### "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19: 1



# "A photograph ís usually looked at seldom looked ínto." — <u>Ansel Adams</u> <u>ACTIVITY:</u> Visiting Artist

### **SUPPLIES NEEDED:**

**\*\*Visiting Artist** 

\*\* Table for propping up artist's paintings (Artist usually brings easel)

**\*\***Microphone so residents can hear the artist's voice better

#### Directions:

After the artist has completed her set up, the Activity Director makes the introduction to the audience in a jubilant manner with the purpose of bringing the residents into the moment and creating excitement about the opportunity of viewing a wide variety of beautiful paintings. Then, after a painting is presented by the artist, the activity director holds the drawing in front of each resident so the work can be carefully scrutinized. This accommodates the residents' visual needs brought on by the aging process. As this is transpiring, the audience members are invited to participate by making comments or asking questions.

Consequently, if this process is followed, the quote made by Ansel Adams, "A PHOTOGRAPH IS USUALLY LOOKED AT SELDOM LOOKED INTO", will not even be an issue. Given the fact the elderly residents are known to be living in the moment, in what is labeled as their winter season of life, they are eager to drink deeply of each experience. No longer are they concerned about any type of façade called, "What will others think if I truly share my thoughts?" Additionally, the wisdom they impart is worth its weight in gold!

#### Result: Not only will the presentation be enhanced, but develop into a learning experience for everyone involved.

## <u>MEET THE ARTIST</u>

Ladies and gentlemen, meet Lyndsey Standage, a young lady that just graduated from high school and possess the maturity of a very wise adult. Not only will she attend Drury University in the fall with a full scholarship in golf, but at the same time, pursue a career in the field of art; a direction that will allow her to turn her passion into a career.

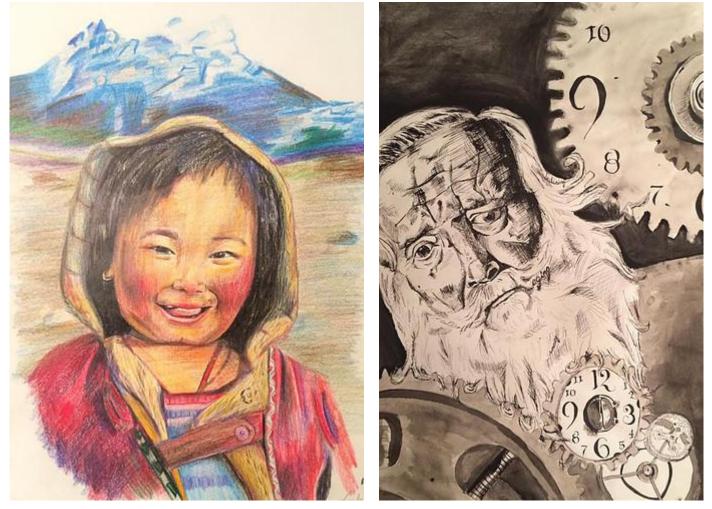
Consequently, when the writer invited Lyndsey to present her art to residents of a nursing home, she literally jumped at the opportunity without a moment's hesitation. This young lady absolutely thrives on the possibility of spreading her love affair with art to others; no matter the age.

Thus, the confidence she displayed when handed the microphone, was astounding, indeed! Her demeanor and sweet personality captured the attention of every resident in the room from the moment she spoke her first word until the closing farewell.

### LET THE SHOW BEGIN!



Lyndsey was accompanied by her friend, Nick Shannon, who assisted her throughout the presentation. Having known each other since 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the ease with which they interacted was amazing. There is nothing Nick enjoys more than sitting in a room with Lyndsey just watching and admiring this artist at work. It can be described as a comfortable, peaceful silence where two hearts become one.



"Native Girl"



As you view the paintings above, it should be noted the medium this artist uses doesn't seem to matter. She is at ease with pencils, oil, acrylic, water color, or charcoal and chooses based on what she is trying to achieve. Although her favorite subject is painting portraits, she is at home in the contemporary world, as well. No matter what Lyndsey paints, the canvas is literally alive with passion. If she is painting the portrait of a homeless individual, you sense her compassion with every stroke of her brush. If she is showing humor in her drawings, your funny bone is immediately tickled. Her beautiful paintings allow you to peer deeply into her soul.



The residents are glued to Lyndsey's comments about this portrait of her favorite teacher; a gentleman whose unique personality offered the challenge of literally making the soul of an individual come alive on canvas. The residents were so captivated by it they quizzed her about, not only his name, but who he was as a person.

Garry, a resident that had worked for a department store in St. Louis, Missouri called Famous and Barr designing their windows, catalogues, and store sets, wasted no time in asking poignant questions regarding Lyndsey's paintings. He wanted to know why she chose to make the eyes portray a certain expression as well as what changes she would make if she had a do over.

> (Note the expression on Lyndsey's face as she responds.) She was also offered the opportunity to team with this gentleman as she pursued her studies at Drury University. Not only would Garry enjoy sharing his wisdom, but her company, as well.

# THEY ARE GLUED TO HER EVERY WORD!



# OH, JOY!



# **MORE INSTRUCTION!**



At this point, Lyndsey shared another approach used by her art teacher that taught how to gain a sense of freedom when approaching a project. She had to paint a self portrait by viewing herself from the chin up; a very difficult task, indeed. When she observed the residents peering at it in a quizzical manner, she quickly told them it was perfectly all right if they felt it did not resemble her. That was a show of confidence, wasn't it? They just smiled sweetly at her and quickly started dishing out compliments.



This is the usual procedure Tim Trafford and Melody Childers follow when a presentation occurs. They always involve the residents by giving them the opportunity to view the paintings close up which facilitates learning. Lyndsey actually invited the residents to touch her paintings so they could get a sense of the layering process she used to achieve the depth desired.

## **PASSING OF TIME!**



Lyndsey shared a very interesting approach showing the passing of time by using a subject's appearance as the years progressed. This group of people could certainly relate to the fact that life is like the flowers in the field; here today and gone tomorrow. At this point, the writer wondered what was going through their minds as their eyes soaked in the theme. During this stage of life, all layers have been whittled away causing them to live in the moment; thus, enjoying each wonderful ray of sunshine. Although they relish the memories stored in their earlier seasons of the journey, they don't linger there.

# **A CHANGE OF PACE!**



After seeing many beautiful paintings, Lyndsey surprised the group by requesting a volunteer to serve as a model. The task at hand would be for her to paint a portrait of this person within only 15 minutes. So many people wanted to be selected that a drawing had to be the method of choice. (Lyndsey studied her very carefully before beginning.)

### LYNDSEY BEGAN!



## "COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE"

SHE IS EXCELLENT! WE LOVE ART AND APPRECIATE THIS EXPERIENCE!

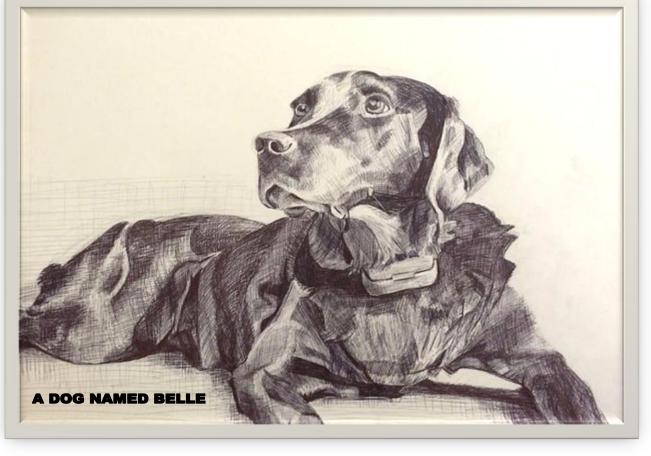
**IMPOSSIBLE TO CHOOSE A FAVORITE!** 



## **WHEELCHAIR STANDING OVATION!**





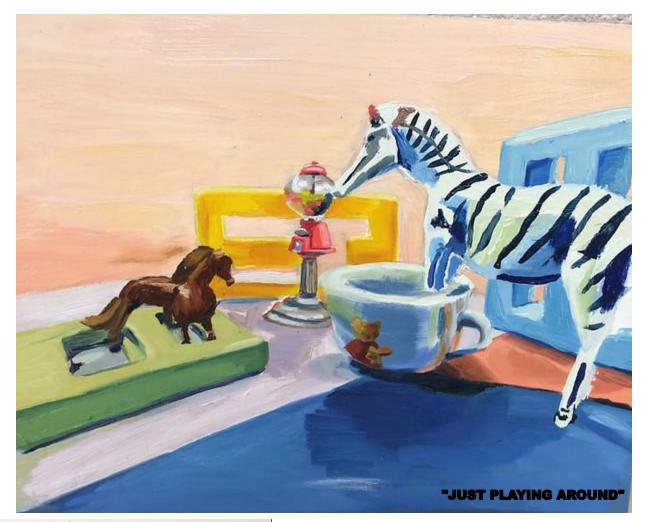


**ABSTRACT 1** 



**ABSTRACT 2** 







Ladies and gentlemen, these paintings will give you just a tantalizing sample of Lyndsey Standage's works of art. The talent this young artist possesses is truly an extraordinary blessing from her Creator. One only needs to study her work for a short time to conclude how bright her future will be in this journey called life. These gifts coupled with her sweet spirit present a magnificent duo that will allow her to touch many lives; a destiny that she understands fully.

In order to appreciate even more of her work, the writer invites you to visit her site:

sscoop.wix.com/standagelyndseyart