Community Association for Rehabilitation featured in Los Altos Main St. Cafe art show

Town Crier Report

"I love making art!" said Noel Pino, artist and client of Community Association for Rehabilitation Inc. (C.A.R.).

The original artwork of Noel and his friends from the L.E.A.R.N. adult day program at C.A.R. are on display at the Los Altos Main Street Cafe & Books, located at 134 Main St., through Sept. 30.

Artwork also is on display from other C.A.R. artists and program participants, including youth from the Creative Recreation program, the Betty Wright Swim Center, the Infant Development program and Milestones Preschool.

Many of the pieces on display have been featured in the last four years in the C.A.R. annual report/calendar.

Los Altos resident Sigal Mor and her daughter Healy, who was born premature at 24 weeks, are two of the artists whose artwork is on display. Healy received physical, occupational and speech therapy at the C.A.R. Infant Development Program and has graduated to a Los Altos preschool.

"I don't know what would have happened if Healy didn't get to go to C.A.R.,” Mor said. “The therapists and teachers treated Healy as an individual and worked wonders on her motor and speech development. As a parent of a preemie, these programs were exactly what I needed.”

Palo Alto artist Judy Gitlesohn, with funding from the Arts Council Silicon Valley, has worked with hundreds of individuals from C.A.R. to create solo and composite works of art, depicting their experiences.

"I appreciate being a conduit for their means of expression," she said. “They thrill at the completion of work and bask in the presentation of their art to others.”

Los Altos residents can see C.A.R. clients at work at the Safeway on First Street. Ivan Evans, who has received job assessment, placement and coaching from the C.A.R. Employment Services program, is employed as a courtesy clerk at the local grocery store.

When he isn’t working, Evans is a student at Foothill College where he plans to get a business degree.

C.A.R. is a Palo Alto-based non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization for children and adults with developmental disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, autism and other neuro-developmental conditions.

Each year, more than 2,000 people and their families use its eight services, including a preschool and a swim center for those with and without disabilities.

For more information, visit www.c-a-r.org.