

NAEA 2013 presentation

Forth Worth Texas

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2013 NAEA Convention Theme: Drawing Community Connections

**Finding Beauty in Unexpected Places:  
An Art and Literacy Program for Families Who are Homeless**

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Families who are homeless can face obstacles that seem insurmountable. Can art education address issues in the community? This art and literacy program that helped homeless transform adversity and realize their potential.

Funded by a Strengthening Communities Capacity-Building Grant, this intergenerational art program used strengths/asset approach of resilience theory, and supported mothers in recovery and their children in reframing their environments to see possibility instead of despair. Using an inquiry focus of "*Finding Beauty in Unexpected Places*" participants created art that give voice to this vulnerable population.

Mutually beneficial university-school-community art partnerships strengthen and expand learning, bridge theory to practice and moves beyond service-learning to engaged scholarship and shared authority / active participation of all involved.

This community collaboration informed art teacher preparation, created a replicable model for fostering resilience while meeting the academic, artistic and social needs in the community.

**REFERENCES**

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