

NEWS RELEASE

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One-of-a kind Ave. Art now at Again and Again Consignment in Medina

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLEVELAND, OH, October, 2011 – Buckeye Industries, a business enterprise of New Avenues to Independence, is expanding its presence in the art world and in northeast Ohio with it's one-of-a-kind art now being sold in Medina. Individuals with disabilities are creating these special works of art in the Art Therapy program offered at Buckeye Industries.

Again and Again Consignment in Medina's historic square is the first store to carry an entire collection of Ave. Art consisting of paintings, coasters and knitted wear. Judy Hanzel, co-owner of Again and Again states, "My sister and I are grateful that Buckeye Industries has chosen us to display their items for sale. What a wonderful way to promote such a worthwhile organization and raise funds. It is an honor for us and a great way to give back to our community."

Pennello Gallery in Little Italy was the first gallery to appreciate the artistic coasters. Then Glitzy Finds, a high-end consignment women's shop, was the next to join in selling the coasters. Now Again and Again has given Buckeye Industries an entire area in its store dedicated to Ave. Art in several mediums. "This greatly expands our line of affordable, unique gift items just in time for holiday giving," says Beverly Tagliarina, co-owner, "and we love the fact that we are helping individuals with disabilities express themselves."

Whereas other services of Buckeye Industries are more industrial, the Art Therapy program offers the individuals a creative, artistic outlet that produces amazing end products. The program is headed up by art therapist, Donnamarie Berardinelli. "Art therapy is a form of expressive therapy that improves or maintains mental health and emotional well-being. Through this process, the artists are given opportunities for social

interaction, following directions, communications skills, task development and creative outlet,” states Ms. Berardinelli. Proceeds from the sales help to continue the funding of this very needed program.

Christine Loehrke, Vocational Services Director states, “We are grateful for the wonderful reception we have been receiving from the art and retail communities. Everyone benefits from these kind of business partnerships.”

For more information, please contact Christine Loehrke at 216-481-1909 ext. 253
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About New Avenues to Independence

New Avenues to Independence, Inc., is an organization that proudly provides support services, programs and opportunities for people with disabilities to become more independent and productive members of the community. For more information, contact Karen Knavel, Community Relations Director, 216-481-1909 ext. 224, kknavel@newavenues.net, www.newavenues.net.