

## FLORIDA CHAPTER PAINTS MURALS FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

BY ELLEN ANNIBALI, NATURE COAST DECORATIVE ARTISTS

In fall of 2012, I attended a work-related business meeting in which Debbie Prescott, the director of community resources with Habitat for Humanity in Hernando County, Fla., was a guest speaker. Hearing her presentation planted a seed in my brain, and I began to think about our chapter's next philanthropic project. Since I would be chairing that committee for Nature Coast Decorative Artists in 2013, I wanted to take a closer look at Habitat and all the good it does.

I came in contact with Debbie again, and together we discussed possible areas in which NCDCA could volunteer our time and talent—our chapter's artistic abilities would be put to the best use by giving the local Habitat for Humanity ReStore a fresh look.

After several planning visits, and nearly a full week of painting, NCDCA was proud to paint faux house fronts on the offices and a small Habitat logo for the lobby. Inside the ReStore we created inspirational phrases and eight eye-catching department signs. Several volunteers from Habitat constructed two roofs (complete with shingles) for the house fronts.

Shortly after the entire painting project was complete the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce held an event to introduce the new look of Habitat's office and ReStore to the community. All chapter members who were involved were thrilled to be a part of such a great cause, and we know our work is much appreciated.

## DECORATIVE PAINTING CLASSES HELP THOSE TOUCHED BY CANCER

BY PATTY CLARK, SILVER STATE TOLE AND DECORATIVE PAINTERS

In 2012 I came across an interesting article. The article featured a Las Vegas-based charity, called The Caring Place, which sold handmade bracelets created by their participants. Being the Community Service chair for the Silver State Tole and Decorative Painters chapter at the time, I visited the center to get a closer look.

The Caring Place is a nonprofit organization designed to provide free services and support to anyone touched by cancer. At no cost to the participants the facility offers jewelry making classes, exercise sessions, nutrition lectures, yoga, and so much more.

My initial visit to the center was in January 2012, and SSTDP held its first decorative painting class the following month. Of course, the class was offered at no charge. Our chapter had a budget for community service, but many of the supplies came from chapter members themselves. SSTDP members also donated yarn, general craft supplies, beads, snacks, and teas for use throughout The Caring Place.

Each time we walk through the facility's door we are greeted with hugs and sweet comments about how much our classes are enjoyed. The participants appreciate that we are able to help them have a happy, healthy attitude toward life. For many of them our painting class has become art therapy. SSTDP members agree that this is one of the most rewarding activities we have been privileged enough to take part in. We greatly look forward to being a part of The Caring Place for years to come, as it has become a very important part of chapter life for us.

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