

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1994

COMMUNITY LIFE

Show melds art, charity to benefit kids



JUDY BRYCE

Reading sheds bright light on man's life

Imagine, if you can, being unable to read a book to your child, or to understand the directions on a prescription bottle, or to write a letter to an old friend. Yet 20 percent of adults in Oakland County cannot accomplish these simple everyday tasks because they are functionally illiterate, which means they aren't able to read well enough to function independently in today's high-tech world.

The consequences of illiteracy extend far beyond the non-readers and their families however. The cost is passed along to us all through increased social programs; a state study projects that each unemployable functionally illiterate person costs Michigan \$469,000 in actual expenditures.

It's estimated that 60 percent of prison inmates are functionally illiterate - three times the rate of non-offenders. Sadly, history repeats itself generation to generation - children whose parents don't read are twice as likely as their peers to be functionally illiterate.

The good news among all these statistics of doom and gloom is that there are groups such as the Oakland Literacy Council who are helping to combat adult illiteracy. The council is dedicated to providing opportunities for adults to improve their literacy skills through free individual instruction. It was on this premise that the council was founded 10 years ago.

From the early days when the council served

See **READING**, 15A

ArtShare '94 features internationally known area artists and will benefit St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington later this month. Pewabic Pottery will be auctioned along with works from celebrities such as Jane Seymour, Steve Allen and Sally Struthers.

BY BALLEE GILES
SPECIAL WRITER

Take home a cherished art piece and know that your money went to a good cause.

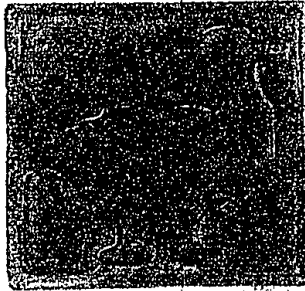
At ArtShare '94 you can do just that. The exhibit and auction features art from Pewabic Pottery and more than 100 artists, including celebrities, to benefit the abused and neglected children served by the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills.

Presented by Ford Motor Company, the event will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

"ArtShare '94 has brought gifted individuals and organizations together to showcase a wonderful collection of exquisite and interesting art," said honorary chairperson Leon S. Cohen, a member of the governing body of the Detroit Institute of Arts and Michigan Council for the Arts' past chairman.

Pewabic Pottery is a studio for the design and production of architectural tile and vessels and a center for the advancement of ceramic arts. It has earned a national reputation for its tile commissions and glazes - particularly the iridescent formulas - which can be seen in homes and institutions throughout the country.

"In addition to Pewabic, celebrities including Jane Seymour, Steve Allen, Sally Struthers and Red Skelton have contributed their work to help make a difference in the lives of the center's children."



Pewabic plaques: Work from Pewabic Pottery in Detroit will be exhibited and auctioned during the ArtShare '94 show designed to raise money for St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills for abused and neglected children.

Originated and spearheaded by Chairperson Maria Martella of Executech Resource Consultants Inc., ArtShare will begin a silent auction at 7:30 p.m. and will continue with a live auction at 9 p.m.

Marilyn Turner and John Kelly of Channel 7 will entertain as the evening's auctioneers. Harpist Kristen Agiesta will perform. Hors d'oeuvres courtesy of Arriva Ristorante, wine from Decanter Imports and desserts by Frenchy's Catering will be served.

Detroit's Tyree Guyton, most recognized for transforming abandoned houses into works of art known as the Heidelberg Project, will present his first Heidelberg print during the live auction.

Serving as honorary art advisers, ArtShare brings together some of Detroit's leaders of the art community.

Sculptor and art educator Sergio DeGuisti of Redford Township, whose commissions include bronze doors of the Church of San Vito in Maniago, Italy, and the design of official medallions for the Department of Treasury in Washington, D.C., will be present.

He will be joined by fiber artist and associate professor of art and art history at Wayne State University Urban Jupena, whose work is in many public buildings and private homes throughout Detroit including Riverside Hospital. Also, art agent and collector

Elaine Saltzman of West Bloomfield, a member of the Forum for Contemporary Art and the Friends of Modern Art of the Detroit Institute of Arts, will be present.

"We are thrilled to feature the beautiful tiles and vessels of Pewabic Pottery at this year's exhibit and auction," Jupena said. "The collaboration of St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center and Pewabic Pottery is exciting and extremely beneficial for both organizations and for the Detroit area. Both are working to preserve the future of the city - the future of art and art students and the future of children."

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