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MEDIA RELEASE

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YES Volunteer Donates Playful Art to Comfort Kids

Mary Lynne Poole creates unique, life-size artwork to enhance YES Waiting Area

BELLEVUE, Wash. (August 10, 2011)—Longtime Youth Eastside Services (YES) volunteer, Mary Lynne Poole, has created a new work of art for display at the YES’ Bellevue offices. “YES Parade” was recently installed with the help of community volunteers and depicts actual YES staff, clients, and even the unofficial mascot, Bailey, a registered service dog who usually accompanies one of the organization’s directors to work.

According to Poole, the display fills the YES building with the spirit of children and families. “It’s designed to bring joy those who come through our doors,” she said.

The piece features six life-size youth, a squirrel on a skateboard, butterflies, a parrot riding on a parading cat and other whimsical activities to evoke a sense of action and happiness. Poole added personalized touches to each figure in the parade such as YES flags, a unicycle, skateboard, barrettes, keys, and even a postal vest worn by Bailey, who often delivers the mail to staff at the office.

“We are so grateful for Mary Lynne’s service as a volunteer and so appreciate her willingness to create something so personal for our clients,” said YES Executive Director Patti Skelton-McGougan. She added that clients waiting in the lobby have been enthusiastic about the art. One young boy was overheard commenting on all the different types of animals.

Poole has been a volunteer at YES since 2001, and currently serves as the tech team chair and database specialist. But her talent extends beyond her knowledge of technology. She has created a number of art pieces including one found at Eastside Preparatory School in Bellevue.

YES is a nonprofit organization and a leading provider of youth counseling and substance abuse services in the region. Since 1968, YES has been a lifeline for kids and families, offering treatment, education and prevention services in facilities in Bellevue, Redmond and Kirkland and over 40 school and community sites. While YES accepts Medicaid, insurance and offers a sliding fee scale, no one is turned away for inability to pay. For more information, visit www.YouthEastsideServices.org.

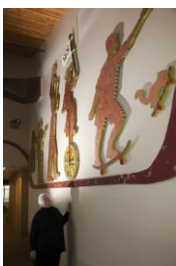
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Photos Attached:



Photo to left: L to R: Anne Lutrick, Betsy Hay, Artist Mary Lynne Poole, Bob O’Hara, Lucille Berkowitz and Jackie Hughes. All helped create and install the art. Missing is Tim Hay.

Photo on Right: Anne Lutrick holds the art while Bob O’Hara attaches it to the wall and Jackie Hughes steadies the ladder.



Artists Mary Lynne Poole Looks up at her newly installed art at YES in Bellevue(left)



YES Parade (left)