



PRESS RELEASE

Jeanne Spencer
Community & Children's Resource Board
636.939.6200
jspencer@scckids.org

St. Charles County Youth Win Community Art Contest

St. Charles Co., Missouri: Friday, January 8, 2021: The Community & Children's Resource Board (CCRB) announced the selection of Minnie Adams, a senior at Francis Howell North High School and Sebastian Bierhals, a freshman at Lutheran High School as co-winners of an art contest for St. Charles County high school students. As winners, both students will re-create their concepts on canvas and the finished artwork will be installed at the CCRB office in May 2021. The art contest was sponsored by the CCRB as a creative way to bring in youth voice to the CCRB office and to recognize talented young artists. The CCRB was inspired by the service providers who use art therapy and other art-based programs to help youth living with mental health conditions.

In October 2020, the CCRB invited students from all area high schools, alternative programs, and homeschool students to submit a conceptual piece to be considered for display in the CCRB's office. A total of six submissions were received from students across the county. The contest theme was "St. Charles County Youth & Community," intended to reflect youth perception of St. Charles County or issues relevant to their lives. Collaborative projects were encouraged and local art teachers were asked to act as a point of contact for students participating in the contest. Adams was mentored by art teacher, Courtney Flamm, and art teacher Carla Krazl mentored Bierhals. The CCRB was impressed by the level of talent shown in all submissions, making it difficult to narrow down the selection.

Adams and Bierhals were chosen for their skill in interpreting the theme, as well as their artistic vision. Adams' work titled "Sushi in St. Charles" features a diverse group of teens sitting together at a local restaurant. Adams is pleased at this opportunity and for her it means her hard work through the years has paid off. Following high school, Adams said she plans "to use my artistic talent to become an exterior and interior architect. I want to use my skills and creativity to create new and inventive styles for buildings."

Bierhals' work, "Masking our Feelings" reflects feelings of anxiety, depression, and pain youth feel because of bullying and cyberbullying. Bierhals explained, "The issue in the art piece I try to show is bullying is a huge issue, by showing someone being happy, but behind them is their true feelings, which can be sadness, depression, or anxiety. This pain that people go through is terrible. I made this piece to tell the viewer... that I feel your pain. Some may be on the brink of emotional breakdown... or dying because of someone telling hem they're not good enough... I want people to feel; feel not alone."

The Community and Children's Resource Board (CCRB) is the administrator the Community Children's Service Fund, a fund created when St. Charles County passed a 1/8-cent sales tax measure in November 2004. The funds are dedicated for services to St. Charles County children and youth, and are awarded to local agencies to provide services that address the growing unmet mental health needs of our community youth. For more information, call (636) 939-6200, follow the CCRB on Facebook, or visit www.stcharlescountykids.org.



Masking Our Feelings
Sebastian Bierhals



Sushi in St. Charles
Minnie Adams