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Art students service-learning project earns more than \$1,000 for Stevens County Human Services

Summary: The students donated the proceeds from the auction of their paintings to the youth activity fund.

(December 15, 2009)-Students in Associate Professor of Studio Art Michael Eble's painting courses completed a service-learning project that will benefit young people in the Morris area. They created Morris townscapes that were first displayed in Common Cup, Morris's nonprofit coffeehouse, and then sold to the highest bidders from the community. The students donated the proceeds, totaling \$1,131, to Stevens County Human Services youth activity fund.

The project started last fall with a conversation between students and Common Cup managers. "The students had a great discussion with Rose and Sue at the Common Cup about which charity they wanted to support, and we continued that dialogue in class," shares Eble. "Ultimately, the students chose to support young people in the community who might not have the same opportunities as their peers."

The art students' donation will allow Stevens County Human Services to help about 20 children from the area participate in activities.

"I was really glad we did this project," says student Susan Robertson, Apple Valley. "We got to learn a lot about the history of Morris as preparation, and I thought it was great that we did paintings that reflected the community, not just the campus. It was also really important to all of us that the money go to the kids of Morris who may not have gotten the chance to be on that sports team, take that art class, or go on that field trip because of the extra cost involved. We were happy to be giving kids more opportunities, even small ones like these."

Students who contributed their artwork to the service-learning project include: Michelle Leedah, Glenwood, Samantha Vankrevelen, Coon Rapids, Rebekah Ackerman, Andover, Deborah Covart, Ramsey, Lacey Granroos, Fridley, Kayla Hagen, Minnetonka, Ashley Harris, Ely, Sara Lahr, Sauk Centre, Susan Robertson, Apple Valley, Janelle Simones, Cottage Grove, and Ashley Splonskowski, Madison.

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