



20/20 Vision - Minerva

ArtsinStark established 20/20 Vision Committees in Minerva, Jackson, Alliance, Louisville, and Massillon with specific goals and corresponding plans for creating smarter kids, new jobs, and healthier communities through the arts. Each 20/20 Vision Committee has begun their first wave of initiatives to revive the downtown areas through a blend of art, culture, shopping, public art, and entertainment.

In Minerva, the Market Street Art Spot is at the center of this revitalization effort. The Art Spot provides a venue for local artists to exhibit and to sell their work, a gathering place for the community to celebrate their shared values and interest in art, and a wonderful visual art studio for classes and events. Please read a letter from the mother of one of the art students:

"...My son has been attending your art classes for the last couple of weeks. I just wanted to send along my thanks for offering these classes. He was diagnosed at 3 with Asperger's Syndrome, a autism spectrum disorder. To most who come in contact with him, his symptoms ... are almost unnoticeable. But he does stress about a lot of things and drawing has always been his outlet. However, my reason for contacting you is to let you know how much these classes have meant to him. He comes out of your studio refreshed and excited for the next week. His therapist at Minerva Elementary texted me last week thanking me for allowing him to attend the art classes. She says she sees him finding a way for that 1 1/2 hours to just "zone out" and enjoy his love of art. He tells her every week what you did in class and takes his drawings along to show her.... I just wanted you to know that offering these classes has definitely had a great affect on at least one of those students. And I can't wait to see what the next few weeks will bring. Again, Thank You..."



Besides creating new businesses, new tourism venues, new murals, bike racks, and new hubs of creative activities, the community-building aspect of these revitalized downtown arts districts is bringing life back to downtowns across the county!

And for this family — and anyone else who seeks peace and solace in creativity — art changes lives!

Art Changes Lives

YOU can too: ArtsinStark.com/donate

