

Steven Sylvester

Did you know...

Over 20,000 children "Age Out" of the foster care system in the United States every year - find out what "Aging Out" is and how we can help.



Help Me Build A Home Of My Own *Bringing Awareness to "Aging Out"*

When a child who is receiving foster care services reaches the age of 18, they are considered "Aged Out" and can find themselves abruptly left without support of any kind - often homeless!

During 2010, I focused my efforts on a program titled *Help Me Build a Home of My Own*. It is a clay art program that has an emphasis on interpersonal relationship skills development involving, but not limited to, children in the foster care system. During the course of these program events, together we build small clay houses that we also glaze and kiln fire. Classroom conversations include building relationship skills and creating our own homes and families. We discuss making wise decisions, encouraging good people to come into our lives and keeping bad people out of our lives.

Mini Grant Awarded Steven Sylvester *by Broward Cultural Council*

I was awarded a Broward Cultural Council Mini-Grant in 2010 to initiate the *Help Me Build a Home of My Own* program at Sunset School, Fort Lauderdale and subsequent display unit at ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale. The program was also showcased by *Pass It On* (<http://www.passitonnow.org/index.html>) at their fund raising event at ArtServe, this past November.

Forever Family featured *Help Me Build a Home of My Own* in several video segments showcasing children who are seeking adoption. The segments were seen locally on NBC6. To view the segments and for more information visit: <http://www.foreverfamily.org>.

Please click on the links below to see more information on this project:

- special thanks to Lew Lautin: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icdo9-wxuAQ>
- special thanks to Cypress Bend High School for this video: http://sculptinglives.org/shaping_childrens_futures/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7&Itemid=3.

Sylvester Starts Charitable Organization *Sculpting Lives - Shaping Children's Futures Through Art*

After evaluating the outcome of *Help Me Build a Home of My Own* along with my work history in social work, I concluded that an efficient and hands-on foundation was necessary to catapult the movement forward. It will bring public awareness to "Aging Out" while benefiting children in the foster care system. I am the Founding Director of *Sculpting Lives*, a charitable organization whose motto is: **Shaping Children's Futures Through Art**. I am fortunate to be joined by two other directors: Pamela H. Alexander (<http://www.pamelahuizenga.com>) and Robin Woller. *Help Me Build a Home of My Own* is our first program. We are involving the community and are happy to report that there have been many accomplishments. We look forward to working with our newest community partner, *C and R Ceramic & Pottery Supplies* in Ocala, Florida (<http://www.candrceramics.com>).

Please help bring attention to this cause by forwarding this email and by posting it to your Facebook page.

You can also volunteer, provide supplies, contribute - to get involved, call Steven: 954-593-5634.

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in underwriting any portion of this project, opportunities at all levels are available. Please contact Steven: 954-593-5634.

Now, For Current News...

Largest Exhibit of Sylvester's Ladies' Dress Series

I have just completed a *Help Me Build a Home of My Own* event at Studio 18 in Pembroke Pines, Florida.

The resulting clay art houses will be showcased, along with the largest single showing of pieces from my Ladies' Dress Series, at the opening reception of *Unexpected Abstractions*, February 4th, 2010, 7-9pm at Studio 18, 1101 Poinciana Drive, Pembroke Pines, Florida, 33025. I will be highlighting the *Help Me Build a Home of My Own* program to raise awareness of the more than twenty thousand children who "Age Out" of the foster care system in this country annually and how we can help. Artwork will be available for viewing and purchasing to support this cause. Please come out to learn about this program, see the clay art dresses and enjoy the exceptional environment of Studio 18 (<http://www.ppines.com/studio18/>).

Unexpected Abstractions

Steven Sylvester
Amy Gross
Tere Pastoriza

Come see the art colony at Studio 18

Come Join Us Studio 18

FEBRUARY 4, 2010
7 - 9pm

1101 Poinciana Drive
Pembroke Pines, Florida 33025

Closing Date
March 27, 2011

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