization located in Scranton, Pennsylvania. WRC is the sole provider of domestic violence and sexual assault services in Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties. Since 1976, WRC has provided free and confidential services to over 62,000 program participants that support justice, autonomy, restoration, and safety for adult and child survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. WRC utilizes a holistic approach, providing

crisis and advocacy services, safe housing, transitional housing and civil/legal representation for survivors. In the past year alone, WRC has served 1,778 survivors of domestic violence and 363 survivors of sexual assault, and provided over 14,000 Safe Nights of Shelter to adults and children in Lackawanna & Susquehanna Counties.