

THROUGH OUR EYES — A CELEBRATION OF YOUNG ARTISTS

In recognition of National Autism Awareness Month, The Help Group proudly presented the 2nd annual *Through Our Eyes: A Celebration of Young Artists* exhibition, sponsored by *Bear Givers* in association with the James Gray Gallery at Santa Monica's Bergamot Station Art Center. *Bear Givers* is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing joy to the lives of children and adults.

The exhibit opened on March 23rd and ran through March 27th and featured 107 imaginative artworks created by the students of The Help Group's Village Glen School and Bridgeport School. One hundred percent of all proceeds of the sale of the artwork benefitted the schools' arts programs.

"At The Help Group, we believe that the arts play a fundamental role in nurturing our students' creativity and talent," said Dr. Barbara Firestone. "We are thrilled that the *Through Our Eyes* art show is back for the second year and thank *Bear Givers* and James Gray Gallery for their generous support and commitment to the children."

Joseph Sprung, *Bear Givers* Founder & Chairman said, "This exhibit gives the students a chance to really shine and be recognized for their talents. *Bear Givers* is delighted to support this special event again this year." Diane Lempert, *Bear Givers* President added, "We are so happy to be here and to be able to see the work that the talented and creative students have put on the walls here. We are very proud of them and very excited to be here."

Gallery owner James Gray and his wife Heidi, Gallery Director, were excited to once again exhibit the students' art in their elegant gallery. James commented, "Heidi and I have been sponsors of The Help Group over the last couple of years now and hopefully for many years to come," he said. "The work is amazing and it's so great to see the young artists and their talent and inspiration — it really is just breathtaking."

One young artist captured the experience when she said, "I feel honored and happy and excited all at the same time!" Another artist added, "It feels really nice to have my painting in a gallery. You don't get an opportunity like this very often."

It was a warm and wonderful event. Our artists and everyone who participated are already looking forward to next year!

Please save the date for the 3rd annual *Through Our Eyes: A Celebration of Young Artists* exhibition on Saturday, March 24th, 2012.



Dr. Barbara Firestone, Diane Lempert, Joseph Sprung, Help Group artist & his family



Heidi & James Gray



In Recognition of National Autism Awareness Month

The Help Group
is pleased to invite you to

Through Our Eyes

A Celebration of Young ARTISTS

Special Reception
SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH
6pm - 9pm

Exhibition & Reception
Sponsored by **Bear Givers**

in association with **James Gray Gallery**

Exhibit runs March 23rd - 27th
James Gray Gallery
Bergamot Station Art Center
2525 Michigan Ave. Building D4 - Santa Monica, CA 90404
310.315.9502 — www.jamgraygallery.com

Featuring Artwork
by the Students of
The Help Group's
Village Glen &
Bridgeport Schools