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Frederick County Health Department

# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

## **“BURNING BRIGHT” ART EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION HIGHLIGHTS RESILENCY OF LOCAL YOUTHS**

**FREDERICK, MD --** The 16th Annual Kids Like Us Art Exhibit, “Burning Bright,” will be on display at the Delaplaine Arts Center’s “Community Art Wall” from September 7<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> and in the Auditorium of the Frederick County Health Department from October 2<sup>nd</sup> through November 21<sup>st</sup>. The artwork featured in this exhibit was created during the 2019 Kids Like Us Summer Art Adventure Camp.

The Summer Art Adventure 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. During the summer months, the Art Adventure Camp provides Kids Like Us participants the opportunity to receive support and connection amongst each other and Kids Like Us counselors. 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.

This year’s exhibit is titled “Burning Bright” because during the Kids Like Us open studio, campers were encouraged to find their style and shine in their own way. Throughout the art-making process, the campers were offered the opportunity to experiment and “make mistakes” while being supported and encouraged, without judgement, to find a solution that best fits their ideas and needs. As a result, the artwork displayed also reflects the ability to embrace life’s challenges and still find hope, light, and success during those times.

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The open studio was facilitated by Kids Like Us counselors who are also professional art therapists. As art therapists, the KLU counselors integrated mental health services with creativity and expressive art-making. Because of this, the open studio setting promoted and supported self-exploration and self-expression.

The artwork is on exhibit at the Delaplaine Arts Center during the month of September, National Recovery Month, and then at the Frederick County Health Department's Auditorium, beginning in October. Kids Like Us artists self-selected which artworks they wished to have on display. A public reception is planned for October 3rd at the Health Department from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Programming and speakers for the event will begin at 3:45pm. All are welcome to witness and celebrate the artwork and achievements of these young artists. The "Burning Bright" exhibit is set to remain on display at the Frederick County Health Department's Auditorium from October 2nd until November 21, 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 use 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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