



Tom Eader

A group of seniors from The Manor School completed this mural of a sunrise seascape Monday afternoon at Herbert Grigg Home for the Aged after working on it for 22 hours as part of a volunteer program administered by the nursing home.

Creative volunteers

Manor students take part in new Herbert Grigg program

TOM EADER

ST. CROIX — A team of four seniors from The Manor School recently painted a mural on the outside wall of the cafeteria at Herbert Grigg Home for the Aged while participating in the nursing home's new volunteer program.

Joseph Olmeda, volunteer coordinator for Herbert Grigg, established a struc-

tured, volunteer program for high school students 16 and older at the nursing home about three months ago.

"We decided to visit schools to get kids to volunteer for community service, and we presented the program," he said.

After explaining how the volunteer program works to students at Manor, Olmeda said a group of seniors offered to paint a mural at Herbert Grigg. The stu-

dents who painted the mural were Lorie Jeffers, class valedictorian; Niza Delorme, class salutatorian; Calvin Richards and Kenrick Duinker.

The students painted a sunrise seascape on the outside wall of the cafeteria. The cafeteria is not only used by Herbert Grigg patients and staff, but it is

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also used by civic groups and government agencies to host meetings.

"We thought that was the best place to showcase the mural," said Vera Falu, Herbert Grigg director.

Now that students from the graduating senior class from Manor have painted a mural on one section of the cafeteria wall, Falu said Herbert Grigg will partner with Manor every year to have the senior class paint a mural on the other sections of the wall.

"They're going to adopt that area," she said.

Cindy Male, middle school and high school art teacher at Manor, said four out of seven senior art students worked on the mural for a couple hours each afternoon, completing it Monday after 22 hours of work.

"One of the things we have been working with recently is trying to create a depth of space in the painting, and I think they did a really good job with that," Male said.

The art students had an opportunity to implement some of the painting strategies they learned in class while working on the mural as they focused on layering colors. Instead of simply mixing two colors in a container to create a new color, the students painted one color on the wall before painting another color on top of the first color, allowing the eye to see through.

"These are things we've been working on in class, so for them to display it in this mural project is a really good learning experience for them because it reinforced what we've been doing in class," Male said.

Richards said the students regularly received compliments from Herbert Grigg employees as they walked by the cafeteria and saw the students painting the mural. He said they transformed a plain, white wall into something to actually look at.

"It felt good to give back and not even get anything in return," he said.

Manor isn't the only school that has volunteered at Herbert Grigg. Students from other schools have volunteered to distribute booster seats in conjunction with the Virgin Islands Office of Highway Safe-

ty, as well as assist Herbert Grigg nurses with patients.

"It's been a lovely program," Falu said.

Olmeda said he is proud of the volunteer program.

"I'm very proud because I've seen we have accomplished a lot and there's much more that we can accomplish," he said.

Richards said the volunteer program at Herbert Grigg provides students with a variety of community service opportunities. He said students who volunteer at Herbert Grigg also have an opportunity to talk with the patients and learn about how life was in the past. Instead of reading a history book, he said volunteers can learn history from people who lived it.

"The people there are great," Richards said about the Herbert Grigg staff. "They treat you very nice when you go in, they give you a tour around the facility and they let you meet people."

Herbert Grigg plans to visit public, private and parochial high schools during next school year to inform the students about the volunteer program.

"We want to make a collaboration with all the schools that is all-year round," Falu said.

Falu said Herbert Grigg is pleased with the mural the students from Manor created.

"We are really very happy with it," she said. "And this should serve as encouragement for other schools to volunteer at Herbert Grigg."

Now that summer is here and students are out of school, Falu said Herbert Grigg is still accepting student volunteers for the summer. She said the possibilities for volunteers are endless at Herbert Grigg, indicating the patients could even benefit from student volunteers who are barbers and cosmetologists.

"You can be whatever you want, you just tell us and we provide the environment to do what you want," Falu said.

In addition to student volunteers, Falu said Herbert Grigg receives adult volunteers from AARP, Rotary Club, Lions Club and various churches.

"We would like to receive adults too," she said.

Individuals interested in volunteering at Herbert Grigg can make arrangements by calling the nursing home at 778-0708.