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Frederick County Health Department

# *News Release*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**AUGUST 31, 2018**

## **“RISE AND SHINE” ART EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION HIGHLIGHTS RESILIENCY OF LOCAL YOUTHS**

**FREDERICK, MD --** The Fifteenth Annual Kids Like Us Art Exhibit, “Rise and Shine,” will be on display on the Community Art Wall at the Delaplaine Art Center from September 2nd through September 29th and in the auditorium of the Frederick County Health Department from October 3rd through April 30 2019. The artwork featured in this exhibit was created during the 2018 Kids Like Us (KLU) Summer Art Adventure Camp. The summer camp is a component of the Kids Like Us Program which supports children and adolescents in grades 4 and above who are impacted by familial substance abuse. While school is out of session, the camp provides KLU participants the opportunity receive support and connection amongst each other and KLU counselors during the summer months.

During the school year, Kids Like Us functions as a multi-year, multi-strategy program offered by the Frederick County Health Department’s Behavioral Health Services, and in collaboration with local school counselors.

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This year's exhibit is titled "Rise and Shine" because Kids Like Us serves a variety of youth from a wide range of backgrounds who, each in their own, unique way, display resiliency and remarkable spirit. The artwork on display reflects this amazing feat and admirable way of being. Kids Like Us encourages kids to grow, play, and to be themselves, despite what may have happened in their family. In this way, Kids Like Us is a safe place for kids to Rise and Shine.

All of the artwork featured in the "Rise and Shine" exhibit was created at KLU Summer Art Adventure Camp, within an open studio setting facilitated by KLU counselors who are also professional art therapists. In this open studio setting, self-exploration and self-expression is promoted and supported. Imagination, resiliency, and emotional honesty are contained within the artworks of the Kids Like Us artists.

The artwork is first exhibited at the Delaplaine Art Center during the month of September, National Recovery Month, and then at the Frederick County Health Department's Auditorium, beginning in October. KLU artists self-selected which artworks they wished to have on display. A public reception is planned to occur on October 3rd from 2:30PM to 4:30PM. All are welcome to witness and celebrate the artwork and achievements of these young artists. The "Rise and Shine" exhibit is set to remain on display at the Frederick County Health Department's Auditorium from October 3rd until April 30, 2019.

For more information about the art exhibit or the Kids Like Us program, contact Julie Wood Merchant at 301-600-3281. For information about substance abuse recovery services in Frederick County, contact the Frederick County Health Department, Behavioral Health Services Division at 301-600-1755, or visit [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BHS](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BHS).

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