

A Letter from Industrial Arts Center President Lynn DiVenuti

Dear Kind Friends,

It is down to the wire and this is my plea for your help.

We opened our doors and have been offering classes at the IAC close to two years during the nations most economic challenge in decades. This was accomplished by the dedication of our staff and volunteers.

99% of our revenue from the Artwalk events and classes are used to pay the general operating costs for the Industrial Arts Center. We have survived the storm and have many more plans to expand our classes to our community.

Just as we were getting a foothold this year, our Landlord has raised our rent by 33%. For any business, let alone a non-profit organization, this is a tremendous financial challenge. We are a dedicated group of individuals that have a common interest in keeping the arts alive in our community. We have touched thousands of lives with our glassblowing demonstrations, classes and events and ignited the desire in many of our future artists to learn and create their own masterpieces.

We do not have the large corporate backing that many of the bigger art centers have the privilege of falling back on financially. The bigger and more established art centers have the paychecks they have to pay to their admin, marketing specialists, bookkeepers, lawyers, and administrators. These jobs for our center are all done by volunteers. Hundreds upon thousands of hours have been donated by these busy professionals to help us keep up with the daily running of our innovative teaching facility. As I said, every penny we earn during the Artwalks and classes goes into our general operating costs.

I am asking for your help to keep our non-profit organization's doors open. This is your community art center. It is for you, the children, the veterans, the seniors, and all those aspiring artists in all of us. We are not pretentious and are the neighbor next door who have the passion to help our community and sacrifice our time and energy to keep the doors open for your community.

Please help us by donating any amount that you can afford to continue this opportunity to continue to create and explore the artist within you, our future artists.

Any donation is tax deductible and can be done online, for your convenience, at www.industrialartscenter.org. Just click the DONATE button.

Or, we will gratefully accept your donation by phone (727.289.9365) or you can mail us at :

2902A Beach Blvd. S.

Gulfport, Florida 33707

If you have some time, here are a couple videos of some of the artists that have graced our doors. It will give you a good idea of how your neighbors, veterans, children, and seniors feel about their experience with us at the Industrial Arts Center and why it is so important to continue this mission.

Here is a brief video of some of the "Blow your own masterpiece" workshop participants and their reaction to their experience.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_AMVsJpTwQ&NR=1

"World's Smallest Glassblower" This is the link to a short video of some of the kids that have experienced the glassblowing event at the Gulfport Artwalks

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WbaQaRolag>

You can click on this link to watch one of our students, Kathy Champion. She is a US Veteran that was blinded during her military duty in the Iraqi War .

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azkZijwy6Q4>

Please help.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Warm Regards,

Lynn DiVenuti

CEO/Industrial Arts Center

www.industrialartscenter.org

727-289-9365

"Life comes down to just a few moments.

This is one of them"