



• *Enriching the lives of our community through the arts* •

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARTS COUNCIL FOR MONTEREY COUNTY PARTICIPATES IN MONTEREY COUNTY GIVES!

(Seaside, CA - November 9, 2021) The Arts Council for Monterey County (Arts4MC) is thrilled to announce we have been invited to participate again in the *Monterey County Gives!* community-wide campaign. In partnership with the Community Foundation for Monterey County and the Monterey County Weekly, we will be raising funds this year for our Arts as Healing program.

The pandemic has devastated Monterey County and many people are still suffering the effects of trauma, stress, and isolation as a result. The Arts Council's Arts as Healing programs have been proven to help re-engage marginalized and overlooked populations in our own community: children, seniors, veterans, and at-risk youth. By providing opportunities for creative expression through visual and performing arts with specially trained artists – adapted for distance learning as well as in-person – our community members are offered an outlet to process complex emotions and begin the healing process.

Through practiced partnerships for seniors with Meals on Wheels Salinas Valley and affordable housing provider CHISPA, at-risk youth with Sun Street Centers and Rancho Cielo, and veterans through the Veterans Transition Center, the Arts Council is committed to providing care for those most in need.

“There has never been a more critical time in our lives for art to heal our community. Whether it’s by painting, dancing, writing or watching television or film, the arts help us find coping strategies and the strength to heal from trauma such as the pandemic” shared Jacquie Atchison, Arts4MC Executive Director.

At our visual arts class at CHISPA, one of teaching artist’ senior memory care students, Tom, painted a picture of five tomatoes of all different sizes. “That’s my family,” he said, “I used to call my family ‘my little Tom-aters.’” This was a breakthrough moment. He often doesn’t remember where he is or where he’s come from, but through our program, he was able to reconnect with memories of his family.

Make a gift to change lives by supporting local arts and mental health at bit.ly/artsheal.

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The mission of the Arts Council for Monterey County (ACMC) is to improve the quality of life for everyone in our region through the arts. For more information, please email info@arts4mc.org

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