



A P A R T WITH ART



Even though we are APART, we continue to serve our youth, support our neighbors, and spread the Van Go love.

When Van Go's ability to provide on-site programming was disrupted mid-March, we were challenged to find a way to engage our youth while remaining socially distant. From this, our APART with ART initiative was born. Apart with ART invites Van Go youth to harness the healing power of art through a service learning project—all from home.

Thirty Van Go youth participated in this initiative by creating artistic cards with a variety of positive messages written inside. Quirky and kind, sympathetic and serious, the hand drawn designs reflect each apprentice-artist's personality. We've provided the cards to community agencies* to distribute to their clients and front line workers.

"These cards were made to help spread positivity and love during such a hard time. Art can bring people joy even in the darkest of times. This was such a fun project! I miss being at work so much, but I'm glad I've gotten to do some work while I am at home," said Brandt, an Apprentice Artist with The Arts Train shared.

Our youth appreciate the continued opportunity to create and be compensated for their work. Ayana, a 17 year-old JAMS Apprentice Artist, said, "Participating in Apart with Art has been so awesome to work on and incredibly helpful for me during this time. This opportunity has not only kept me creative but also motivated which can be sometimes difficult when all we can do is stay home. I've really enjoyed the freedom we have been given on this project because it allows me to explore things I haven't done before but also expand on things I have. I have personally enjoyed this creative exercise and it is so great to hear the community has enjoyed seeing and receiving what we have been working on."

The cards have been well received by our community partners, who have distributed hundreds of cards to date. "This is a fabulous gesture of community support, and we are humbled by your generosity of spirit!"

one partner wrote to us.

Van Go's late spring programming also included weekly 'Van ZOOM' meetings, social work services, plus culinary and photography rotations for our Arts Train youth. We remain committed to our mission: To improve the lives of high-needs youth using art as the vehicle for self-expression, self-confidence, and hope for the future. **We are grateful to our community partners who allow us to continue this vital work.**

#RISELAWRENCE

*If you are an agency serving front line workers or clients in need, and would like to request a set of cards, please email us@van-go.org

[View entire photo quilt here](#)

Van Go is funded in part by:

Heartland Works/Department of Labor, City of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas Health Foundation, Ethel and Raymond Rice Foundation, Kriz Foundation, Shumaker Family Foundation, Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission, Douglas County Community Foundation, Topeka Community Foundation, Hills Pet Nutrition, Evergy, Hallmark, Scott Temperature, Intrust Bank, CEK Insurance, Central National Bank, Rademacher Financial, Jim Bost Plumbing, SS&C.



DONATE



Van Go, Inc. | 785-842-3797 | us@van-go.org | www.van-go.org