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Statewide exhibit of art by Hoosiers with developmental disabilities visits Terre Haute

Terre Haute—Beginning May 3, a unique art show continues its year-long tour throughout the state of Indiana at the main branch of the Vigo County Library in Terre Haute. “What’s important to me! An exhibit of art by Hoosiers with developmental disabilities” reflects the needs, hopes, and goals of Indiana residents with developmental disabilities through artistic creations.

Artwork by dozens of individuals from around the state will be on display, including pieces from local Terre Haute artists Melissa Eland, Lisa Hollingsworth, Josh Strohm, and Joe Kadel. Bloomington artist Mary Smith also brings her talents to the exhibit, among dozens of others from around the state. The artists present their skills and talents through a diverse variety of styles, including paintings, pencil sketching, and textile works, which reflect the contributions they make in their communities and the interests they have in their lives.

Developed to raise awareness about developmental disabilities, the tour facilitates community integration of individuals with autism, cerebral palsy, and other diagnoses, and creates a greater understanding of the person-centered services provided to individuals with developmental disabilities by the State of Indiana and Indiana Professional Management Group (IPMG). In September 2006, IPMG became the sole provider of case management services to individuals receiving an Autism, Developmental Disabilities, or Support Services Waiver from the State of Indiana. The Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS), a department of Indiana’s Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), administers the waiver program for more than 12,700 Hoosier waiver recipients.

Sponsored by IPMG, “What’s important to me!” paints a picture of how person-centered thinking can be implemented by those who support individuals with developmental disabilities, as they work together to provide quality person-centered planning for each individual. The exhibit provides a tangible reflection of the things important for each person, such as health and safety issues, as well as those things important to the waiver recipient, such as their hopes, dreams, and the goals they have for their lives within their communities. Ensuring each person’s waiver is used to move the recipient forward with these two important concepts is the hallmark of IPMG’s person-centered case management services.

“What’s important to me!” will be displayed at the Vigo County Library until May 28. The exhibit will then travel to various cities across the state, including Indianapolis, South Bend, and Richmond. Earlier this year, the exhibit visited Evansville, and spent the month of March at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis, in recognition of Disabilities Awareness Month.

For more information on the exhibit, visit IPMG’s website at www.gotoipmg.com/art.

IPMG is a statewide organization that quickly and creatively responds to the needs of people with developmental disabilities by forming solutions that endure. Successfully meeting the needs of Waiver recipients is paramount to all aspects of the organization. IPMG’s innovative, 21st Century case management services empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve their goals and thrive in their communities.

For more information on IPMG, contact Nora Loechel at 317.454.8008 or via email at n.loechel@gotoipmg.com, or visit www.gotoipmg.com.