

SYRACUSE NEIGHBORS

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Kids' Artwork Cheers Hospital

Crouse Hospital dedicates exhibition space to children's art

By Maureen Nolan
Staff writer

Tyhesha Ross thinks the hallway at Crouse Hospital looks better now that it is adorned with display cases for student artwork.

"This hallway has always been dull," said Ross, who knows the place because she delivered her children at Crouse.

She was back there last week, with her husband and four children, for the dedication of the wall gallery in the Memorial wing. Its first display is self portraits by second-graders at Roberts School, including her 7-year-old son, Majestic.

The space reserved for Syracuse student artwork, and a nearby wall case to display the work of Syracuse art teachers, are part of a new Crouse effort to reach into the community, Crouse Chief Executive Officer Dr. Paul J. Kronenberg said.

Kronenberg said the hospital decided part of its mission was to develop a community presence. It would do that by establishing a relationship with an organization the could benefit from the hospital's expertise and volunteerism. The best fit, Kronenberg said, was the Syracuse City School District.

He met last summer with Superintendent Stephen C. Jones, among others, to discuss the idea. It sounded good to Jones.

"They called and said what can we do to assist the school district," he said at last week's dedication.

The partnership was born and continues to evolve, Kronenberg said. The hospital has provided free heart health screenings to school district nurses and is helping with developing and planning the curriculum of the district's proposed career and technical high school, according to Bob Allen, Crouse director of communications.



Al Campanie / Staff photographer

AMARA ALLEN (left), 7, and Gabrielle Sexton Dwyer, 8, both pupils at Roberts School, look at their self-portraits in the hall at Crouse Hospital. The artwork was based on a challenge to create portraits in the style of Van Gogh.

The hospital also has started working with Hughes Elementary School, Kronenberg said. It is helping the school develop after-school "health and wellness" programs for staff and pupils.

Jones suggested that hospital staff serve as mentors for at-risk elementary pupils, and the staff has agreed to do that,

Kronenberg said.

The Crouse Auxiliary paid for the display cases and gallery sign that includes the Syracuse City School District logo. The plan is to feature artwork each month or so by a different Syracuse school.

"They've got a waiting list right now of 12 city schools who want to have their art dis-

played," Allen said.

The Roberts art teacher whose second-graders created the self portraits is Tina Zhang. Henninger High School art teacher Jeanette Capria has sculpture on display in the new spot dedicated for teachers' work.