

Lake County Sheriff's Office



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John D. Idleburg
Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

Inmate Art Impact Project Work Publicly Displayed in Lake County Government Lobby

Sheriff John D. Idleburg is pleased to have resumed inmate programming in the Lake County Jail. During the pandemic, inmate programming was paused to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 inside the Lake County Jail. Now, under new mitigation protocols, inmate programming has resumed in the jail's library.

One of the programs, the 'Art Impact Project' has been greeted with excitement and enthusiasm by the Lake County Jail inmates. Ten inmates at a time attend the weekly programming sessions in the jail's library. There, they interact with the program facilitators and each other, to problem solve, understand different viewpoints, self-reflect, let go of negative feelings, all while engaging in art.

Founded by Vickie Marasco seven years ago, 'Art Impact Project' is aimed at those who struggle to express themselves in a healthy way. The facilitators capitalize on offering emotional wellness support through the power of art making and creative expression.

Vickie Marasco said, "The success of our art programming comes through in the interaction, trust and open discussion without judgment about how the inmates are coping and working through compounded personal issues. After having to break the momentum of our work with the inmates because of Covid, we are thrilled to be back and working side by side with this group providing much needed mental and emotional health support."

Dozens of Lake County Jail inmates are currently participating in the 'Art Impact Project' program. Their work products for the 'Making Impact: How Art Enhances Emotional Wellness' exhibit are currently on display through the month of June in the Lake County Government Building located at 18 North County Street, Waukegan. This is part of Lake County Government's initiative titled *Art in Public Places*. The public is welcome to publicly view the art.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Educational, inspiring, and innovative programming is essential in for jail

inmates. The majority of those incarcerated in our jail will reenter society, and I want to take advantage of their time here to ensure they are provided with as many skills, educational opportunities, and encouragement as possible, so they can successfully contribute to society when they are released. The 'Art Impact Project' is one of the many programs which motivates and provides inmates additional options on how they can deal with the daily stresses we all experience."

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