

AWAKENING MINDS ART

Awakening Minds Art, founded in 2009, provides therapeutic and educational visual art programs to all ages and all abilities.

Our vision is to create affirming, all-inclusive spaces where people have the confidence to develop into the best versions of themselves. Awakening Minds Art works towards building skills that help people not only *feel* success within our community, but *to be* successful throughout their lives.



“AMA has helped Russell strengthen his motor skills, increase his willingness to engage, & helps create his own self expression.”

-Russell’s Mom, Tracey Smalley

VIBRANT IMPACT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

AWAKENINGMINDSART.ORG

AMA HISTORY

Founded in 2009 by Sarah Crisp-Ricker, and established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in July 2011, Awakening Minds Art (AMA) was originally a part of the nationwide organization, Art Without Boundaries. In 2010, Crisp-Ricker decided to break away from the organization and build the program independently to fit the needs of the Hancock County community.

AMA originally began as a traveling program, working only in student's homes, schools and nursing homes. At this time, the entire focus was on brain and behavioral development. When the program began to flourish, Crisp-Ricker opened a studio in Findlay, hired staff to help instruct the classes requested by the community, and realized that in order to reach a larger demographic, AMA needed to divide into two focus areas, **therapeutic and educational.**

The hope was that educational group programming would integrate typically-developing individuals and individuals with special needs, as well as youth with seniors.

In the summer of 2018, AMA moved into a newly renovated headquarters studio in downtown Findlay. Dreams felt like they were coming true only to be met with the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. After a swift, heartbreaking decision, AMA closed its doors. The complete loss of program income continued through the summer until programming gradually returned on a class-by-class, student-by-student basis, using independent contractors as needed.

In 2021, AMA officially found a new home at 1640 Tiffin Ave. Administrative duties were gradually brought back, and in December of 2022, Emily Sullivan was voted into the executive director role, filling an almost 3 year vacancy.

Growth before 2020 was fast and exciting, but the organization had growing pains. Post-COVID AMA is built slowly, responsibly, and sustainably. With a better cost model and a prepared growth mindset, AMA is dedicated to a long-lasting future.

MEET THE TEAM



EMILY SULLIVAN
Executive Director



MEGAN HALL
Instructor



MACKENZIE EARLY
Instructor



BAILEY TAYLOR
Instructor



JENNIFER DENIKE
Instructor

BOARD MEMBERS



KYLE FRIAS
President



SARAH RICKER
Founder, VP



MELODY RINKER
Treasurer



TAMERA ROONEY
Secretary



KATIE UNVERFERTH



RACHEL FIX



SHELBY COLE



ALLISON TRUTT



CASSI CRONIN

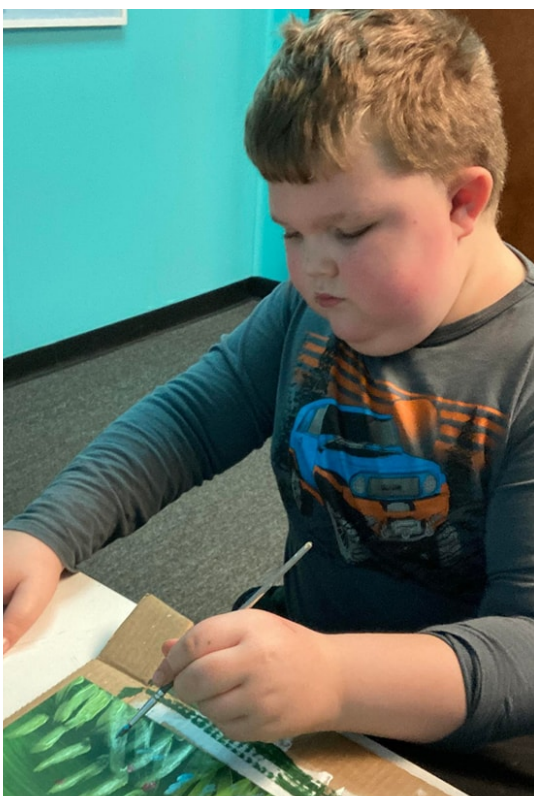
PROGRAMMING

ONE-ON-ONE

AMA provides the One-on-One Program in the studio and within schools, nursing homes, and other facilities. The focus of these programs are on whole brain activities, crossing mid-lines, academic IEP goals, following directions, spatial awareness, coordination, memory, confidence building, & more.

One-on-One Programs offer a personalized approach, providing individuals of all ages and abilities the opportunity to thrive in a supportive and individualized setting. The positive, one-on-one attention allows for a deeper exploration of artistic techniques and concepts, catering to the unique strengths and interests of each individual.

Challenging but fun, sessions provide a safe and comfortable environment where participants can express themselves freely, building self-esteem along the way. Additionally, this focused interaction fosters meaningful connections between the instructor and the participant, creating a supportive bond that enhances the overall learning experience.



GROUPS

No matter your age or ability, our Group Program is a wonderful way to socialize, learn from others, and bond while reaping the educational, developmental, and therapeutic benefits of art!

At AMA, inclusivity is at the heart of everything. The range of class offerings is carefully crafted to ensure that individuals from all walks of life can find joy and fulfillment through art. Instructors take participants through the artmaking process step-by-step, ensuring that the artwork is achievable for everyone in the room. This makes AMA classes accessible for groups of individuals with diverse abilities - it's an experience for everyone to share!

Groups include senior living & memory care, day-habs, school classrooms, Homeschool Visual Arts, nonprofit organizations, team building, parties, and other private groups.

COMMUNITY

AMA's Community Program offers a fantastic opportunity to connect with others while unleashing your creativity! Socializing in a group setting with a shared passion fosters a sense of camaraderie and belonging.

These classes are open to the public, welcoming individuals of all skill levels. Held at various community locations with options for specific ages as well as all-age groups, our Community Program helps to provide convenience and accessibility to the visual arts. Whether you're a seasoned artist or just starting out, these engaging sessions offer a vibrant space to connect, learn, and create alongside others who share your enthusiasm for the arts.

Visit our website to see more information about our programming!

awakeningmindsart.org/programs-events



THE GROWTH OF PROGRAMS

2023 was a great year for programming! Students of all ages and abilities enjoyed a diverse range of programs within Hancock, Putnam, Wood, Allen, & Seneca counties.

ONE-ON-ONE PROGRAM

- 32 individual students - seen weekly, biweekly, or once a month

GROUP PROGRAM

FINDLAY & LEIPSIK HOMESCHOOL VISUAL ARTS CLASSES

- 5 classes seen once a week or twice a month during the school year.

AGENCIES

- 20 agencies, including 13 senior living, nursing, and memory care facilities, 3 day hubs, & 4 local nonprofits seen on a bi-weekly, monthly or bi-monthly basis - *up from 17 at the end of 2022.*

SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

- 24 individual classrooms in 6 different schools seen once or twice a month - *up from 14 classrooms in 2022.*

PRIVATE GROUPS-

- In addition to regularly scheduled programs, AMA is asked by schools, daycares, businesses, and private parties to set up private group classes. Team building, leadership workshops, and other collaborations are included.

COMMUNITY PROGRAM

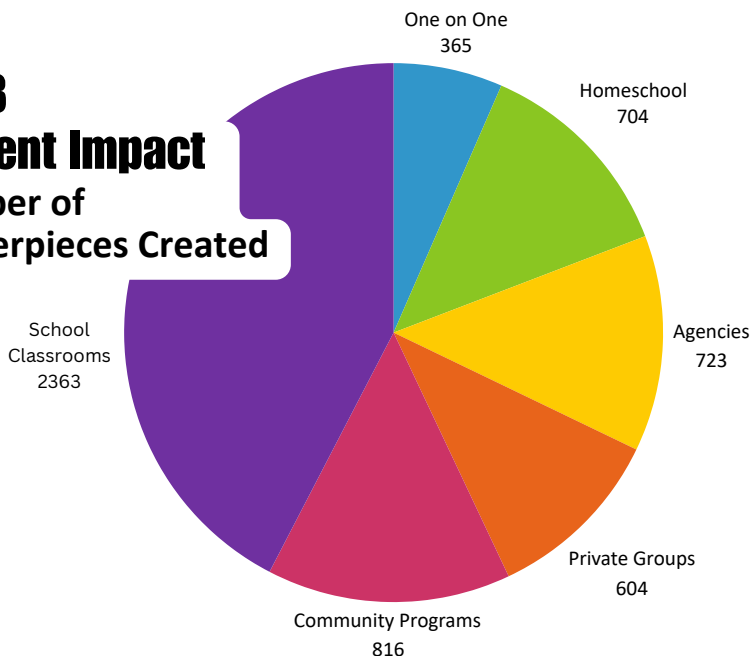
- 2 monthly classes, open to the public at the Awakening Minds Art studio.
- Summer programs also included 3 summer camps and a weekly kids' class. We were excited to bring back Tri the Arts camp this year!
 - Tri the Arts - a therapeutic summer art camp, in collaboration with MCPA and Heartstring Melodies, was *held for the first time since before COVID* - 22 campers, 16+ volunteers, and 3 instructors.
- AMA partnered with 7 local businesses including: The Leipsic Community Center, Gillig Winery, False Chord Brewing, Brewing Green, Hull's Trace Wine & Gathering House, The Baker's Café, & New Riegel Café - *This is up from 4 local businesses at the end of 2022.*

PROGRAM INCREASE
66%
FROM 2021 TO 2023



2023 Student Impact

Number of Masterpieces Created



No matter the age or level of functioning an individual has, everyone has a gift to share, a way to be a part of something bigger than themselves, and a reason to feel confident. AMA is here to help each of our students believe that, too.

Art is just the way we give life to that purpose.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Our Community Program offers an opportunity for individuals of all ages, who may not otherwise be an AMA student, to get involved with the visual arts. Partnering agencies and businesses add convenient access and a broader audience to impact. Whether you're a seasoned artist or "can't even draw a straight line," these inclusive and engaging sessions offer a vibrant space to connect, learn, and create.

Northwest Ohio has an abundance of phenomenal, impactful nonprofits and agencies serving many needs within our community. Partnering with these organizations increases accessibility to the arts and ensures that the individuals who most need our services are provided with them. We share a vision with these partners, and together, we make each other stronger and accomplish our missions better.



We are PROUD PARTNERS to 33 regularly scheduling agencies, & businesses

Artmaking is the tool AMA uses to strengthen life outcomes.

Unique goals come with unique individuals & groups!

- Confidence building through a sense of accomplishment
- Independent decision making
- Developing or sustaining motor skills
- Following multi-step directions
- Sustained focus
- Problem solving and dealing with adversity
- Socialization, story-telling, and manners
- A sense of belonging
- Counting, color & shape recognition
- Teamwork/collaboration

At Awakening Minds Art, positive attention flows and instructors encourage student confidence, building skills and behaviors that far outreach the art studio.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Taylor has been a part of AMA for over 10 years! She currently attends with Ms. Megan as a one-on-one student, and she comes with her day-hab to paint in group classes. She started with us in middle school where we worked a lot on her fine and gross motor skills. Through her high school years, she practiced her IEP skills, established at school, and encouraged at AMA. It is crucial for students to practice skills learned at school outside of the school setting, and artmaking makes them fun! At this time, an instructor also came to her school where she reinforced Taylor's painting skills and confidence with the Hancock County ESC classroom.



"Today, we continue to reinforce many of the same skills Taylor learned over the years at school and AMA. This is vital for retention of those skills post graduation. AMA is a constant in Taylor life through several transitional phases. Consistency is key to Taylor's success. Along the way, Taylor has improved her hand-eye coordination, fine and gross motor skills, expressive and receptive language skills and most importantly her confidence and social skills!" - Ms. Megan Hall

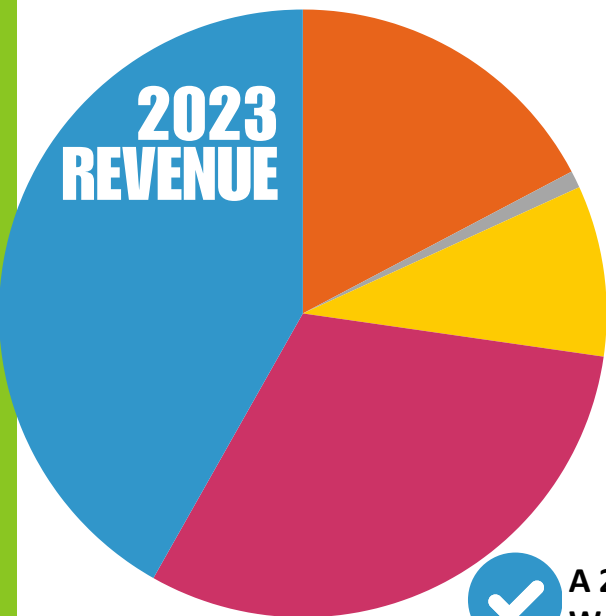
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Many AMA programs are fee-for-service - these fees, paid at a discounted rate by families, cover the independent contractor instruction, registration, and billing fees, as well as part of the other programming expenses and supplies.

Can you imagine a therapeutic art class without a roof, heat, or an educated & reliable instructor?

2023 REVENUE BREAKDOWN

- Program Fees (\$83,326.12)
- Private & Corporate Donations (\$32,971)
- Grants (\$238)
- Program Sponsors (\$2,000)
- Fundraisers (\$60,170.59)

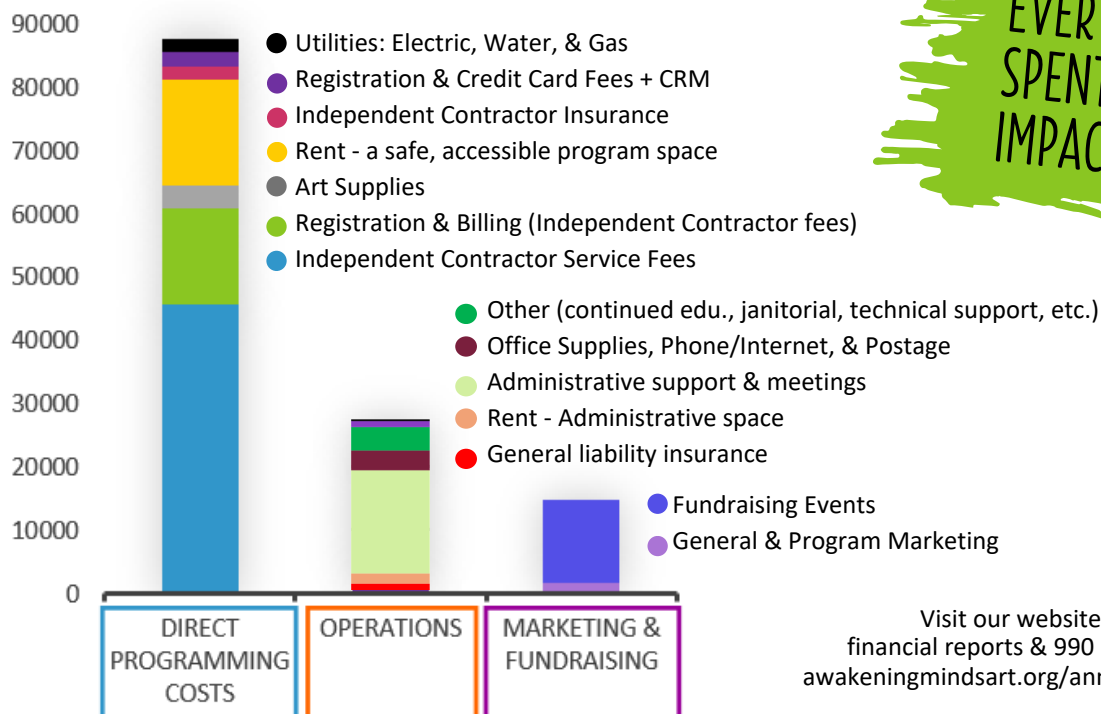


Total 2023 Revenue	\$176,825.71
Total 2023 Expenditures	\$130,720.87
Total Net Profit for 2023	\$46,104.84

A 2023 Goal was to save 6 months of operating costs. We accomplished that goal before the year was over!

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

2023 EXPENSES



EVERY DOLLAR IS SPENT TO MAKE THE IMPACT HAPPEN!



Visit our website to view our financial reports & 990 documents!
awakeningmindsart.org/annual-reports

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

At Awakening Minds Art, fundraising is the catalyst for progress



As we reached fundraising goals in 2023, it only became more apparent that there is still a great and unmet need in our community for AMA programs. Your involvement allows us to grow and create new programs that really make a difference.

By engaging in fundraising activities, we not only reach a broader audience but also have the opportunity to connect with new supporters who share our passion for visual art and its many benefits. It's about engaging these like-minded people, creating fun, memorable experiences that showcase the heart of our programming. Fundraising events provide a platform for networking, fostering connections within the community, and garnering support that goes beyond financial contributions. Together, we build a network of advocates who play a vital role in shaping the future of our organization and spreading the joy of creativity and inclusivity.

GOLF OUTING

The first of our two fundraising events for 2023, the 5th Annual Golf Scramble, took place at Moose Landing Country Club in Ottawa. The golf outing connects our Putnam and Hancock County demographics with the goal to raise

support and awareness of the programs offered in the area. A fun time had by all, the net income from the golf outing was approximately \$6,260 this year.

ART AUCTION

The 13th Annual Art Auction was very successful in 2023! With almost a full lineup of sponsorships, a full house, and the ability to leverage Marathon Petroleum Corporation's payroll matching program, the 2023 auction netted approximately \$41,000, bringing us back to pre-Covid goals.

The Art Auction is a chance to spotlight our programs, students, and board members. This year we honored Melody Rinker, board member, for her outstanding contributions and dedication to supporting our mission.



The Hagedorn's with their winning auction piece, participating students, & AMA Instructor- Megan Hall

The 2023 honorary family was the Mahler Family. Trevor Mahler, a longtime student, and his family, are exemplary role models in the community.

SAVE THE DATES

Golf Scramble: June 8, 2024 - 9am shotgun start at Moose Landing

14th Annual Art Auction: October 12, 2024 - Hilton Garden Inn, Findlay

OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT

Over the last several years, AMA made some drastic changes to the organization’s sustainable cost model and prepared growth strategy. AMA is prepared to grow with YOU into the future.

1. **A new building** - less expensive rent, better parking, and accessibility - while keeping all the necessities.
2. **Independent contractors** - Instructors provide class instruction and administration, as needed, without payroll taxes or unused hours due to cancellations.
3. **Pay by percentage** - Every instructor is paid a percentage of every class taught. Administrative hours directly related to each class are also given at a percentage. This ensures programs cover every instructor paycheck.
4. **Gradually adding an admin position** - Minimal paid administrative hours began in 2022 (separate from the program budget). In Dec. 2022, an executive director (Sullivan) was added to the team. The director continues to teach and provide program administration to help cover all costs.
5. **Classes by appointment only** - Making registrations mandatory alleviates unnecessary paid instructor time. Classes are easy to cancel, if needed, due to low attendance.



2024 GOAL SNAPSHOT

1 RE-INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES.
 Through the creation of a discretionary fund dedicated to **free or heavily discounted classes**, AMA strives to continue impacting the region regardless of a family or facility’s ability to pay. This fund was added into the 2024 budget and future fundraising is necessary.

2 INSTRUCTOR RECOGNITION.
 Our instructors are the key to continued, responsible growth. Exploring ways to show **appreciation to our independent contractors maintains retention**, allows for building on an already well-trained, familiar staff, & rewards them for being the dedicated, passionate, AMAzing people they are!

Visit our website to see more information about our programming!
awakeningmindsart.org/programs-events



GET INVOLVED

Our mission is to provide programming for ALL - that means you. Join us for a session, but if painting isn't for you, that doesn't mean you don't belong at AMA. You do. Come chat with us!

- Take a Class
- Attend a Fundraiser
- Volunteer
- Donate Money/Supplies



Supplies

AMA relies on supply donations to keep expenses low and fees for services minimal. Our students love the donated specialty art supplies, and we love the everyday items that keep us going!

- Wet wipes
- Heavy cardstock
- Masking Tape
- Watercolor paper
- Canvas panels (9x12, 12x12)
- Sculpey clay
- Tissues, paper towels, sanitizing wipes



Our
Amazon
Wishlist!

Volunteer

Volunteer opportunities depend on age, qualifications, and individual interests. Have a conversation with us! We'll find a good fit for you!

- Join a fundraising committee
- Join the board of directors
- Program assistance (limited)
 - Tri the Arts Summer Camp
 - Summer camps & misc
- Studio assistance
 - Help prep for classes
- Administrative assistance
 - Marketing, Finance, Grants

Generosity is at the heart of positive change. Together, we build our community up with positivity, confidence, & a sense of belonging. This organization is for everyone, and we want you to know it.

Donations

Monetary donations are critical to the growth and sustainability of Awakening Minds Art.

Private and corporate donations through the annual campaign, fundraising events, program & event sponsorships, and payroll matching programs make up over half of AMA's income.

Fees for service do not cover all expenses, and many of our families and facilities simply cannot afford price increases. This is where our community comes in! Every dollar helps, and every dollar is appreciated.



Donate here!

awakeningmindsart.org/donate



A LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



KYLE FRIAS

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we celebrate 15 years of Awakening Minds Art, I am honored to reflect on the incredible journey we have embarked on together. It fills me with immense pride to serve as the President of the Board during this monumental milestone, now entering my third year of board tenure and 2nd year as President. Over the past decade and a half, Awakening Minds Art has grown

from a humble vision into a thriving beacon of creativity, inclusivity, and community impact. Our mission to provide individuals in our community with therapeutic and educational visual art programs has never been more vital, and I am continually inspired by the dedication and passion of our instructors, volunteers, and board members.

As a parent with two children actively engaged in our art programming, this organization holds a special place in my heart. Witnessing firsthand the transformative power of art in their lives reinforces my commitment to ensuring that Awakening Minds Art remains a vibrant hub for artistic expression and personal growth for all. Together, we have accomplished so much. From expanding our reach through innovative community

programs to navigating the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic with resilience and adaptability, each achievement is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our team and the unwavering support of our community.

Looking ahead, I am filled with optimism and excitement for the future of Awakening Minds Art. With your continued support, we will build upon our foundation of success, furthering our mission to empower individuals of all ages and abilities through the transformative power of art.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Here's to the next 15 years of creativity, connection, and community impact.

Kyle Frias
Board President



EMILY SULLIVAN

When I came to AMA in 2017 as an instructor, I was blown away by the people I met, the relationships I built, and the power of our programming. ***That feeling never went away.***

My favorite title is “The Art Lady.” Most recently, it was used by a resident in a memory care facility as

I arrived for a painting session. It reminded me how I have the distinct privilege of connecting with individuals who sometimes struggle with connecting to the rest of the world. I am honored by my role as instructor, and I am honored by my role as a facilitator for other instructors to feel the same deep-seeded dedication to this job and our students of all ages and abilities.

Friends of Awakening Minds Art – thank you for being a part of this organization. Helping others to feel like they are part of something bigger than themselves is significant to our vision and values. Everyone, no matter the age or ability, truly has a gift to share with others, and my goal, as instructor and director, is to continue working

towards finding those gifts and making sure every student has the confidence to see them, too.

Community support is the key to that success, and I’ve seen firsthand how our community rallies in support of the arts and AMA. It would have been *really* easy to give up when we shut down in 2020. But no one did. This organization is strong today – strong with leadership, students, and financial health. This organization can and will continue to get stronger because we owe it to our current and future students. There are still people to serve, and I am so grateful and excited to help make those connections!

Emily Sullivan
Executive Director

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Our students are the mission!

It provides us great joy to be a part of the supportive network of individuals who stood with AMA through ups and downs over the years.

Where we are today was built on a framework not only constructed by our founder, Sarah Crisp-Ricker, but by those very first supporters, and every person since. From advisors, to donors, to our pizza box heroes; from our cheerleaders to the strong network of nonprofit collaboration in this region - we are here because of you.

And most certainly, we are who we are for and because of our students, their families, their facilities, caregivers, activities coordinators, and all other facilitators who love, support, and take care of them.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STRENGTH, KNOWLEDGE, CARE, & DEDICATION MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO FULFILL OUR MISSION!

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- 50 North
- Cancer Patient Services
- FOCUS
- Welcome to a New Life
- Sunshine Community
- Children's Museum of Findlay
- Marathon Center for the Performing Arts with Heartstring Melodies for TRI the Arts Camp

COMMUNITY CLASSES

- Findlay's AMA Studio
- The Leipsic Community Center
- Gillig Winery
- False Chord Brewing
- Brewing Green
- The Baker's Café
- Hull's Trace Wine & Gathering House
- New Riegel Café
- Children's Museum of Findlay

ONE ON ONE STUDENTS

- 32 individuals seen throughout the year. approx. 38 classes per month

SENIOR LIVING

Findlay

- Judson Palmer Home
- Fox Run Manor
- Heritage Health Center
- Heritage Legacy
- Primrose of Findlay
- Taylor Place

Putnam Co.

- Meadows of Leipsic
- Meadows of Ottawa

Wood Co.

- Briar Hill, North Baltimore
- Brookdale Memory Care, BG
- Otterbein, Pemberville
- Manor at Perrysburg

Seneca Co.

- Independence House

DAY HABS

- Not an Ordinary Place
- TexStone Industries
- Tiffin Developmental Center

SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

- Hancock County ESC
- North Baltimore Mdl/High School
- Elmwood High School
- Allen County ESC
- Findlay City Schools
- Findlay Homeschool
- Leipsic Homeschool

PRIVATE GROUPS

- Teambuilding & fun for all!



Donate here!



awakeningmindsart.org/donate



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FRONT PAGE TESTIMONY

“We love AMA!

Awakening Minds has helped Russell in more ways than bringing out his creativity. It has helped strengthen his fine and gross motor skills, increases his willingness to engage, and helps create his own self expression. AMA gives Russell a chance to be a part of something that he truly enjoys and we love it because it’s “hidden play therapy” and gives him a sense of pride.

Russell loves being able to “paint with all the colors” and creating different works of art mostly of his choosing. He can’t wait to come home after a session with Miss Emily and show off his latest work! He counts down the days every month until he can paint again!”

-Russell’s Mom, Tracey Smalley