



Arts

Recognizing the healing power of art, Joplin's Spiva Center for the Arts responded to the tornado's effects by offering a full summer schedule of art classes for children. Regular class fees were waived thanks to scholarships made available to those children affected by the tornado.

A registered art therapist from Springfield, Mo. was brought in by Spiva to train working artists and other volunteers willing to take 'art buckets' to organizations serving children: Lafayette House, Boys and Girls Club, Children's Haven and others welcomed the professionals in to assist their clients with drawing out the emotions they were experiencing.



Spiva was a catalyst for bringing in a community muralist who oversaw a local design team that created a Joplin mural. Over 200 citizens painted the piece on the wall of Dixie Printing in downtown Joplin. A dedication ceremony was held last September to local and state acclaim.

The arts center rearranged its regular exhibit schedule to create an opportunity for artists to express their response to the tornado in an exhibit called On the Other Side. One hundred percent of the sale of the works went to the Joplin Recovery Fund.

Area arts organizations made donations of dollars to support Joplin artists who lost their studios and/or supplies. Members of the Spiva board created an artist tornado fund and distributed the monies through a mini-grant application. Those artists receiving the funds will exhibit their work in the upstairs gallery in June.

Another organization, Art Feeds, used volunteers to go into the schools with craft projects that engaged the children and provided support to those coping with the tornado's effects. Weekly art opportunities allowed the children a consistent outlet for their emotions. The organization was recognized by Extreme Home Makeover-Joplin edition and included in their episode.

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One
Year.



One
Community.



One
Direction.