

Happy New Year! We would like to thank all of you who stopped by to visit the Alma Community Art Center at the "Come Home to Alma" holiday event December 14th. We welcomed over 400 visitors that evening and approximately 175 children participated in a "Make and Take" activity by hand-painting a Christmas ornament. Adults watched their children's creativity and browsed through the Wassenaar Gallery with over 100 pieces of original artwork, jewelry, pottery, and artisan-made specialties created by local artists. Our "Crystal Colors" Christmas tree, made out of over 1000 recycled plastic water bottles with the help of many volunteers, took first place at the "Come Home to Alma" Christmas tree decorating contest and we would like to thank all of you for casting your votes. It is now time for Christmas decorations to be put away. New Years resolutions have been made and perhaps already broken. It is a time to make new beginnings, try new things, and experience new opportunities. The Alma Community Art Center can be the place for you to begin and experience "new."

We are still located at 107 E. Superior Street. The doors to the Alma Community Art Center open Wednesday through Saturday at 11:00 a.m. or check out our website at <a href="https://www.alma-cac.org">www.alma-cac.org</a>. You will find updated class and workshop schedules as well as hours that we will be open. Our Winter classes will begin the middle of January, still at our Superior Street location, and will include both Children's and Adult class offerings. After-School Art is becoming a favorite with our school-age "artists", where they can experience a variety of different medias geared to different age groups. Adult classes will include pyrography, watercolors, acrylics and rice paper batik. Keep checking our website for new offerings.

Renovations are in progress at our new and permanent home at 318 Woodworth Avenue. Dedicated volunteers are working very hard by rolling up their sleeves and lending their talents and strong backs to make this dream a reality. When completed, our new location will feature over 500 square feet of gallery space plus retail and office areas; additionally, there will be over 550 square feet of classroom space available for multiple classes to be held. Much work remains ahead of us but, when the renovations are complete, Alma will certainly have a community "Home for the Arts"...

Volunteers are the key to making our Art Center a success! Dedicated volunteers serve as docents to provide visitors information about upcoming classes, workshops, and

exhibitions. Artists volunteer their time and talents to teach classes and a several volunteers with specialized talents share them in their area of expertise, such as web design and publicity. Our Art Center can use you! If you have an interest in serving as a volunteer, please contact Steve Hawkes at <a href="manager@alma-cac.org">manager@alma-cac.org</a> or call (989) 463-8366. The Alma Community Art Center for the visual arts offers a wide variety of art classes for youth and adults and exposure to the visual arts. Check us out this New Year and make those new beginnings, find new friends, develop a new or hidden talent.