

OCTOBER 2011 MID MONTH ARTICLE by NEDRA FISHER

There are only about two weeks until the 28th Annual Art Reach Auction for the Arts. Our major fundraiser will be held on the CMU campus at the Industrial Engineering & Technology building on Friday, November 4. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and you'll discover great food, music by *Retro*, an open bar, and amazing items to bid on at silent and live auctions. Everything you see has been donated by members of our community in their support of the arts. There are wonderful works including paintings, photography, sculpture, and fiber art given by Al Wildey, Rose Traines, Rex Tower, Mark Cox, Carol Howard, Dana Gardner Clark, Paula Clark Nettleton, and many more area artists. Other exciting items include the use of a Florida condo, four tickets to Disney Land, a Detroit Tiger's baseball signed by Miguel Cabrera, the 2011 American League batting champion, a stay in a NYC hotel, and a kayak with accessories. Both auctions hold many treasures, large and small. A beautiful holiday wreath, a wine basket, jewelry, glassware, gift certificates to restaurants, pizzas, certificates for carpentry and plumbing services, and a golf package are just a few of the exciting things on which you can bid. Thickets are \$50 per person, \$30 of which is tax deductible, and are available at Art Reach. Call 989-773-3689 to make reservations or just stop in.

The auction offers you an evening of fun, good food, music and friendly competition while finding and bidding on some great holiday gifts for family and friends (*and yourself?*). But that's not all it does. There is something far more important that can make you feel good about attending this event. Every penny that the auction raises will be returned to our mid Michigan community through the programs Art Reach provides. This year the Art Reach Picture Program will reach 8,948 K-6 students in 30 area schools. Other programs for children include *A Day With the Artists*, a spring concert for all 4th grade students with the CMU Symphony Orchestra, gallery space for their art, 24 special art collections they can borrow, a special Art Reach calendar using their art, a *Summer Art Camp*, and other classes. We also have our monthly *Let's Do Lunch* program, the *Wellspring Literary Series*, and others. Many of these are available free to this community, and the others at little cost. Your participation and support makes you a part of every program this community enjoys, and that indeed should make you feel very good.

On Saturday, October 22 from 1-3 p.m. at the Art Reach Gallery. 111 E. Broadway, there will be a reception to honor the fine young artists from 22 area elementary schools whose art has been chosen to use in our 2012 Art Reach calendar. Art Educators and their students chose the work from among dozens to represent their school next year. Computer graphics artist, Dawn Paine, brought the art together in a beautiful design to showcase each work. Please join us at the reception to honor these young artists.

Here's a suggestion for a tour of Michigan's fall colors! If you don't have the time or funds to drive miles to visit the reds, yellows, golds, and greens of the state, then visit beautiful Mt. Pleasant. Just walk, bike, or drive through the streets in a grid pattern from north to south, then east to west.. You'll find beauty all around. I especially like Fancher St.