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The City of Aberdeen Celebrates Partnership between Art Therapy and Community Engagement



Aberdeen, MD- On December 12, 2018 the City of Aberdeen held a luncheon celebration for the Key Point Behavioral Health clients and staff that dedicated their summer to creating the Aberdeen Mural located on the side of the Aberdeen Room and Archives Museum at 18 Howard Street. The Aberdeen Mural not only captures the spirit of the Aberdeen community, but also the future partnership of taking a community approach toward behavioral health services. Pictured with Mayor Patrick McGrady, is Dr. Karl Weber and more than a dozen Key Point mural volunteers.

Key Point Health provides exceptionally high behavioral health care aiding their clients who range from recently discharged to fully integrated community placement. The City and Key Point partnered to provide therapy through the arts, which in turn provides beautification and pride to the community.

Sarah Hammel, one of Key Point's Rehabilitation Counselor's and mural coordinator said "the clients were able to build relationships with their peers by consistently working on the mural and

were able to explore their range of artistic skills through this opportunity. It was a unique experience for them, and I am so glad they had the chance to do something so special for the City of Aberdeen.”

This mural could start a conversation for more opportunities such as this in the future. The City of Aberdeen is thankful for the mural that makes an ordinary building extraordinary and adds character to the downtown. There is potential for this kind of partnership to culminate more community engagement throughout the City with community clean-up events and other volunteer activity.

The City of Aberdeen City Manager, Randy Robertson said “For the clients of Key Point it was therapeutic. For the Aberdeen Museum it was beautification. For the Citizens and businesses of Aberdeen it’s reflective of the community partnership we strive to have with everyone in this growing community.”

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