



# COLORS OF GRIEF

November 11, 2024



Rick's Place was proud to present this special gallery exhibit in commemoration of Children/Teens Grief Awareness Month. These photos capture just a little bit of the magic during the Opening Reception.

Rick's Place artists were encouraged to reflect on their unique grief experiences. Each art piece presented shares an intimate, heartfelt narrative of loss, memories, and love.

# COLORS OF GRIEF

## A Rick's Place Exhibition

*in recognition of*  
**Youth Grief Awareness Month**



*Opening reception:*  
**NOVEMBER 11, 2024**

**William Blizzard Gallery  
Springfield College**



## FEATURED ARTISTS

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Nashla Marques Alverio | Aisa Ortiz           |
| Rigby Archambault      | Fiona Padykula       |
| Michael Arnold         | Odreona Ramos        |
| Billy Batistelli       | Eli Rivera           |
| Lilly Blais            | Nathaniel Rivera     |
| Molly Blais            | Ashlyn Robideau      |
| Lorenzo Bonilla        | Finnley Robideau     |
| Sylvia Burbee          | Maddox Robideau      |
| Mabel Cieboter         | Nylah Santa          |
| Stanley Cieboter       | Bella Stenta         |
| Caleb Daniels          | Haylee Sullivan      |
| Nikytah Espinola       | Charlotte Teixeira   |
| Dezani Fernandez       | Eleanor Teixeira     |
| Jovan Garcia           | Kim Teixeira         |
| Jomar Gonzalez         | Lawrence Thompson    |
| Kay Lopez              | Jemma Thompson       |
| Victor Lopez           | Andrew Thompson      |
| Amelia Marosits        | Kaylee Toca          |
| Talia Marx             | Darielys Vizcarrondo |
| Exekiel Mattoon        | Emma Zimmerman       |

**We extend our gratitude to our visionary artists  
for inviting us into their worlds.**

# Colors of Grief:

Perspectives of families after loss

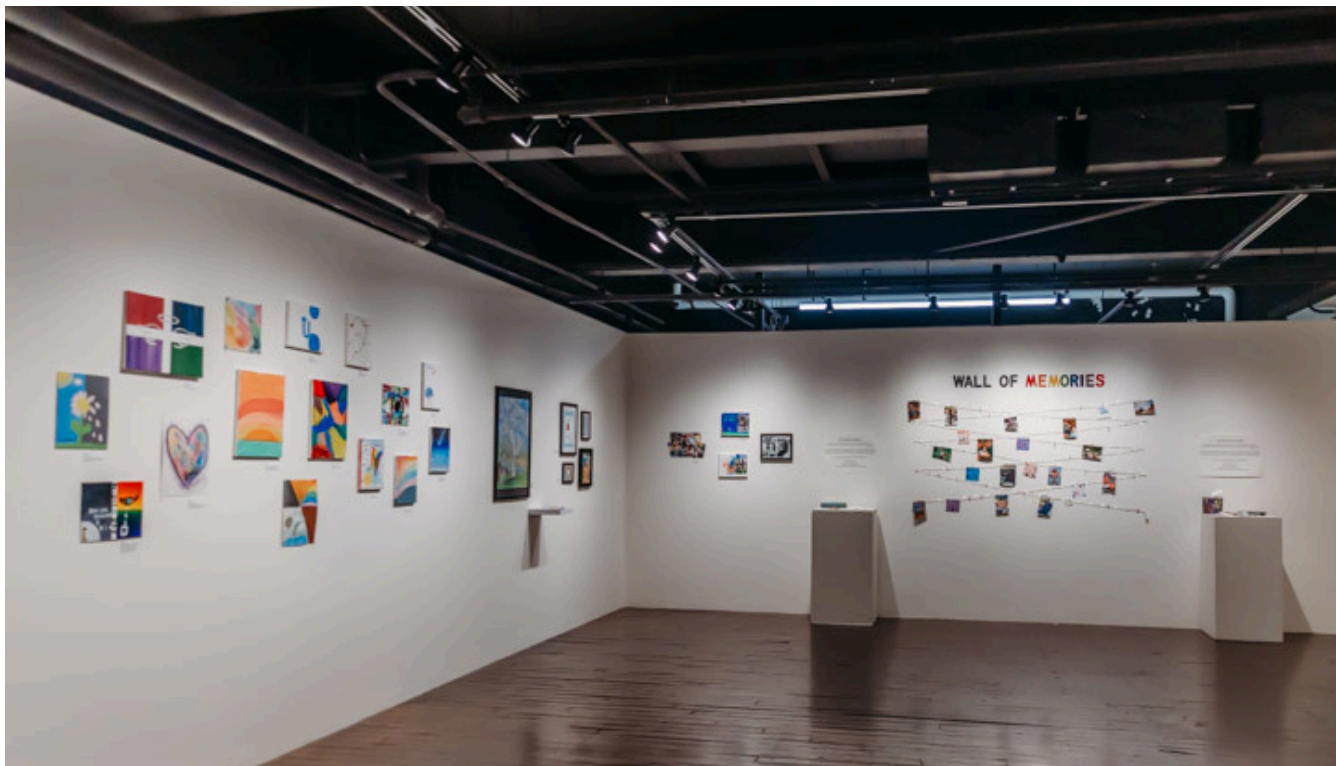
Rick's Place, a beacon of support for children, teens, and families navigating grief, is proud to present this special gallery exhibit and opening reception in celebration of National Children's Grief Awareness Month.

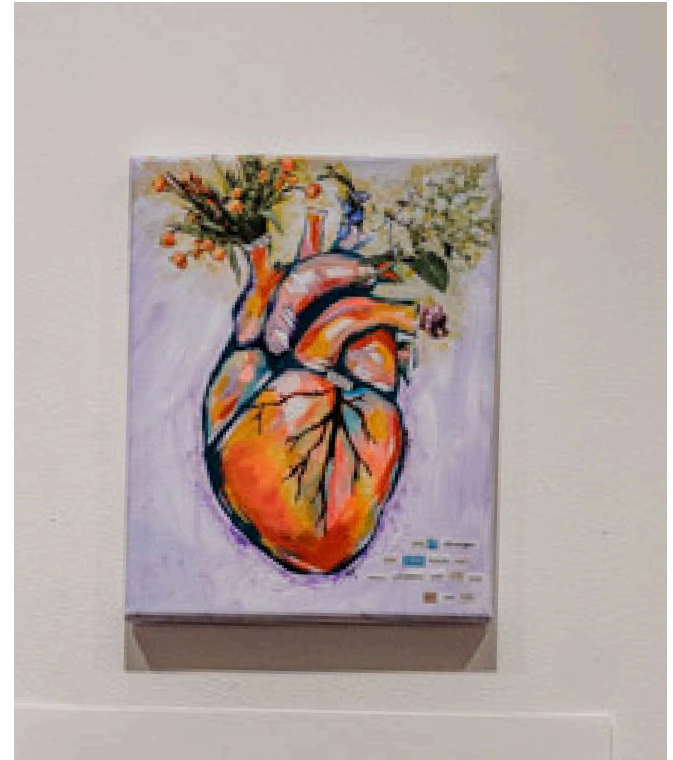
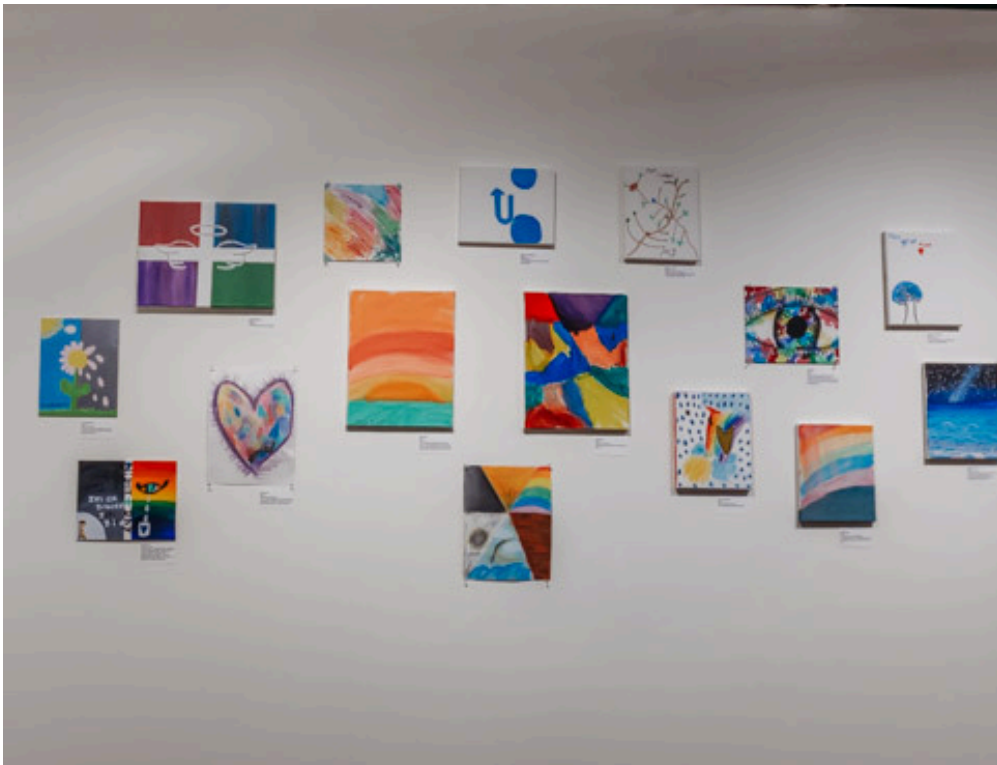
We recognize this each November to remember the conversation around grief and loss, and its impact on young people. In the United States, it is estimated that 1 to 12 youth and one parent or sibling for the same day reach 18 years of age. In Hamilton County, there are more than 3,000 young people living with a death loss.

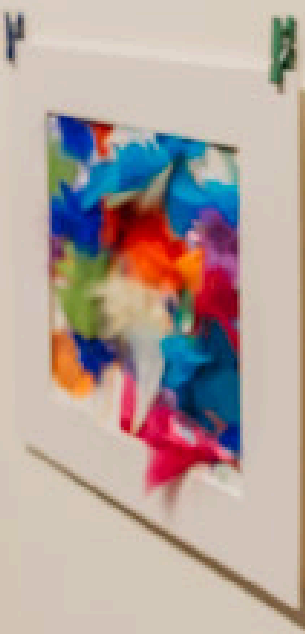
Rick's Place artists were encouraged to reflect on their unique grief journey and how these experiences have left an indelible mark. Each artist presented an original or remake, heartfelt narrative of personal journeys through grief.

We invite the community to join our Memory Wall installation by contributing a photograph of a loved one who has died, along with a message or note in their memory.

Please  
sign our  
Guest Book!







## Grief Monsters

Age 5 - 7 Watercolor on Paper

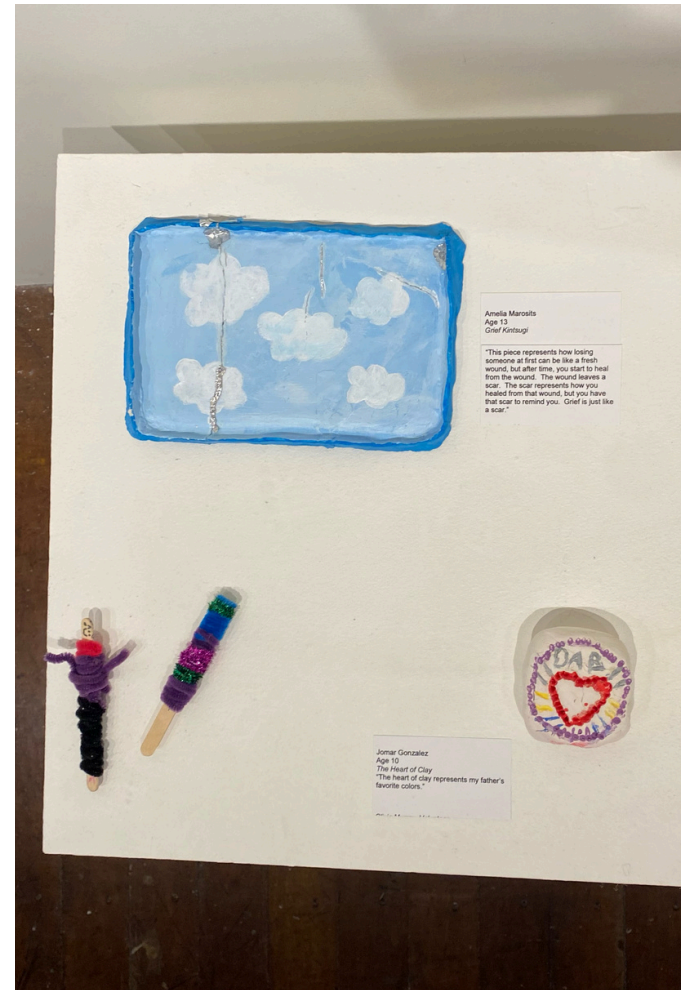
Age 8 - 9 Construction Paper, Chalk

Age 10+ Clay

At Rick's Place, groups empower youth to recognize, name complex emotions that arise after a loss. Through peer support, youth learn they are not alone in their grief and that others share similar experiences.

Grief Monsters—imaginary buddies, pals, or friends—emerge from the pain of what has died. These characters serve as metaphors for the feelings and questions that accompany grief. While these feelings can be unexpected, they also connect us to the love, memories, and the person we've lost.

The first step in managing our Grief Monster is to acknowledge its presence and not shy away from it. We encouraged group participants to invite their Grief Monster to befriend them. What would these creatures look like? What would they say or do? What feelings would they embody? These reflections into tangible visuals, creating unique representations of their experience, serve as a reminder that we don't have to sit with those feelings on our own.



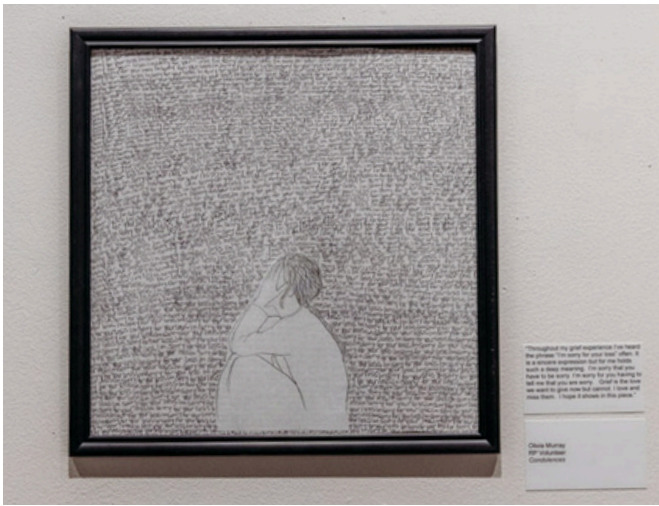


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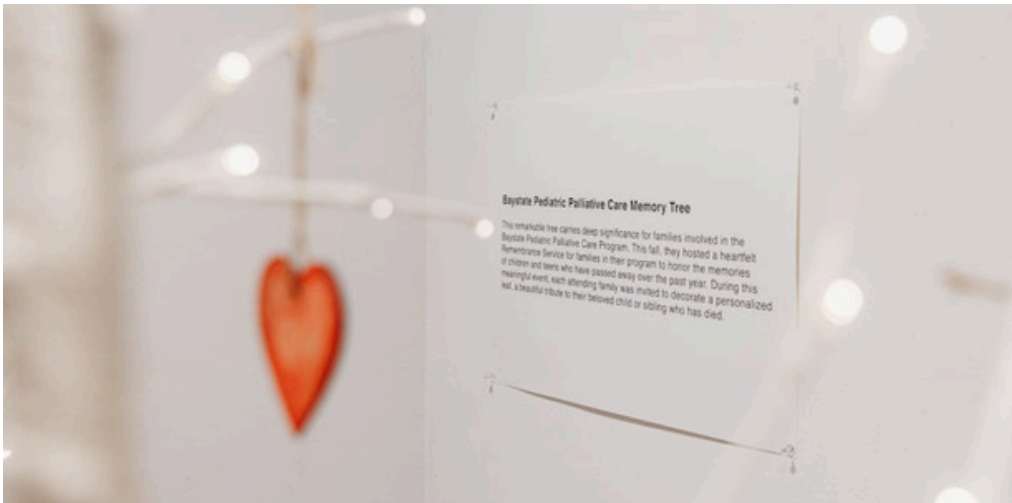
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Lawrence Thompson  
Age 9  
Food Coloring





### The Mask of Grief

The Mask of Grief installation illuminates stories of grief and the complex emotions that come with loss. These masks have been carefully created to give us a window into the unique perspectives of what the grief experience may be like for young people.

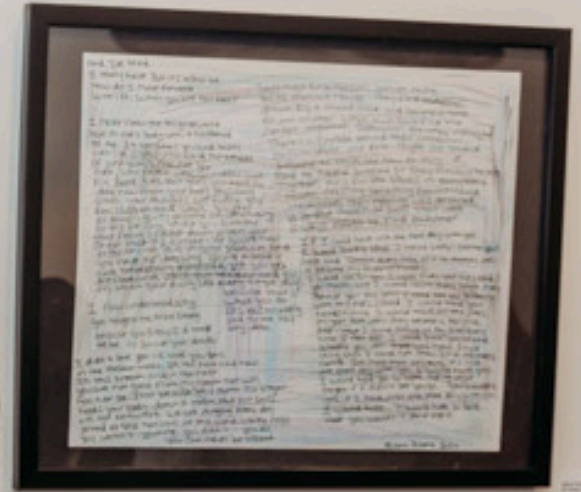
In a society that often shies away from grief and loss, those who are navigating it frequently feel compelled to hide their true emotions from those who may not fully grasp their experience. This installation invites us to explore the stark contrast between the personas people project to the world and the authentic selves they keep hidden. Behind every face is a unique story, waiting to be revealed.

Some artists chose to represent their inside/outside selves, their before/after the death, or a mask that represents the person who has died.





John, 1950s  
Age 10  
The artist's father was a doctor and  
the artist's mother was a nurse.



John, 1950s  
Age 10  
The artist's father was a doctor and  
the artist's mother was a nurse.



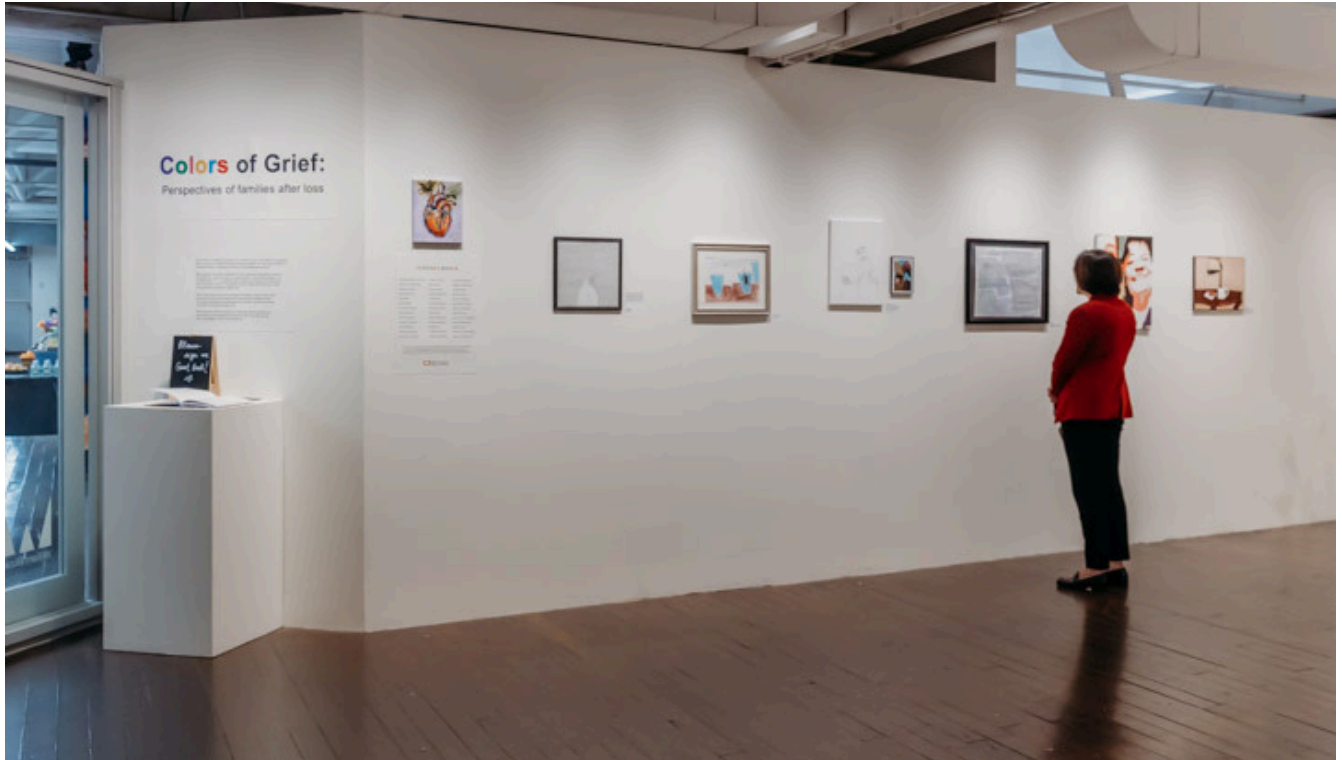














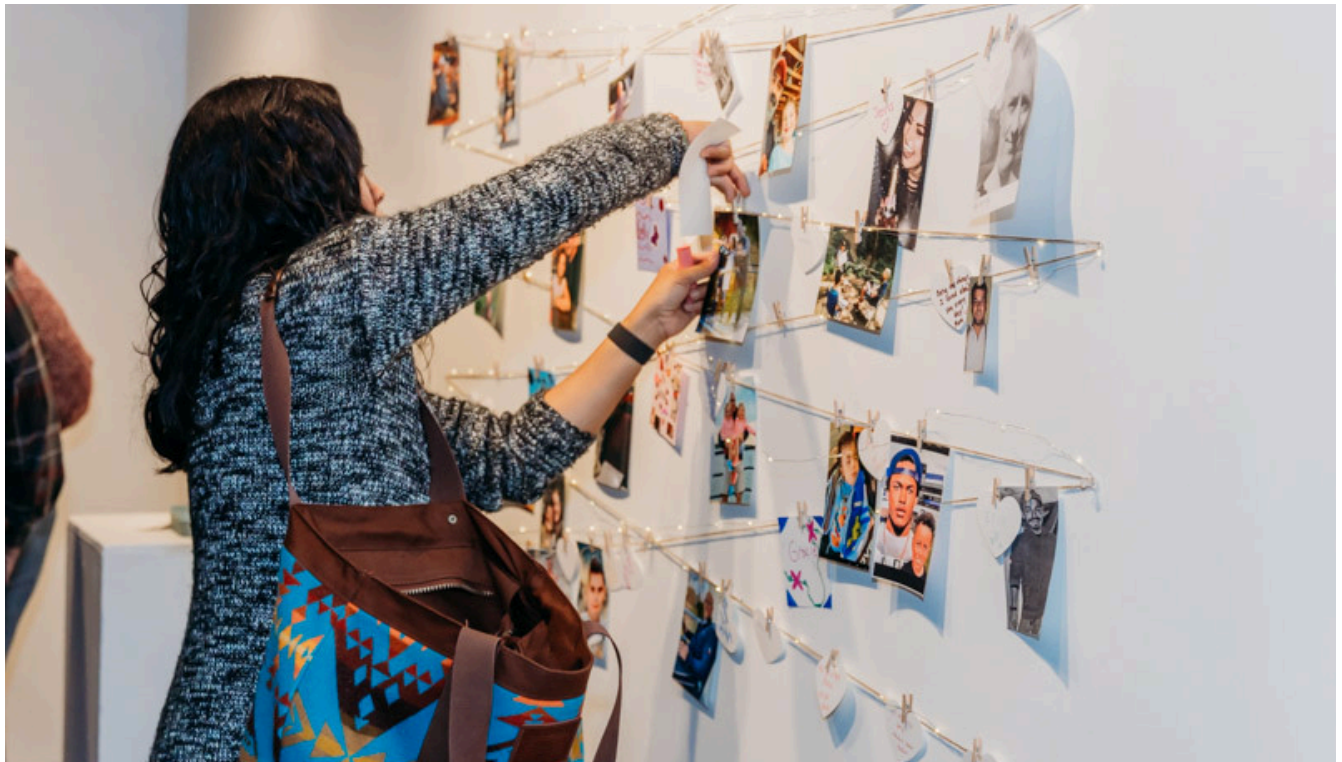


















# WALL OF MEMORIES



*"We speak their names because they are a part of everything that we do.  
We speak their names because they are still, and always will be, a part of us."*

To Kellie Murphy and the William Blizzard Gallery at Springfield College:

thank  you

Your enthusiasm, compassion, and exceptional care have made this show truly special. The time and attention you dedicated to understanding each artist's unique connection to their work made all the difference. It means so much to us that their masterpieces were handled with such respect and understanding.

Thank you for providing them with a meaningful platform to share their stories.



# thank you



**to Ally Montemagni Photography**

She truly “captured the beauty of life” and loss “through the lens of her camera”.

We are grateful for her generosity in donating her time to photograph our opening reception.

These stunning photographs will let us relive these moments over and over again