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Arts Visalia teams with Pro-Youth/HEART to raise money

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Karmen Herrera, 14, uses watercolor to paint a piece of art for the annual Arts Visalia Sofa Art Show. The show begins Feb. 3 and runs through the end of the month. Eric Woomer

Written by
ERIC WOOMER

Sandy Beals knows how to balance a budget and keep the pantries of FoodLink for Tulare County stocked.

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What she doesn't know is how to draw or paint or do basically anything artistically, she admits.



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How to attend

- » What: Sofa Art Show
- » When: 6-8 p.m. Feb. 3
- » What: Sofa Art auction to benefit Pro Youth/Heart
- » When: 6-8 p.m. Feb. 14
- » Where: Both shows will be held at Arts Visalia, 214 E. Oak Ave.
- » Information: 739-0905 or www.artsvisalia.org

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In the next few weeks though, she'll step outside her comfort zone and create a work of art — a work of art that she and Pro-Youth/HEART After School program hopes will draw big bucks.

Beals, the executive director of FoodLink, will join more than two dozen local leaders who were asked to create a piece of "sofa art" for the upcoming Sofa Art Show at Arts Visalia.

It's the first time the two nonprofit organizations have teamed up to help one another, a venture they hope brings money with awareness.

"People will pay not to hang my art on their wall," Beals said. "I've never done this but, I was convinced by someone I could. Nonprofits in the Valley watch after one another and help each other."

Kevin Bowman, Arts Visalia curator and director, says he hopes others will be influenced to join the show and show off their art work.

This is the 17th annual Sofa Art Show, the biggest show of the year for the organization.

This is the first year it will combine works from local leaders such as Beals and others, with works from professional artists and photographers. Bowman says anything is possible with this show.

"If it fits through the door and is family-friendly, we'll take it," he said.

"This is good will. We are using the arts to bring awareness to causes such as the HEART program."

All the proceeds from the Valentine's Day auction will benefit the HEART program. While, this is the first year and a goal hasn't been set, organizers are hoping to keep the collaboration going for years to come.



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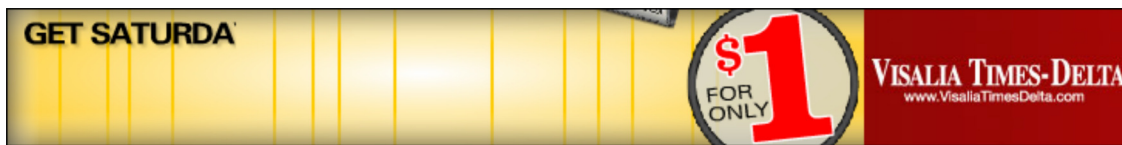
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