

All's Wellsville

BY PENNY WILLIAMS



Hannah at work securing her future.

Rural Western New York is experiencing a renaissance throughout many of its local communities. Not only local artists and businessman, but many students filled with entrepreneurial spirit, are finding ways to become more involved. One such town is Wellsville, and one such businessman is Andy Glanzman, President and CEO of Northern Lights Enterprises and the Wellsville Creative Arts Center. The Creative Arts Center has turned into a creative gym, through Andy's support, where young people can strengthen their creativity and benefit from the success of their inspired endeavors. The Center has become a virtual town square where everyone is welcome to take part in the hands-on appreciation of design and the arts.

Wellsville has a population of approximately 5000 people. It's a community of people who love their rural setting and friendly neighbors. But it also is a town that is feeling the pain of a dwindling population and closing storefronts. During National Entrepreneurship Week 2008, businessmen, teachers, and students worked together to find ways of benefiting their communities.

The arts are a way that students can be directly involved because of their talent, their teachers and their mentors. The Creative Arts Center offered to hold a juried art show where young artists could display their works and also put a price tag on them so that interested citizens and tourists could purchase pieces that caught their eye. This community effort was supported with cash prizes from local businesses, art instruction from educators from the region's schools and colleges and a beautiful setting within the Center.

Hannah Thompsett won the Best in Show cash prize for her unusual work. Hannah's creativity was shown via the medium she used to create the piece. Rather than a conventional paint and brushes she used 35,625 staples. Her unique approach was prompted by her deep interest in the arts and entrepreneurship. She understands that she needs a special niche in order to benefit financially from her designs. There is no doubt according to the customers, the businessmen, and the art show patrons, that Hannah will find great success in the coming years as she identifies or creates markets for her unusual projects. Additional information on activities at the Wellsville Creative Arts can be found at www.wellsvillecreativeartscenter.com

