

chapters

Cascade Artisans Guild, 1–3

Cascade Artisans Guild, the Pacific Northwest's local chapter of IDAL, has just finished this year's philanthropic project, a colorful mural for the new Music/Art room in North Portland's Children's Relief Nursery.

CRN is a nonprofit center whose mission is "to prevent abuse and neglect in children birth through three by partnering with caregivers committed to strengthening their families."

They help families facing multiple risk factors—such as unemployment, inadequate housing, depression and mental illness, parental history of abuse as a child, drug abuse, domestic violence, and involvement with law enforcement—by

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Day two, Terry Hansen on ladder and Paula Blackwell standing

working to provide a safe and healthy place where children and families can get the help they need. Because of the good they do, we felt they were a perfect fit for our project.

About four weeks in advance, program chair Carolyn Johnson-Bell of Johnson-Bell Art NW combined ideas and inspirations from children's books and fabric with ethnic and musical themes into a scale sketch for the main wall.

The design features three main areas framed in bold black and yellow borders surrounded by colorful spheres and flowing shapes to suggest movement and rhythm. Musical notes are stenciled onto a free-form staff and also placed randomly as a decorative element inspired by one of the fabrics used.

To begin the wall mural, Carolyn laid out most of the larger areas in chalk and together with the other volunteers painted the basecoat and background in a combination of flesh tones and beiges in broken strokes of color to help tie in with the marmoleum floor tiles lining the hallways outside of the class room.

The staff at CRN asked us to include ethnic influences to honor the diversity of the clients who use the facility. Colors were chosen to suggest nature and to comply with this request. The shade of blue that was used perfectly matches the floor in the room and the black outlines help form a connection with the window and door frames of the same color.

Seven volunteers worked together and in pairs off and on for six days to complete this project. The result was a hit and the staff at CRN is very grateful.

~ Carolyn Johnson-Bell

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ABOVE LEFT: Kathryn Owen on floor and Michelle Momeney on ladder

BELOW LEFT: Carolyn Johnson-Bell in front of finished mural