

The Center for Arts and Humanities...

...*encourages creative expression* through a variety of artistic and cultural experiences that support the recovery process.

...seeks to make the *arts available and accessible* to people of all ages and from all walks of life who make and share art together.

...*reaches out* to those who may feel isolated, and introduces them to others in the community through art, creativity, and fun!

...offers innovative programming that includes collaborations with this region's teaching artists and cultural centers to *provide a rich and varied educational experience* for students.

... *seeks to break down barriers* including fear and stereotypes, while creating a welcoming community grounded in hope.

... provides an opportunity for participants to exhibit and sell their work which *fosters confidence and independence.*

Do I Need Any Prior Experience or Training?

Absolutely not! The center welcomes those with any level of experience—from the beginner who has never tried any type of art form, to the most experienced artist. The center provides a pressure-free environment where individuals decide their level of participation. One of the center's main goals is to provide a place that stimulates and inspires growth, both as an artist and as an individual, and for those looking for it, help and guidance along the way.

How Do I Know What Classes are Offered and When?

Classes and times change periodically based on teachers' availability and schedule of center events. Simply call the studio at **(814) 456-2731** or ask for a schedule of upcoming classes.

Is There a Fee for the Classes or the Supplies I Use?

In most cases, there is no fee for either. If students are in a position to make a donation, the center welcomes any contribution for instruction and supplies.

How Can I Get Involved?

There are a number of ways for those interested in the arts and humanities to get involved. Here are just a few—

- Take a class
- Sponsor a program
- Become a donor
- Become a volunteer
- Teach a class
- Purchase artwork



To find out more about any of these activities, please contact the center's director.

About the Center's Director

The Center for Arts and Humanities' director is Lee Steadman. Steadman is a painter, teaching artist and arts education program specialist. He has had solo and group art exhibitions around the U.S. and has illustrated several books on nature. Steadman's art work can be found in museums' permanent collections. His work has appeared at the Smithsonian Institution and the Frick Museum of Fine Art. Steadman has designed and participated in several long-term art residency projects at schools throughout Pa. He is on the board of trustees of the Arts Council of Erie and is an active member of the arts community in the region.



Who is Stairways Behavioral Health?

For persons with mental health care needs, Stairways Behavioral Health is a place to go for hope. We understand how to treat a variety of mental conditions, but more importantly we know how to treat people. We take great care in learning about each person's hopes, fears and desire to lead a meaningful life. We listen, and we care about personal growth.

From rehabilitating persons in crisis to helping teens deal with depressive disorders, Stairways has evolved into one of the most comprehensive health care providers in northwest Pennsylvania. Founded in 1961 by the Erie Chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women, Stairways offers a rich array of services and a variety of approaches for men, women and children wanting to improve their mental well being.



What Types of Classes are Offered?

- **Drawing & Painting** From the beginner to advanced student, this class explores a wide variety of drawing and painting mediums. Everyone can learn to draw and paint!
- *Music* Stairways' choral group Baraka sings at many community events throughout the year and enjoys a great following. New members are always welcome.
- **Fused Glass** This popular class introduces the art of fused glass to the student. Jewelry, ornaments, sun catchers, and functional bowls/vases are made out of colorful glass.
- *Creative Writing* The center provides instruction for many forms of written expression. Participants practice their writing expertise through poetry, stories, novels, plays, essays, memoirs, and screenplays as an attitude, a behavior, a craft, and an art.
- **Sculpture** For the person who really enjoys working with their hands, this class explores personal expression using the three-dimensional form.
- **Printmaking** This beautiful art form is a great way for the beginner to create imagery. This class includes monoprints from drawings and nature, intaglio, relief, silk screen, papermaking and printing press instruction.
- **OPEN STUDIO** Feel free to explore whatever art form you'd like during open studio. Instruction for all art forms, space, and materials will be available.



Stairways Behavioral Health Mission Statement

Stairways Behavioral Health is a private, non-profit organization that assists persons with mental health care needs at any stage of life by providing comprehensive rehabilitation, treatment and supports essential for living, working, learning and participating fully in the community.



William F. McCarthy, president and CEO



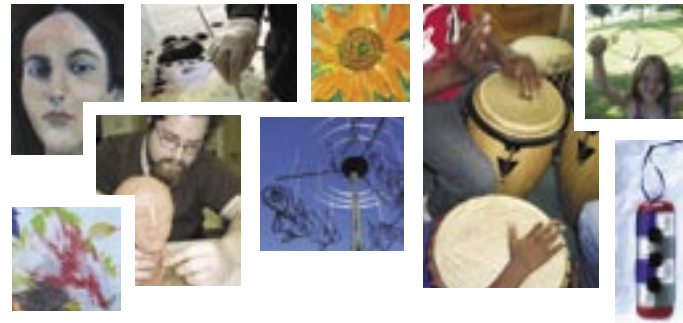
Accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

Lee M. Steadman, director
2810 State Street
Erie, PA 16508
(814) 456-2731 office
(814) 449-2599 cell
(814) 453-4757 fax
www.stairwaysbh.org



Arts & Humanities

FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS



What is the Center for Arts & Humanities?

The Center for Arts and Humanities is an art studio that provides a unique and pressure-free arts experience open to those who have recovered or are recovering from a mental illness, and those who assist them in that journey. The center offers *quality materials and professional instruction* that allow participants to explore a variety of art forms including drawing, painting, dance, music and creative writing to name just a few. The Center for Arts and Humanities promotes creative expression, *independence*, dignity, and *community integration*.

“When I’m at the center, I really feel connected to the Erie arts community.”

“The classes offered here are similar to what are found at a university.”

“Through the center’s exhibitions, I am starting to enjoy steady sales of my art.”

— artists’ statements

