

Dorchester Reporter

“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

The Art of Caring

Boston Home to Highlight Beauty on Canvas and in the Soul

**By Patrick McGroarty
Special to the Reporter**

Providing compassionate living assistance to adults living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and related neurological diseases is an artistic achievement in itself. It seems fitting then that the Boston Home will celebrate excellence in the art of caring with an exhibition and sale of paintings on Sunday June 26 at the Boston Home. The juried art exhibition and sale will take place between 1 and 4 p.m. at the Boston Home's 2049 Dorchester Ave. Location. Visitors will find refreshments, music, and visual art by a diverse group of artists at this second annual event.

“Some of the artists are residents of the Boston Home, some are from the greater Boston Arts Community, and some are from other parts of the country while all have come together to support this wonderful cause.” Said Karen Quigley, vice president of the Boston Home Board of Trustees.

Founded in 1881 as a living facility for Boston residents with physical disabilities, the Boston Home began to focus more narrowly on the needs of adults with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) about a decade ago. Recently named a “model of excellence” by the National MS Society, the Home finds a strong advocate in Florence Rawls, director of community development.

“The Boston Home is one of only a few facilities in the country that specializes in caring for younger adults. We have become the standard in the industry,” Rawls says. “This is a permanent home for our 96 residents, and this art exhibition is a chance for them to interact with a larger community of which they are a real part.”

Residents of the Boston Home helped plan this weekend's exhibition, and several contributed art works to the judged competition or will sit on the jury. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the residents' Arts, Entertainment, and Outings Program and the Boston Home plans to purchase one piece for permanent display.

For Elizabeth Colburn-Morates, a Boston Home board member living with MS, the real benefit goes far beyond that of a fundraiser:

“Some of these artists are living with MS, some are residents here. This event will be a wonderful chance to expose people to the different stages of MS, and to show them what a light-hearted environment the Boston Home really is.”