



Julie Dawson's garden in Birmingham will be the focus of a garden party and kaleidoscope signing on Wednesday, June 18.

Artist hosts garden party to benefit children's advocacy group

Julie Dawson, a Birmingham watercolor artist, will host a garden party/kaleidoscope-signing event 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland.

The event, Celebrate Our History with Art, will be hosted at the Dawson home and gardens, 988 Gordon Lane, in Birmingham.

Guests will have the chance to purchase signed and numbered lithographs of a specially crafted Quarter-Century Commemorative CARE Kaleidoscope by the artist.

The proceeds of the sale of these will benefit the organization.

The CARE Kaleidoscope from a distance appears to be a picture with an intricate design but, on closer study, reveals a pictorial history.

It depicts the children and families served by the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland, its first facility, the current building and some of its programs including parenting classes, counseling, therapy and the children's advocacy program. It also shows the welcoming



Guests of watercolor artist Julie Dawson will have a chance to see her garden and purchase her lithographs on June 18 to help benefit the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County.

environment and the stuffed animals given to the children who visit the building. The original CARE Kaleidoscope will hang in CARE House, the home of the Council.

"The sensitive, careful and important work of the staff and volunteers at the Child Abuse and Neglect Council is

so impressive and vital," Dawson said. "It has been a great joy for me to work on this project with them."

Dawson has been a professional watercolor artist in Birmingham for 30 years.

She and her husband, Peter, travel extensively and she paints what she has seen on her travels. The home is filled with her paintings and with

items collected from the 95 countries the couple has visited. Her studio is attached to the home. Dawson also is an avid gardener.

The Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County is housed in a child-friendly building, CARE House, 44675 S. Woodward in Pontiac. The council's mission is to be an advocate for the

safety of all children and a leading resource in the prevention of child abuse and the protection of children through education, intervention, treatment and research, in collaboration with the community.

The council's history also is related to art. When it moved into the Pontiac facility, area artists and

interior designers assisted in developing creative, colorful, age-appropriate welcoming, interview and therapy rooms for the children.

Tickets to the event are \$35. Reservations are requested.

Contact the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County for more information at (248) 352-7173.

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