

## DOH-PALM BEACH HEALTH CENTER PRESENTS STUDENT ART EXHIBIT "FAMILY"



On the very first day it launched in April, a joint community project between the Florida Department of Health of Palm Beach County and the G-Star School for the Arts, is already having a positive impact.

“When I walked downstairs this morning I witnessed staff and clients admiring the artwork and talking about how tasteful and professional the display is,” says Connie Upshaw, Community Health Nurse Consultant for the Department of Health’s Health Center in Lantana, FL.

The Florida Department of Health of Palm Beach County has 6 health centers in the area. Robert Campbell, administrator of the Lantana/Lake Worth facility, along with Ms. Upshaw decided they wanted to find a way to connect with the community, while also providing a way to make their center more visually appealing. Art was a major focus as the feeling was unanimous that it breaks through barriers, and transcends generations, language, gender, and nationality.



“Since our center serves as one of the Department’s largest locations for family planning and maternity services in Palm Beach County, the theme ‘Family’ seemed only natural,” says Campbell.

They then reached out to G-Star School for the Arts, and instructor Dr. April Leach.

“Each student's expression of their concept of family is unique and meaningful to them in ways that will be explained in their accompanying exhibition texts and artist's statements,” says Dr. Leach.

The interpretive art exhibit, on display until the end of the 2019 school year, features artwork from a group of talented students in grades 9-12 who were excited for the opportunity to have their work on display for the public.



These aspiring artists were tasked with answering the question: “What does family mean to you?” and did so in whatever medium inspired them the most. “The works range from figurative, to abstract, interpretive and expressionist, in mediums ranging from pencil, acrylic, watercolor, and digital art,” says Leach.



Proud staff members at the Lantana/Lake worth Health Center hope that this is just the beginning. “We are so pleased to see this project come to fruition. We are hoping that this will be the first of many opportunities to allow the students to showcase their talents and beautify our facility,” says Upshaw.

For more examples of the artwork, please see the enclosed slideshow above.