

## Information about the ECSU Design Group and their Work

Stefanie Tanguay and Kimberly Wiknik collaborated on “Unity,” an image about the power of touch. Stefanie and Kimberly photographed the hands of their fellow design students to create this piece, which shows hands reaching, connecting and speaking a silent language of support and solidarity.



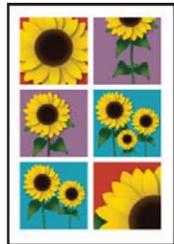
Claudette Weir’s striking piece, “You Are Not Alone,” uses photographs of real students, with a real understanding of the juvenile audience. She has created an image that is moving in its direct and compassionate statement that help is here—you are not alone.



In “Positive Outlook,” Sarah Reed uses the outline of a house to contain her images and tell a story of struggle and triumph. Her piece depicts a variety of emotional states, all contained within the structure of “home,” indicating that a positive outlook has the power to influence our future.



“Grow, Nurture, Triumph” tells its story with exuberant sunflowers that virtually burst through the picture plane and up the wall. In this piece, Alyssa Morello has created a wonderful visual metaphor that sends a message of joy, hope and connection to nature.



Amy Pjura created the concept, shapes and color palette of “Putting the Pieces Together,” a collaborative piece that contains contributions from each member of the Design Group. Amy worked with each artist and assembled the puzzle pieces to create this animated house-shaped piece, which focuses on the important pieces of our individual puzzles—reminding us that we all have to put the pieces together in order to have a complete life.



Suzanne Connors uses the bold, graphic style of pop art in “Inspired,” an energetic image of celebration and togetherness. The image is based on photographs of Suzanne’s friends actively communicating and having fun, and Suzanne successfully shares this feeling of inspired connection through her piece.



Hollie Knight’s “Hands of Hope” addresses the notion of home as the place from which care, comfort and all good things originate. The bright colors, fanciful shapes and encircling hands define home as a safe, welcoming place—and as a state of mind as well.



Kyle Osolin and Chris Turiello collaborated to create “Words of Wisdom,” a beautiful quote-based banner that features the words of two great leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Buddha. Kyle and Chris used visual contributions from all the artists in the Design Group, modifying and assembling them into this powerful piece in which words become image, and image becomes message.



Jessica Emrich asked for input from the entire Design Group to create her collaborative crossword-style piece “Connections,” which promotes ideas of trust, courage, respect, love and hope. She has used a strong, focused color palette to make this piece easy to “read” in many different directions in order to engage the viewer in a positive dialogue about connection.



Jeffrey Fitzgerald’s “Respect” was inspired by the powerful youth-oriented work of artist Kieth Haring. The two almost identical faces looking seriously at one another, remind us that we are all very much alike—and that to get respect you must first give it.



The Connecticut Judicial Branch and Eastern Connecticut State University are pleased to present

# The Juvenile Court Art Project Vision Of Optimism

Friday, February 2, 2007, 2:00 pm

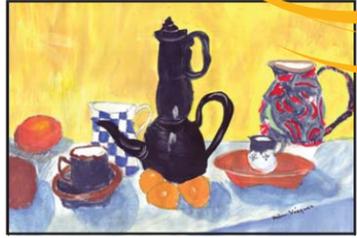


Superior Court for Juvenile Matters  
81 Columbia Avenue  
Willimantic, Connecticut



# Vision Of Optimism

Artwork by students from Eastern Connecticut State University  
and the Windham County Public Schools



## Program

### Welcome

Judge Antonio C. Robaina  
Administrative Judge  
Windham Judicial District



### Remarks

President Elsa Nuñez  
Eastern Connecticut State University



Judge Michael A. Mack  
Deputy Chief Court Administrator

Dr. Anne Dawson  
Professor of Art  
Eastern Connecticut State University

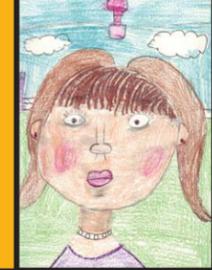


### Closing Comments

Judge Francis J. Foley III



The Connecticut Judicial Branch,  
Eastern Connecticut State University  
and Windham County Public Schools.



The colorful banners and engaging children's artwork that now enliven the lobby and hallways of Willimantic's Juvenile Court Building were created by students from Eastern Connecticut State University's Design Group, and the Windham County Public Schools. In response to a request from Judge Francis Foley, students contributed work designed to send a message of hope, strength and courage to young people passing through the Juvenile Justice System.



Eastern's Design Group students named the project Vision of Optimism because their thoughtful and inventive banner designs reflect their collective optimism and belief in the future and its possibilities. The Design Group is a senior project experience for Eastern Digital Art & Design seniors in which students use their creative skills to connect with and contribute to the local community in a variety of ways. In this project, they separately and collaboratively created work that transforms the courthouse lobby into a positive visual environment and will engage young viewers in an imaginative dialog about love, trust and the possibility of a better life.



Along with the banners are thirty pieces of children's artwork from the Windham County Public Schools, collected and curated by Eastern Art History student, Rachel Ensling. The young artists, who range in age from elementary through middle school, have contributed unselfconscious, personally meaningful images that will resonate with viewers of all ages. Landscapes, portraits, fantasy images and work referencing the Impressionist masters are included in this uplifting collection of children's art. Participating Windham County schools are: Windham Center Elementary School, North Windham Elementary School, Natchaug Elementary School and Windham Middle School.



Visual communication has the power to help us understand problems, envision solutions and offer help to others. Vision of Optimism: the Willimantic Juvenile Court Project, is a testimony to the power of visual statement, and the compassion and generosity of the young people in our community.

June Bisantz, Professor of Art  
Eastern Connecticut State University

## Participating Artists

### Eastern Connecticut State University Design Group

(see artwork on next page)

- Suzanne Connors – *Inspired*
- Jessica Emrich – *Connections*
- Jeffrey Fitzgerald – *Respect*
- Hollie Knight – *Hands of Hope*
- Alyssa Morello – *Nurture, Grow, Triumph*
- Kyle Osolin & Chris Turiello – *Words of Wisdom*
- Amy Pjura – *Putting the Pieces Together*
- Sarah Reed – *Positive Outlook*
- Stefanie Tanguay and Kimberly Wiknik – *Unity*
- Claudette Weir – *You Are Not Alone*

### Windham County School's Artists

#### Windham Center Elementary School:

- Curtis Chagnot, Kindergarten
- Alexis Rollert, Kindergarten
- Kiara Vasquez, Kindergarten
- Noah Guarino, 2nd
- Kelsey McAllister, 2nd
- Holly Weldon, 2nd
- Ironeida Aviles, 4th
- Jacob Avery, 4th
- Nicholas Cranmer, 4th
- Jordin Sanborn, 4th
- Dana Lattanzion, 4th

#### North Windham Elementary School:

- Shawn Paulhus, 2nd
- Desiree Rivera, 2nd
- Nayomi Alica, 4th
- Austin Yarnott, 4th

#### Natchaug Elementary School:

- Jalen Ortiz, 1st
- Mariya Bilyk, 2nd
- Carolyn Coleman, 2nd
- Shane Morin, 2nd
- Rebecca Bowling, 4th
- Taenirah Jones, 4th

#### Windham Middle School:

- Jean Carlos Alvarez, 7th
- Mark Maldonado, 7th
- Antonio Ruperto, 7th
- Yadier Vazquez, 7th
- Victoria DeJesus, 8th
- Edwin Gonzalez, 8th
- Jose Hernandez, 8th
- David Hughes, 8th
- Anna Oshima, 8th

