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**ALL CHESTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR 9TH ANNUAL STUDENT ART CONTEST**

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*Event sponsored by our friends & partners at the National Arts Program*

*and the Chester County District Attorney’s Office*

MONDAY, MARCH 24 – MONDAY MARCH 31, 2025

**HOSTED BY SUNSET HILL JEWELERS & FINE ARTS GALLERY**

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**GALLERY RECEPTION EVENT SATURDAY, MARCH 29 from 2 – 4 PM**

**WITH AN AWARDS PRESENTATION AT 3:30**

Artists and teachers/mentors are encouraged to attend and are welcome to bring parents/guardians, family, and friends.

THEME & INSPIRATION

Your mission is to inspire hope, unity, and positive change through your art. Use your creativity to convey the strength and resilience of survivors of domestic violence and their communities. Emphasize the power of unity in the face of adversity. Your artwork should serve as a message of support and a call to action for those affected by domestic violence.

You may channel your creativity to express the stories of survivors and their healing process. You may consider the work our community can and has done – and the work the Domestic Violence Center does to support survivors and prevent abuse. The winning piece from Domestic Violence Center of Chester County’s annual High School Student Art Contest will grace the cover of our organization’s Annual Report: your art should reflect the resilience, strength, and the indomitable spirit of survivors. Explore the emotions, experiences, and the path to recovery from abuse through your art.

You have the freedom to choose your medium, whether it's painting, drawing, sculpture, digital art, or another form. Let your creativity rebel against the silence surrounding domestic violence and speak loudly for those who need a voice. Purple represents domestic violence awareness and is used frequently within our movement - you're encouraged to incorporate shades of purple into your artwork.

We believe artwork can be a force for change, a catalyst for unity, and a symbol of strength. Join us in using art to advocate for domestic violence awareness and inspire hope within our communities. We eagerly await your artistic expressions.

CONTEST DESCRIPTION AND ELIGIBILITY

The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC) provides free and confidential services to victims/survivors of domestic violence and their dependent children. For the 9th year, DVCCC is hoping to highlight the talent of young artists through holding a contest and gallery exhibition open to all high school students in Chester County. This year’s contest will be hosted by, and entries will be displayed publicly at SUNSET HILL JEWELERS & FINE ARTS GALLERY **in West Chester, PA.**

* Students should **preregister for the competition** using [the link here](https://forms.office.com/r/9ER30wRFxA) or found at [www.dvcccpa.org/student-art-contest](http://www.dvcccpa.org/student-art-contest) **by Friday, March 14th, 2025.**
* Artwork will be due for drop-off to or pick-up by DVCCC on or before **Thursday, March 20th, 2025.**
* Artwork will be featured online and displayed publicly throughout the week of March 24 – March 31 with a **Reception on Saturday, March 29th** from 2 - 4 PM to celebrate the winners and all participants – awards will be presented at 3:30 PM.
* *The exhibit will feature only work submitted to the contest from high school students (GRADES 9-12) who either reside or attend school in Chester County.*

JUDGING AND AWARDS

A panel of VIP judges will determine the winners. Our special guest judges panel includes Jackie Szafara, Executive Director of the National Arts Program, acclaimed local artist, Dane Tilghman, Chester County’s own, Victoria Wyeth and others. The full slate of judges is TBA and will be found (with judges bios) at:

[www.dvcccpa.org/student-art-contest](http://www.dvcccpa.org/student-art-contest)

Categories considered include and are not limited to: understanding of contest themes, emotion, technique, creativity, and more. All decisions made by the panel are final. Prizes will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners as well as an opportunity to win one of four categorical awards, including “People’s Choice.”

* “People’s Choice” and other categorical awards - $50 gift card from the National Arts Program and the Chester County District Attorney.
* **3rd Place** – $75 gift card for artist from the National Arts Program and the Chester County District Attorney.
* **2nd Place** – $150 cash prize for artist and $150 for the artist’s teacher/art department from the National Arts Program and the Chester County District Attorney.
* **1st Place** – $250 cash prize for artist and $250 cash prize for artist’s teacher/art department from the National Arts Program and the Chester County District Attorney and the winner will grace the cover of DVCCC’s 24-25 Annual Report.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

•  The entrant must create the original piece of visual art, unassisted.

**•  Entries may be made on a flat or semi-flat surface so that they may be hung for display.** *Non-sculpture artwork \*must\* have wire securely attached to the back/top for hanging or in a frame that can be securely displayed on the wall properly.*

•  Submissions are limited to TWO per person.

•  Mediums may include, but are not limited to: ink, charcoal, pencil, paint, mixed media, photography, sculpture, etc.

•  Entries will be judged on creative interpretation of the contest theme as well as composition, technique, execution, use of color, and originality of design.

•  DVCCC retains the rights to reproduce the winning images in social media, website, and other printed materials.

REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION DROP-OFF

•  Students should preregister [HERE](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=bbZjsWa7zECiZYH72ThyMFaS6LVsG4JPobSmymUZO6hUMTJFUVFNUkozVFBVMDRVODM4UDgyMlJHNy4u) or at [www.dvcccpa.org/student-art-contest](http://www.dvcccpa.org/student-art-contest) by Friday, March 14th, 2024. *Preregistration is required for space-planning purposes.*

•  Artwork submissions accompanied with a registration form must be provided to or picked up by a DVCCC staff member/volunteer by Thursday, March 21st, 2024.

*•  Each submission must have a registration form (see below) securely attached to the back of the art, regardless of preregistration. Form must include entrant's name, address, cell phone number, email address (for contest communication purposes only).*

EXHIBIT OPENING AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Exhibit will be open and available for public viewing during Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts Gallery regular operating hours from March 24 – March 31, 2024.

There will be a reception event for the artists and a presentation of awards in person (an email invitation will be sent to all registrants) on Saturday, March 29th, 2025 from 2 – 4 PM. All students are strongly encouraged to attend to accept prizes and other recognition.

* Students may take their artwork home following the reception *(with the exception of 1st – 3rd place winners).*

ARTWORK PICKUP

If student artwork is not picked up following the reception, submitted artwork must be arranged for pick up from DVCCC staff/volunteers. *Please note: Employees and volunteers of DVCCC and Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts Gallery are NOT responsible for lost, stolen, damaged or unclaimed artwork.*

QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES

You can follow updates at [www.dvcccpa.org/student-art-contest](http://www.dvcccpa.org/student-art-contest) and on DVCCC’s social media pages (Facebook and Instagram).

Contact Amelia Rayburn-Pizzica directly at [arayburn@dvcccpa.org](mailto:arayburn@dvcccpa.org) for questions regarding contest & exhibit.

For more information about the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County visit [www.dvcccpa.org](http://www.dvcccpa.org)

*The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to providing intervention, education, outreach, advocacy, and programs to prevent, reduce, and remedy domestic violence in Chester County. DVCCC provides trauma-informed and evidence-based services at a main, confidentially located site and satellite sites in Coatesville, Kennett Square, Oxford, and Phoenixville. The mission of the Domestic Violence Center is to reduce, remedy, and prevent Domestic Violence in Chester County.*

(Detach and complete the form – on next page – and attach to the back of the artwork prior to drop off)

REGISTRATION FORM

Students need to obtain parent/guardian permission to enter the art contest.  
Please review the rules prior to submitting your entry. Firmly attach this completed form to the back of the artwork.

|  |
| --- |
| Student’s Name (First) (Last): |
| Address:  City:  State:  Zip: |
| Phone:  Email: |
| School:  Art Teacher’s Name: |
| Name of piece (indicate if untitled): |
| Indicate grade: \_\_ Freshman \_\_ Sophomore \_\_ Junior \_\_ Senior |
| Medium (indicate which): \_\_ ink \_\_ charcoal \_\_ pencil \_\_ oil paint \_\_ acrylic paint \_\_ watercolor paint \_\_ mixed media  \_\_ other (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) |
| Parent’s signature/permission:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  cell # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

MORE ON DVCCC AND THE MOVEMENT TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In the early 1900s, purple, along with white and gold, became the colors of the National Women's Party, symbolizing 'purity, hope, and loyalty.' This powerful trio of colors embodied the spirit of the Women's Suffrage Movement, a testament to the strength of hope and the pursuit of justice. Fast forward to the March for the Equal Rights Amendment in 1978, where purple remained a prominent hue, adorning the marchers' lavender attire and banners of purple, white, and gold. This marked the continued journey towards gender equality.

Following this pivotal march, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence initiated a 'Day of Unity' in October 1981, uniting advocates against violence towards women and sparking the creation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In 1983, Congress officially designated October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, with the color purple standing as a beacon of hope in the fight to end domestic violence. Purple, known for its association with the women's rights movement, also carries the symbolism of peace, courage, and survival.

*The connection between the domestic violence awareness movement and the color purple serves as a poignant way to remember and honor the victims and survivors of domestic violence. It's a reminder of the resilience and strength displayed by survivors as they journey towards healing.*

At the heart of this movement is the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC), a 47-year-old nonprofit organization that serves over 1,500 victims and survivors of abuse from our communities each year. DVCCC provides free, accessible, and completely confidential services that include a 24-hour hotline, counseling, support groups, case management, therapy, legal representation, legal advocacy, immigration support, housing, emergency safe house shelter, education, training, and prevention programming.

In May 2021, DVCCC responded to a community tragedy related to domestic violence by planting the Tree of Hope & Healing in Schuylkill Township. This project aimed to create a sanctuary where our community could mourn the loss of those affected by domestic violence while fostering healing and hope for those still living in abusive situations. The Tree of Hope & Healing, along with its surrounding garden, became a place of solace and peace for our community members. Expanding our project in the summer of 2022 to Kennett Square and Hibernia County Park, we spread the message of hope and healing to more communities in Chester County. In October, we illuminate these trees and other local monuments with radiant purple lights, launching our first annual countywide event: 'Light the Night for Hope & Healing.' This event serves as a shining beacon of hope for our community, reassuring everyone that they are not alone in their journey towards healing.

*To the aspiring artists participating in this contest, we urge you to channel your creativity towards the boundless inspiration and hope that extends beyond domestic violence victimization. Through your artwork, we aim to create something beautiful that inspires our community to stand together against domestic violence, as a beacon of hope and a symbol of strength.*