



Danika shares an example of what the Bayfield Historical Society is looking for as part of their efforts to collect stories and art from children, under the age of 12 years, documenting their experience of living during an historic pandemic. (Submitted photo)

It would seem that the whole world is coming together through the arts during the COVID-19 pandemic and in this little corner of the globe, children, families and individuals physical distancing are finding various ways to be creative to spread hope, give thanks and in one case raise funds for a worthy cause.

On March 23, Alexa Yeo, a young musical talent that goes by "The Hometown Harpist" posted to Facebook a piece of music she wrote for the harp entitled, "Light in the Darkness". She performs this music in the background while over 50 children from across Ontario, including a few familiar Bayfield and area faces, offer thanks to the workers worldwide that are on the frontlines during this crisis. Since the launch on Facebook the video has been viewed nearly 10,000 times and has been featured on both local and national news.

To view the video visit: [www.facebook.com/hometownharpist/videos/517487039192560/](https://www.facebook.com/hometownharpist/videos/517487039192560/)



The Blue Heart Campaign is a way that children and families can also show their support for health care workers. (Photo by Melody Falconer-Pounder)

The Blue Heart Campaign is a way that children and families can also show their support for health care workers. People are encouraged to create their own hearts, color them in shades of blue and hang them in their front windows as an homage to all toiling in health care environments. People are using two hashtags to share their efforts: #bluehearts and #heartoutforhealthcare.

Taking the Blue Heart idea to the next level some people have been making them the central focus of homemade stain glass art designs - using acrylic paints and painters' tape - taking their



Some people have been making homemade stain glass art designs - using acrylic paints and painters' tape - taking their cues from bloggers on the internet now homeschooling their children and looking for fun ways to get creative and spread hope. (Photo by Jenny Shanahan)



On March 22, the Facebook Group, "Rock ON Huron" was started to provide a creative outlet for people while social distancing. (Photo by Jenny Shanahan)



One of two designs created through the collaboration of Genelle Reid, Owligraphy Designs, and Bethany Davidson, WorldRooted: the Art Project for People, that will be appearing on t-shirts, posters and stickers for sale in support of Rural Response for Healthy Children. (Submitted photo)

According to Davidson, the goal is to raise \$8,000 to help supply local families.

"Even more so, we hope parents and caregivers will know they've got a community that sees and

cues from bloggers on the internet now homeschooling their children and looking for fun ways to get creative and spread hope.

On March 22, the Facebook Group, "Rock ON Huron" was started to provide a creative outlet for people while social distancing. It was created by Elizabeth's Art Gallery in Goderich. The group currently has over 135 members who have been sharing the art they are designing on and with rocks. To learn more visit: [www.facebook.com/groups/843606959488815/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/843606959488815/)

Chalk art is another creative form that is popping up on area sidewalks and one local maker has adapted it into a fundraiser for the local non-profit she works for, Rural Response for Healthy Children (RRHC).

"Our organization is committed to creating a community of well-being for Huron County families," said Genelle Reid, the talent behind Owligraphy Designs. "During this pandemic, we have launched the "Let Love Go Viral" campaign, where we will be responding to the needs of families by getting them essential items via the purchase of gift cards."



**For a minimum \$20.00 donation to Rural Response for Healthy Children Owligraphy Designs will come to your driveway or sidewalk to spread some positivity in the community**

For a minimum donation of \$20 to Rural Response for Healthy Children, Genelle Reid, of Owligraphy Designs, will come to your driveway or sidewalk and letter in sidewalk chalk a positive message of your choosing in an effort to spread some positive messages around Huron County. (Submitted photo)

For a minimum donation of \$20 to RRHC, Reid will come to your driveway or sidewalk and letter in sidewalk chalk a positive message of your choosing in an effort to spread some positive messages around Huron County. To learn more about the process of garnering customized sidewalk art visit, [www.rrhc.on.ca/let-love-go-viral/](http://www.rrhc.on.ca/let-love-go-viral/)

The intention of the RRHC campaign is to respond to the growing stress levels Huron County families are experiencing. Their current response is providing grocery and gas/taxi gift cards to families and the need has quickly become apparent with 43 sets of gift cards being requested in just one week.

In addition to the customized sidewalk art Reid has collaborated with Bethany Ann Davidson, of Goderich, the face behind WorldRooted: the Art Project for People, in creating a line of t-shirts, posters and stickers for the campaign. These t-shirts, posters and stickers will be available after today (Apr.1).

supports them," said Davidson.

Hijinks! Custom Screen Printing is now taking pre-orders of these beautiful, ethical t-shirts, from which 25 per cent will go straight to RRHC.

"Visit [www.bethanyann.ca](http://www.bethanyann.ca) by Good Friday, Apr. 10 to make your purchase and enter our draw for a whole assortment of "Let Love Go Viral" swag. Or make a social-media post showing your family spreading love, not germs, and hashtag it #LetLoveGoViralRRHC for another chance to enter. Thank you for helping us add to the beauty!" concluded Davidson.

So how can all of this creativity be captured for posterity? Especially the stories and artwork that the children, ages 12 and under, are producing right now while they are truly living through history? The Bayfield Historical Society (BHS) wants to help preserve these memories of what life during the pandemic was like for children.

According to Barb Durand, "The Bayfield Historical Society is asking children in Bayfield and surrounding area to submit written stories and or their artwork for a future collection. We will display this collection in our windows (at the Archives on Main Street) when we are allowed back on the street. Either a scanned copy or their original artwork will be kept at the archives for a future collection. We may also use the material to create a printed book."

Durand, who looks after publications for the BHS, notes that, this is not a contest but a collection that will document the children's stories. She asks that the children sign their artwork or story on their cover page and on the back cover list their age and school.

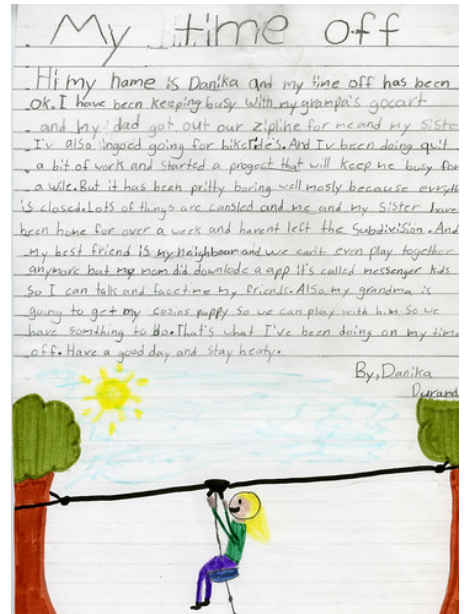
"We will ask for the submissions when the time comes for us to re-open. We are documenting history. Thank-you and wishing all families to stay safe and healthy," Durand concluded.

For more information on this BHS project please email [barbarad@hay.net](mailto:barbarad@hay.net).



Chalk art design created by Genelle Reid, of Owligraphy Designs in front of Cait's Cafe on The Square in Goderich created for a promotional segment by Scott Miller, CTV News. (Photo by Genelle Reid)

"I'm a huge fan of Genelle, both as an artist and a frontline champion for the Rights of the Child with RRHC. I founded WorldRooted: the Art Project for People to shine a light on people like her, then watched for the perfect opportunity to collaborate," explained Davidson. "When Executive Director Selena Hazlitt told me about the extra time and expenses Rural Response for Healthy Children is pouring into their pandemic action, I knew it was time."



Danika's story - the Bayfield Historical Society is asking that the children sign their artwork or story on their cover page and on the back cover list their age and school. (Submitted photo)



## PIXILATED — IMAGE OF THE WEEK