



For Immediate release

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THE COLORS OF PEACE - An Art Exhibit In Support Of Children With Autism In Ukraine

WHEN: Saturday, December 17, 2022, 12 to 5 pm – Exhibition Preview

Sunday, May 22nd, 2022, 12 to 5 pm – Main Event: Exhibition Reception, Speakers, Live Music

WHERE: Wedeman Gallery at Lasell University, 47 Myrtle Ave, Auburndale, MA 02466

Visit Autism Unity's website for more information: <https://autismunity.org/colors-of-peace/>

Event on social media (Facebook): <https://fb.me/e/2oqD3ZDe3>

BACKGROUND: On February 24th, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Autistic children, who are among millions of displaced Ukrainian children, have been and continue to be hit particularly hard. The loss of educational and therapeutic support combined with war stressors are catastrophic to people with autism, resulting in a mental health crisis for the entire family. In collaboration with Heal Ukraine Group, a volunteer organization created by physicians and scientists affiliated with Boston hospitals, Autism Unity, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is raising funds for medically necessary, trauma-informed services to be provided to children with autism and their parents.

WHY AN ART EXHIBIT: Art is a universal language and an ideal resource to understand the perspectives of others, particularly their perspective on peace. On December 18, 2022, from 12 to 5 pm, the Wedeman Gallery at Lasell University will host a fundraising exhibition – THE COLORS OF PEACE. The exhibit will feature many local area artists of different origins and backgrounds, currently residing in the Greater Boston area, as well as artists from Ukraine, including newly emerging autistic talents! We are raising funds for medically necessary, trauma-informed services to be provided to the Ukrainian children with autism and their parents. For the theme of the exhibition, the artists were asked to present pieces that reflect their thoughts about the ongoing war in Ukraine, as well as their reflections on hope, peace, compassion, and solidarity. The money raised from the sales of the artwork will go toward helping the children with autism in Ukraine. The organizers and volunteers will be sharing their stories and experiences, as well as providing information on how visitors can contribute and donate to Autism Unity's mission in Ukraine.

This event is free and open to the public. Donations can be made during the event. Besides the reception on Sunday, visitors will have a chance to preview the exhibition at the Wedeman Gallery on Saturday, December 17, from 12 to 5 pm. After the reception, the artwork will be available for viewing and purchasing. Refreshments and drinks will be provided throughout the exhibition.

Autism Unity: <https://www.healukraine.org>

Autism Unity is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. Our mission is to ensure that children with autism and their families have access to sufficient high-quality therapeutic services and supports to help them thrive and live fulfilling lives within communities and environments that are safe and welcoming.

The Heal Ukraine Group: <https://www.healukraine.org>

A consortium of Harvard-affiliated physicians, scientists, and healthcare professionals from Boston-based medical institutions who have come together to integrate our activities and address the needs of scientists and clinicians impacted by the war in Ukraine.

The holiday season is upon us! Let's bring more smiles to our precious kids, who are suffering the most in these tragic times!