



## Our Newest Venture

Since the final Laura's March in September 2016, we have been considering how the LKW Fund would continue to have a significant impact on the Burlington community. We are thrilled to announce our biggest project to date: the creation of the **Laura Kate Winterbottom Art Therapy Center at the Integrated Arts Academy at the H.O. Wheeler School** in Burlington's Old North End.



To make this project a reality, we need your help. Please donate [here](#) or send a check to LKW Fund, PO Box 65176, Burlington VT 05401.

The LKW Art Therapy Center offers the opportunity to combine our 2 missions: to prevent sexual and domestic violence and to support enrichment programs for disadvantaged children, and promises to be a paradigm in therapeutic and transformative arts education.

Getting the LKW Art Therapy Center started, sustaining it and expanding to include more and more students will require a substantial financial commitment. With donations and in-kind contributions from an architect and contractors, we have commitments to date covering about 60% of construction and the first year operating costs. We hope you will consider making a tax deductible donation to help us develop this program as well as continue to work on and support other projects.

The Old North End is one of the most impoverished areas in New England. Many IAA students are very vulnerable in that they come from generational poverty or are refugees, and may have experienced complex trauma from exposure to sexual, physical or substance abuse, war, violence, and acculturation.

One of the key elements in preventing abusive and violent behavior is early intervention. Art therapy is a powerful intervention tool that enables at-risk children to explore their feelings, express themselves in a healthy manner, and develop socially appropriate skills and behavior. Art therapy has the capacity to change the trajectory of the lives of disaffected children. It can provide a channel for positive transformation and growth. (The picture above is a sample of the art that children are already creating at IAA.) As Pablo Picasso noted: *"Art washes from the soul the dust of everyday life."*

[Make Your 2017 Donation Here](#)

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## Our 2017 Donations

- In the beginning of 2017, we sponsored a self-defense workshop offered by **The Safety Team** for a group of refugee women.
- In March, we made a donation to the annual **Burlington Women's Day**

### Celebration.

- In early summer, we provided scholarships for children to attend **HSCC's Camp Paw Paw, Vermont Works for Women's Rosie's Girls** and **Dirt Divas** summer programs, and **Burlington City Arts'** summer camp.
- In late December, we will be participating in **STEPS Wish List** program for children, donating family memberships to **ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain** to families chosen by **KidSafe, Lund, and Sarah Holbrook Community Center**, as well as making donations to support a variety of community organizations.

***The LKW Fund has now donated over \$180,000 back to the community! With your help, we can do even more.***

[Make Your 2017 Donation Here](#)

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## Our Board

A warmest welcome to our newest board members: **Erin Desautels**, Principal of Vermont Small Business Accelerators, LLC and **Kevin Lumpkin**, Litigation Attorney with Sheehey, Furlong, & Behm.

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Shopping Amazon this Holiday Season? Support us when you shop too! Go to [smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3811327](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3811327) and Amazon donates a portion of your purchase to The LKW Fund or click this box to go directly to Amazon Smile!

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## A Thought

*If I can stop one heart from breaking,  
I shall not live in vain;  
If I can ease one life the aching,  
Or cool one pain...*

This excerpt from an Emily Dickinson poem captures the aspiration of Laura's Fund. With so many feeling disenfranchised, or oppressed, or violated, or neglected, these are dark times. The LKW Fund tries to shine a ray of light into that darkness. It was a reason that we heeded the plea of The Safety Team for financial assistance so that Muslim women and other refugees could take self-defense workshops and a reason that we are investing in the healing arts program at the Integrated Arts Academy. The LKW Fund strives for a purposeful existence by doing what it can to alleviate the misfortune of others, ease their pain, and transform or enhance their lives. We appreciate whatever help you can give us in our efforts. If you would like to support our mission, you can mail a donation to LKW Fund, PO Box 65176, Burlington VT 05401; or click [here](#).

With gratitude for your support, we wish you a season of abiding peace and well-being.

JoAnn W.



