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Santa Barbara County Department of Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services

2007 Mental Health and Recovery Art Calendar Showcases Consumer Talent, Fights Stigma

ADMHS has published the *2007 Mental Health and Recovery Art Calendar*. Copies may be ordered for \$10 each by calling (805) 681-5220.

The full-color calendar features 13 paintings and watercolors by consumers of alcohol, drug and/or mental health services residing in Santa Barbara County. For the first time, the calendar also features information about each artist.

Featured artists in the 2007 calendar are **Rodger Casier, Robert M. Gordon, Lesley Grogan, Thomas Jennings, Robert Keeler, Natalie Khoury, Shari Lucas, JoAnn Myer, Rebecca Neal, Antoinette Smith, Jon Sean Toolan, and Trinaty.**

"The consumer art calendar makes a wonderful holiday gift that shows the talents, creativity, and positive contributions of persons with mental illness," notes Dr. **Jim Broderick**, Director. "It serves as both an effective stigma-busting tool and vehicle for personal empowerment."

Recovery and Transformation

Each artist is the embodiment of hope, inspiration and transformation. For example, until recently, one of the artists had been homeless for more than 18 years. Upon hearing that he would be published, with tears in his eyes he remarked, "I never dreamed that my art would become something of value to others."

The 2007 edition marks the fourth year that ADMHS has showcased consumer artwork. The project was created by ADMHS Team 4 social worker **Dale Pavich**, L.C.S.W., who each year photographs hundreds of client artworks considered for publication in the calendar.

Artists selected for publication reside throughout Santa Barbara County and reflect a wide range of styles and artistic media, including painting, watercolors, and cut-outs.

In 2005 the *Mental Health Art and Recovery Calendar* won the prestigious California State Association of Counties Merit Award, one of only 16 awards statewide out of 234 entries.

Funding for publication of the calendar comes from several sources, including donations from several community-based organizations and from Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) funds. "The calendar embodies several of the guiding principles of the MHSA, including a focus on wellness and consumer empowerment," Dr. Broderick notes. "I would also point out that with the current emphasis on balancing our budget, no funds for this project come from core programs."

ADMHS is grateful to Kinko's in Santa Barbara, which has donated majority of the production costs of the calendar.

