Wine & Canvas: The Artists of Reading from Aetna

On April 11 our new friends from Aetna hosted a fundraiser at Wine & Canvas. The event sold out quickly and was attended by both Aetna employees and members of the community. We were delighted to discover a bachelorette party among the group—and to learn that the bride-to-be and one of her bridesmaids had tutored for Project READS at Euell A. Wilson Community Center!

Marketing and Communications Manager Lisa Fabian was on hand that night to accept a $300 check from Wine & Canvas. She explained how art plays a critical role in teaching a student to read, as one of the first instructions given to a child decoding a new word is, "Look at the picture." Many of the partici-pants were familiar with this strategy and already implementing it with their young readers!

The generous artists also donated new and like-new books for use in our tutorial program. We received a wonderful collection covering a broad range of interests!

Thank you to our Aetna hosts and all who joined in on the fun—and took home a beautiful piece of art! How fitting that the subject was "The Tree of Life," for all of our gracious painters were supporting the roots of lifelong learning!

Did You Know?

- According to a recent article in *Forbes* magazine, **60%** of America's inmates are illiterate; **85%** of all juvenile offenders have reading problems.

- Additionally, www.readinghorizons.com reports: "Up to **80%** of incarcerated individuals are function-ally illiterate. Studies show that if a child reads on grade level by the end of third grade, there is a **99%** certainty that child will never be incarcerated. School performance, more than any other factor, is a major contributor as to whether a youth becomes involved in drugs or violence."

- In addition, **67%** of American fourth-graders can't read at fourth-grade proficiency level, and **33% or 1/3** score below the basic competency level as shown in standard National Assessment of Educa-tional Progress (NAEP) tests given to fourth-graders.

- Finally, a Special Report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation in 2011 stated, "Students who don't read proficiently by third grade are **four times more likely to leave school** without a diploma when compared to proficient readers."

The future can loom bleak for a child who has not reached grade-level reading goals, particularly third-grade benchmarks. We need to ensure that area students have the tools and skills necessary to succeed in life—and to avoid becoming a tragic statistic.

We invite you to partner with Project READS to transform the future of our community, one eager young reader at a time. Your gracious support—as a volunteer or a donor—can make a profound difference. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Our Breakfast Sponsors

Juried Show

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MEDIA 401

NORTHSIDE GALLERIES

Three Graces Studio
Fine Art & Graphic Design
by
Lynn Berry
260.312.9055

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Thank you to all of our generous guests!

Artists of Reading Gallery: Featured Artists

Breakfast Raffle

Karen Pence
Home Originals
State Capitol (Print)

Ken Dutton
Ken Dutton Graphics
Fort Wayne Map &
Original Sketches

Bruce Langton
Bruce Langton Art
"Sunlit Dreamer"
(Print)

Nancy Longmate
FW Artists Guild
"Enchanted
Encounter" (Print)

Lynn Berry
Three Graces Studio
Dr. Seuss (Originals)
"Traveling Man"
(Orig.)

Christina Wald
Christina Wald Illus.
"Skipper and Ellen"
(Giclee)

Artists in Action

University of Saint Francis

All Original Artwork

Tabitha Sprunger
President
Beatrix Potter
Collection

Nicholas Christie
"Alice in
Wonderland"

Adam Gayer
"Modern Giving Tree"

Camille Krouse
"The Tailor"

Our table tents were created by the students and volunteers at our tutoring sites.

Thank you to our media sponsor:

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