

The Currier Museum Launches New Program to Help Battle the Opioid Epidemic

The Art of Hope supports parents whose children are suffering from substance use disorders.

January 23, 2018 – Manchester, NH - The Currier Museum of Art is launching a new, first-of-its-kind program to help Granite Staters impacted by the opioid crisis. “The Art of Hope” has been created in conjunction with Partnership for Drug-Free Kids to help families struggling with addiction by providing positive experiences in the museum’s galleries. The program is free and open to all.

Based on a support model, this unique program is geared toward parents who have children suffering from a substance use disorder. Participants will receive training from educators to support their children’s recovery through love, listening, self-care, and the use of evidence-based skills to redirect a child’s motivations toward more positive behaviors. Participants will also have the opportunity to receive mentoring and advice from other parents who have already gone through the program and can share the success and challenges from their own personal experiences.

“Our goal is to leverage the art and environment of the Currier Museum to create a comforting safe space to help families impacted by the opioid crisis,” stated Alan Chong, Director of the Currier Museum. “We hope that this innovative combination of support with art will prove useful, and can ultimately be expanded to help families beyond New Hampshire.”

“The Art of Hope addresses the opioid crisis in New Hampshire by providing a special environment for families impacted by addiction,” said Bruce McColl, the Currier’s director of art education. “We want to provide parents with a creative and beautiful place for respite, time for reflection around great works of art, opportunities for self-expression through art making, as well as a sense of togetherness with their families and other parents.”

The program was designed through a collaboration with New York-based Partnership for Drug-Free Kids. The organization provides intimate, non-clinical parent-to-parent support to families, and hopes to connect parents to the joys of creativity, social connection, and strategies for effective family communication.

“We are proud to partner with the Currier and its experienced educators in helping New Hampshire parents whose kids are struggling with substance use connect with art and with each other -- both as a means of self-care and a sharing of hope,” stated Sean Clarkin of Partnership for Drug-Free Kids."

“The opioid crisis has had a devastating impact on our families and our community,” stated David Mara, the Governor’s Advisor on Addiction and Behavioral Health. “We welcome with open arms this new program that will reach out to help those families who have been ravaged by this terrible epidemic.”

“This program is the first of its kind and is poised to help families suffering from substance use disorder here in Manchester,” stated Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig. “There are people across the Queen City dedicated to providing creative solutions to help combat this problem, and I am pleased the Currier

Museum, in conjunction with Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, has developed a resource that has the potential to positively impact the well-being of families in the Greater Manchester area.”

Catholic Charities New Hampshire Counseling Services will provide clinical support to those who may want it. “We are honored to participate in this initiative to help families impacted by addiction. It is part of our commitment to address the opioid crisis,” stated Rev. John J. Mahoney Jr., director of Catholic Charities Counseling Services. Catholic Charities serves people of all faiths and walks of life.

The program will be offered on Mondays, February 5 to February 26, from 6 pm to 8 pm. The museum will be open at 5:15 pm for participants who may want to visit the galleries before the program begins. This program is free and open to the public, but participants must register beforehand as enrollment is limited. For more information, contact Lynn Thomson at 603.518.4951, or at Lthomson@currier.org.

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