



What's Art for Aid?

Art For Aid was born from an understanding that revolves around kindness, connection and sharing, and from the knowledge that art is healing for all. But art requires the tools of the trade to be successful. Access to art supplies and outdoor winter learning gear enhances educational program support for youth. In remote communities, there is not always sufficient access to learning tools because of high costs, funding cuts and transportation challenges. To help mitigate this shortfall I created The Art for Aid Project (Art for Aid) in 2013 as a grassroots initiative to Educators get more art supplies into the classrooms. In 2019 I added to the program by offering winter land based learning gear to communities in need of equipment relative to an outdoor winter classroom. We are entirely volunteer run from tip to tail. We're a grass roots project that collects new and gently used art supplies and redistributes them to remote schools in an effort to support quality art education for Indigenous youth. We seek to educate and support programs that support art and culture in remote Canada.

Art Program Support: From September to May we collect new and gently used, quality art supplies at our tiny warehouse in Carleton Place, Ontario. We sort them and send them out to remote communities through our valued shipping partners and through Canada Post. Remote community schools often have limited access to equipment and art tools because of budget restrictions, insufficient program development and the high costs of shipping. Our intentions are multi-level: to help build bridges of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, to repurpose quality art supplies, to support the planet, and to educate. Art for Aid is an established bridge that connects youth to art tools.

Land Based Learning Program Support: All too often students are unable to utilize outdoor programs because they lack sufficient outerwear to spend the day on a frozen lake. Small remote schools seldom have the budget to outfit an annual program. To help support them we created a program that buys new land based learning gear. We do our best to fill a school's wish list with new winter outdoor equipment, along with ice fishing gear. We couple the programs to maximize benefits to the school.

Professional cartography: Indigenous place-name maps are included in all first-time shipments. The "Coming Home" map was initiated through a grant to the University of Maine's Canadian/American Centre. It involved years of collecting data and traditional place names in some of the most remote areas of Canada. The maps are a wonderful resource that demonstrates the traditional place names and languages of communities as they existed before colonization.

The Art for Aid Fundraising Gift Shop: To help generate income for our demanding shipping and operations budget, we created a place for people to purchase gift items in support of Art for Aid's work. Be sure to sign up for the newsletter or follow us on social media to get updated. Also, check the website and our social media often to see how your support helps us to get the job done.

We are a successful and proud program of Soaring Circle (*formerly I Love First Peoples*), a Canadian registered charity and our host agency/kindred spirit in kindness. Monetary donations in support of our work can be made through www.soaringcircle.ca

Chi miigwetch. Thank you for your interest in supporting our work.

Colleen Gray

Artist & Founder of The Art for Aid Project/Good Person



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