

"Tribal Equity" - by Brent Chatmon, Best in Show artist



LIFE CHAT

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The Recovery Advisory Council and
The Integrated Care Clinic



Art of Recovery online event a huge success!

By Lacy Vitko, MA, ATR-BC, Expressive Arts Administrator

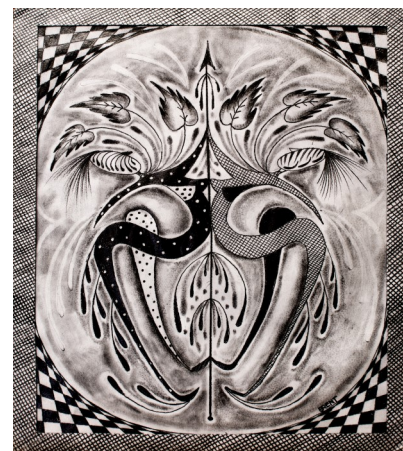
While the decision to take our 5th annual Art of Recovery event online was met with initial disappointment, the final outcome proved to be an overwhelming success. Viewers joined in for the hour-long live event to witness the talent of CSS artists and purchase their original artwork. The 41 artists in this year's show explored a variety of content and themes, all of which conveyed the therapeutic connection between art making and mental health recovery. The quality of the pieces came through in layers of color and form, and emotional depth was revealed within the artists' reflections.

We were delighted to share the talent of CSS artists with friends and supporters throughout Ohio and beyond. We were even more thrilled that 51 of 58 original pieces of artwork sold by the end of the program! A true testament to the power of art and personal stories of triumph over adversity, we

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"I Wish I Could Go Back" - by Alex Campbell, Second Place



"Tribal Equity" - A series by
Brent Chatmon, Best in Show

Continued...

watched as more and more art sold over the course of the evening.

The **Best of Show** award went to **Brent Chatmon** for his six-piece drawing series, "Tribal Equity." Brent was inspired by the joy he sees in African art and created these unique mirror image pieces. Brent says drawing eases his mind and allows him to feel the peace that exists in the image he's drawing. A true talent beyond words, Brent has the capacity to create one-of-a-kind, perfectly symmetrical images that capture the boundless energy alive within him. Congratulations, Brent!

Second place was awarded to **Alex Campbell** for his piece, "I Wish I Could Go Back," mixed media on paper. Alex created this beautiful piece of art in tribute to the happy and carefree winter days of his youth. Alex was a big part of the group of volunteers who painted the large mural on our building at 150 Cross Street. Alex has also been a part of the art program since the beginning and continues to impress us with his unique talent and impeccable dedication to his creative process. For Alex, making art allows him to forget about his problems and focus on the present moment. In group, he never fails to bring joy to the room, offering a joke and smile to all.

Third place went to **Bradley Rankin** for his piece, "Garden Scene (Ferns)," a unique design created with acrylic paint and tissue paper on canvas. Bradley has participated in several Art of Recovery events, and we look forward to witnessing his extraordinary talent each year.

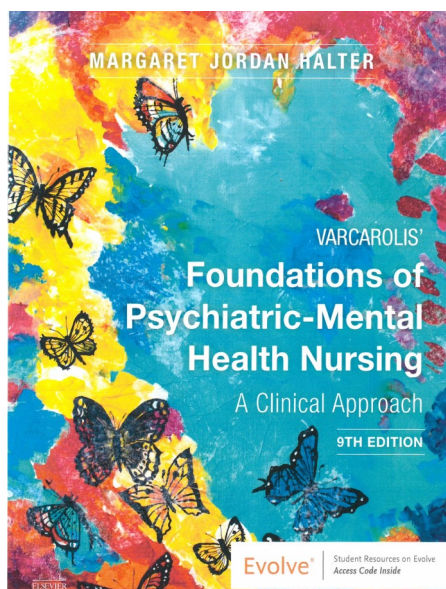


"Garden Scene (Ferns)" - by Bradley Rankin

The remaining submissions included a variety of two-dimensional media and subject matter, including eight **honorable mentions**: **Lynn Murray**, "Peacock Lane;" **Janet Vorraber**, "Sunset with You;" **Miranda Taylor**, "Zentangle Series;" **Connie Sparks**, "Decades of Lore;" **Tom Snodgrass**, "Reaching for the Sky;" **Carla Stouffer**, "Light Up Your Life;" **Mark Rose**, "Relaxing;" and **Connie D.**, "In the Water."

We were saddened to be physically apart for the event; however, the artists have expressed positive feedback, particularly those who sold their art for the first time. Down the road, we hope to bring together the artists with the people who purchased their art to meet in person. In the meantime, we continue to provide creative opportunities for clients, despite pandemic limitations. Now, more than ever, art provides an outlet for expressing our inner worlds, a safe space for exploring fears and anxieties, and, most importantly, for illustrating the beauty and light all around.

Video of Art of Recovery can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/CommunitySupportServices>



CSS client's art chosen for textbook cover

It's been a year of success for CSS client **Bradley Rankin**.

Bradley, a participant in Art of Recovery for the past four years, was selected as the spotlight artist for this year's event. His painting "Garden Scene (Ferns)" won third place, and "Butterfly Abstract" was featured as a signed, limited-edition print for those who bought VIP event tickets. Of the piece, Bradley says, "The abstract background with the more realistic butterflies depicts the confusion that sometimes overpowers our environment."

The painting earned Bradley recognition beyond Art of Recovery, too. The piece was chosen for the cover of a mental health nursing textbook coming out next year. Bradley will be credited with a biographical paragraph in the book. An added bonus: his original painting was purchased by the textbook's editor!

This all builds on Bradley's success at last year's Art of Recovery, where his painting "Abstract Flowers" was named Best in Show.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES SUCCESS STORY

by Joel Voorman, SE Recovery Specialist

It's no secret that Covid-19 has severely disrupted the lives of many CSS clients. This especially rings true in the Supported Employment department. Many clients were let go from their jobs or had hours reduced due to the pandemic, while very few employers in the community had the means to add additional staff.

Supported Employment client Bill Maki was just a few months short of celebrating his fifth anniversary working for ABM Parking Services when the first COVID closures occurred. Bill was determined to not let coronavirus get in the way of him reaching the milestone. He was fortunate to be considered "essential," as the parking lot where he is employed is owned by the city.



Bill Maki

Bill not only continued to work his scheduled shifts, but sometimes worked more than double the amount of his scheduled hours to help with staffing shortages caused by illness or vacation. He always did what was necessary to help out his employer.

His selflessness and willingness to help out his employer comes as no surprise to the Supported Employment team. Bill worked tirelessly with his Supported Employment Specialist (Alisa Harris) to make a great resume', diligently followed through on job leads and applications, and attended the weekly Job Club meeting.

Bill not only made it to his five-year milestone, but he has no plans of leaving! He would like to stay at the job as long as possible.



Because of COVID-19, Supported Employment is not having open employment orientation at this time.

Individual face-to-face orientations are being held by appointment only with Joel Voorman. If preferred, phone orientations are available by appointment. Staff should send an electronic referral to Susan Ritz. If a self-referral is being done, the client can call Joel at ext. 317 or Susan at ext. 416, at which time the client's information will be taken, an electronic referral will be created, and the orientation will be scheduled.

Peace of Mind

When I was down and out
And didn't have a care,
Nobody could help me
Because the truth I did not share.

As time went on and years passed by,
I was still not well, and I began to wonder why.
The right people and the right time
finally started to take place,
And things started to change;
It was truly amazing grace.

Now I can see,
When before I was blind.
I have a success story to tell now,
And truly have peace of mind.

— By Lori Hackney
Inspired by family and CSS staff



Primary care & Klein's RX

At this time, appointments for primary care are being offered as Telemedicine and telephone visits, as well as in person. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday. To schedule an appointment, call 330-815-4273.

Hours for Klein's Pharmacy have changed. Currently, the pharmacy is open from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



150 Cross St., Akron, OH 44311

CSS has a new logo!

CSS has partnered with advertising firm TRIAD to raise awareness of CSS' services beyond mental healthcare. TRIAD created a new logo that represents the web of supportive services CSS provides and a tagline that refers to "wellness" services, such as supportive housing and supported employment. TRIAD has updated our website and begun running radio and digital ads. Advertising on billboards and bus boards also will be part of the marketing plan.



Mission Statement

Community Support Services: Helping you achieve a healthy mind and body while supporting you to live and work in your community.

Recovery Definition

Recovery is the continuous process of empowering an individual so he or she may live a satisfying and contributing life. It is a shared responsibility among the individual, the treatment staff, family, friends, and the community to:

- Discover or rediscover strengths and abilities
- Pursue personal goals
- Develop a sense of self-identity that allows the person to grow beyond his or her diagnosis

The Recovery Advisory Council is a collaborative effort with clients & family members to continuously improve the satisfaction of services for all Community Support Services clients.

Contact Danya Bailey at 330-253-9388 ext. 238 or Narkeetah Brazil at 330-253-9388 ext. 165 for the next scheduled RAC meeting, and to contribute your artistry or recovery story.

