From: Erin McManus
To: Rep. Mike Clampitt
Subject: CARES for ARTS Funding
Date: Saturday, January 23, 2021 08:22:34 AM

Dear Representative Clampitt,

I would like to express my deep appreciation for your help in providing CARES for Arts funding to western North Carolina.

I am the Director of Full Spectrum Farms, a small non-profit in Jackson County, NC that provides services to people impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorder. At the center of Full Spectrum Farms is the art therapy program that we now provide weekly online and outdoors to clients of all ages. In December 2020 Full Spectrum Farms received funding from the CARES for Arts via the Jackson County Arts Council. As you may know, the Autism Community of WNC has been hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent closures to slow the spread. The families that we serve report that their loved ones with ASD are experiencing increased depression, anxiety, and decreased communication skills during this time. Changes in schedule, closure of schools and therapeutic programs have taken a toll. Now more than ever therapeutic arts remain critical in treatment of this fragile population. We strive to provide programming free of charge to anyone with ASD and this year without our regular fundraisers, grants and donations, funding was tight. Without CARES for Arts funding, it would be difficult for Full Spectrum Farms to continue the art therapy services we provide.

Thus, on behalf of Full Spectrum Farms, staff, volunteers, and clients we thank you for your help in providing this aid.

Sincerely,

Erin McManus
Director
Full Spectrum Farms
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