



PRESS RELEASE

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“Free Spirit” artwork returns home to TVS

Brevard, NC (November 18) — Every year the Free Rein Gala offers an opportunity for community members to participate in a silent and live auction. This year, TVS Life Skills participants created and donated “Free Spirit,” a mixed media piece of artwork. This beautifully crafted horse painting now carries a heartwarming journey.

“Free Spirit” was inspired by the fun and freedom that Free Rein provides for the TVS participants. The horse was created with different elements that relates to the experiences. The sand is representing the dusty ground, corn as a horse snack, and the feathers representing the outdoors and the feeling of flying that is experienced while riding the horses.

Each aspect of the artwork is thoughtful and expressive. “Our TVS participants greatly look forward to Free Rein each session,” said Life Skills Supervisor Suzanne Byers. “Free Rein allows us to challenge ourselves, overcome obstacles, and meet goals that everyday life experiences might not provide us the opportunity to do.”

At the Gala the artwork received numerous bids, but eventually was purchased by Nancy Richards.

Richards, herself, is an artist. Her artwork can be found at the Number 7 Arts gallery located on Brevard’s main street.

“I was amazed when I saw the horse painting. It’s vibrant colors and energy really tell a compelling story,” Richards said. “I knew that I wanted to bid on it, and that I wanted to bid as much as I could to honor the artists and their efforts.”

After “Free Spirit” was purchased, Richards wanted the art to continue telling its story. She donated the horse painting back to the TVS participants. “I wanted TVS to know that your program is working and making our community better, and I wanted your participants to know that they are talented artists who are able to make change with their work,” she said.

The painting now hangs in the TVS lobby with the artists signatures and a copy of her letter in the Opinion of the Readers section that was printed in the Transylvania Times reflecting on the collaboration between Free Rein and TVS.

The artwork has created a full circle journey that in the process was able to spread appreciation, awareness and companionship, into the community.

“Your organization (TVS) and Free Rein both do wonderful work,” Richards said. “It is the collaboration between the two that is the real story here.”

TVS and Free Rein have been working together since 2012 and have continued over the years to strengthen their partnership.

Please visit <https://www.tvsinc.org/> to learn more information about TVS. And to learn more about Free Rein please visit <https://freereincenter.org/>.

Written by Jenifer Welch