

A Tribute to Ann Halbig, Our Art Instructor

By Katie Phillips & Kelly Skinner

Ann Halbig is not only a wonderful art instructor, but a kind and generous person as well. She taught High School art at Libby High School until it's closing and will now be teaching at Bowsher. Ann also teaches a variety of artistic expressions at the Wernert Center every other Wednesday at 4pm during Ilse's Café, our evening hours programming.

In April, Ann felt inspired to share the art work of her students, who not only include members of the Wernert Center, but residents of NPI's Safe Haven, and St. Paul's Community Center. Ann's brainchild resulted in an Art Exhibit titled "*Mind Explosions*", that was on display throughout May, at the Original Sub Shop at 402 Broadway near downtown Toledo.

Ann put all of the muscle into this exhibit, setting it up, designing and printing the postcards for advertising the exhibit, and taking the exhibit down.

On May 13, 2010 from 5-7pm, Ann co-hosted a reception for the artists, so we could celebrate our accomplishments and share our pieces with others.

Ann was also hoping to do some stigma busting through the exhibit, to show the community how creative those of us who live with mental illness can be. We all would have appreciated a better turnout from the community, but the artist members who attended the reception were thrilled to see their artwork on display and expressed enthusiasm at the prospect of participating in another exhibit in the future.

Thanks also to the owners of The Original Sub Shop, Sarkis and Jacqueline David, for generously opening up there space for us to show our art and have our reception, something the David's have been doing for the community for years.



Above left to right: Artist & instructor, Ann Halbig with Kelly Skinner, Exec. Dir., Wernert Center next to the "*Mind Explosions*" painting, artist unknown, that inspired the title of the art exhibit.



Above: Margo Houston, Vice Pres. Wernert Center Board of Trustees, with her two paintings.



Janet Shannon pointing out her painting to her husband at the Original Sub Shop. Our theme was Jackson Pollock.



Above: Don Baker and two of his popular sketches. His portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King is spot on.



Beth Cromly's poems looked lovely at the WMR Conference!



Above: Tracey Ish & her painting.

Ann shared that every art instructor loves to have their students' work exhibited, so when she was asked to transport and setup the Original Sub Shop art exhibit for the 2nd Annual Wellness Management & Recovery Conference at the Bergamo Center in Dayton, she jumped at the chance. What a beautiful job she did! Everybody loved the artwork and displays.

Thanks loads, Ann, for everything.



Thom Rowley with his painting at the WMR Conference.

At right: Katie Phillips with her colorful painting "*Reaching Calmness*", which was a favorite of both art exhibits.



At right: An example of how Ann helps us to identify the feelings we have connected to the piece we are working on.

Reaching Calmness
This is really a colorist expression designed with the colors that calm me and soothe me in times of stress.
Katie Phillip

Photos by Katie Phillips & Kelly Skinner