

Barrington Area United Way rounds up community spirit

There will be horses of a different color on the streets of Barrington this summer. . . . To celebrate its 50th anniversary, Barrington Area United Way (BAUW) will launch the Barrington Roundup, a public art exhibition of hand-painted fiberglass horses that will be displayed throughout the Barrington area from June through September. Local businesses, agencies, and individuals will sponsor the horses, which will be painted by local artists. The organization is hoping that widespread participation from the entire community will help to make the exhibit a success, says BAUW Executive Director Leslie Luther-Jeschke.

“We wanted to find a way to recognize this landmark anniversary by engaging the community in an event that can bring businesses, schools, agencies, and families together,” Luther-Jeschke says.

The horses will range in size from a 9-foot rearing steed to a 4-foot colt. Businesses that sponsor horses can decorate the animals themselves or be matched with volunteer artists who also apply to participate. The horses will then be displayed in front of a business or in local pedestrian areas; BAUW and the Village of Barrington are currently scouting locations for the displays.

The horses will be unveiled on Thursday, June 4 and will be on display until September. Then they will be auctioned at a fundraising event that will benefit BAUW and its agencies and recipients. Members of the community will also be able to vote for their favorite horses throughout July, when there will be a midsummer event for the Roundup.

“The exhibit will be a great focal point, not just for downtown Barrington but for the whole Barrington area,” says the Village of Barrington President Karen Darch. “The horses should remind residents and visitors of both Barrington’s agricultural roots and its modern-day community spirit.”

As part of the project, BAUW is partnering with Community Unit School District 220 and is offering the horses to schools at cost. David Conroy, BAUW president, says school participation have ranged from elementary schools

to Barrington High School. “PTOs and booster groups have sponsored horses, and art teachers and students have volunteered to paint the horses,” he says. “It’s a great way to introduce our youth the importance of philanthropy and volunteering and community spirit.”

When the exhibition ends, schools will be able to keep and display the horses they have created. Dr. Tom Leonard, District 220 superintendent, says, “This is a perfect fit for our schools. BAUW does so much for the students of District 220.”

As the end of January, Luther-Jeschke says, early sponsors included Harris Bank Barrington, Barrington Bank and Trust, Wickstrom Ford Lincoln Mercury, Marquardt of Barrington, Catalyst Exhibits, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, Hospice of Northeastern Illinois, *QUINTESSENTIAL BARRINGTON*, and Walk-On Farms. While BAUW plans to add to the sponsorship list, she says the group also welcomes volunteers who can assist with publicity, marketing, and event planning.

Support for the project was an easy decision, says Beth Raseman, vice president for development at Hospice. “For our 25-year history here in Barrington, BAUW has been with us every step of the way,” she says. Raseman gives high marks to the professionalism of BAUW’s annual funding process, in which, she says, BAUW’s trained volunteers conduct research and agency interviews to determine the best use of BAUW funds. “Nobody does a better job,” she says. “They really listen to the needs of the community.”

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SMILES INC., DARIEN, WIS.



Following last year’s successful public art exhibition and fundraiser, “Horsing Around Town” in Lake Geneva, Wis., sponsoring organization SMILES (Special Methods in Learning Equine Skills Inc.) is producing their second and highly anticipated event for 2009. Pictured here is “Dolcetto Del Lago (Little Sweet One of the Lake)” by artist is Liz Haseley of Lake Geneva.

After all, says Luther-Jeschke, such community involvement is what is at the heart of the organization’s mission. With its ongoing support of local youth and senior services, women’s shelters, and counseling and prevention programs, BAUW “is committed to meeting the health and human service needs of the Barrington area,” Luther-Jeschke says. “There is no other organization that provides more comprehensive funding to such a wide range of programs in our own community.

“Barrington Area United Way’s goal is to create long-lasting changes that improve the lives of our residents. This can only happen through partnerships and community collaboration and the Barrington Roundup highlights that very concept.” U

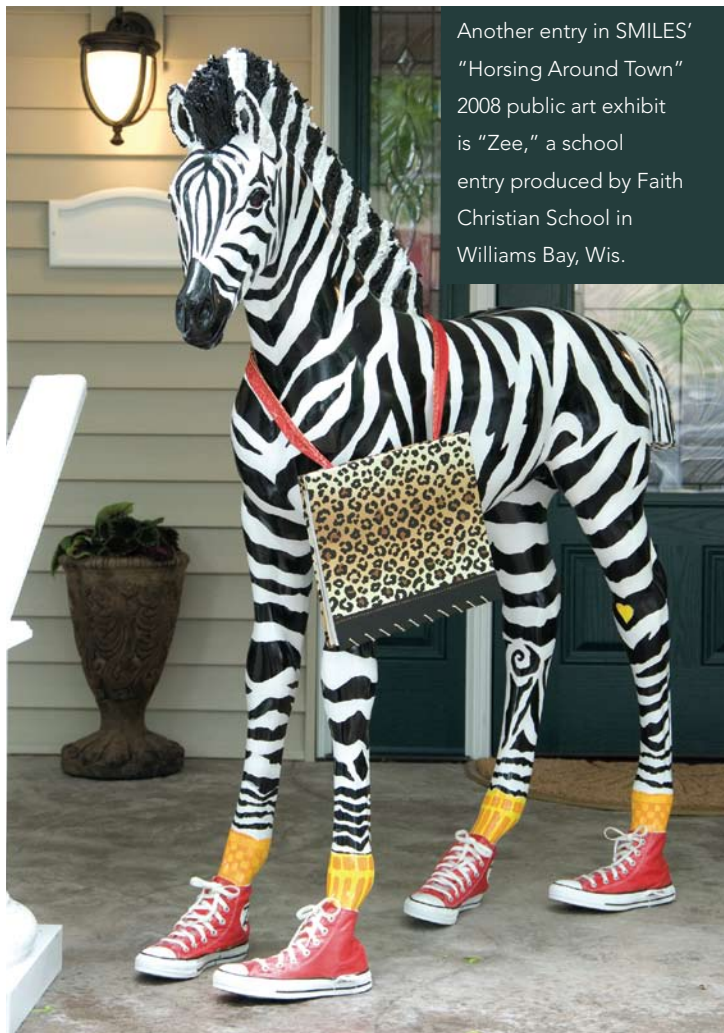
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Saddle up with BAUW, partner!

You can participate in this summer's Barrington Roundup.

The Barrington Area United Way is looking for:

Sponsors

Businesses, local organizations and agencies, and individuals can sponsor a horse; a variety of sponsorship levels are available.

Artists

BAUW is accepting applications from amateur and professional artists who will be matched with a sponsor to create the artwork for the horses.

Volunteers

BAUW can use help with publicity and marketing as well as event planning for the June 4 unveiling, the midsummer event, and the September auction.

For more information on any of these opportunities, contact Barrington Area United Way at 847-382-8778 or visit its Web site at www.barringtonuw.org.