

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Cary Corbin, 830-708-3940

Rebecca Helderbrand, 210-582-6442

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

ARTISTS UNVEIL LARGER-THAN-LIFE PINWHEELS IN HONOR OF 80,000 BEXAR COUNTY CHILDREN FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

***One in Five Minds teams up with artists
to improve access to treatment for children struggling with mental illness***

SAN ANTONIO – One in five children struggle with mental illness. In Bexar County alone, that's more than 80,000 children. Of those, only one in five ever receive treatment, mostly due to difficulties accessing care but also due to the stigma attached to mental illness.

A group of 15 artists is inspired to change those numbers with a special exhibition of original pieces of art using blank 4-foot pinwheels as their canvases. The artists are joining forces with 1 in 5 Minds, a city-wide campaign to help eradicate the stigma surrounding mental illness in children and to improve access to treatment.

All 15 pinwheels will be unveiled in a ceremony at the San Antonio Central Library, 600 Soledad, on May 1 at 10 a.m. After that, each pinwheel will be displayed at a different location throughout San Antonio during May, which is Mental Health Awareness Month. The pinwheels will then be auctioned off to the public, with proceeds benefiting Clarity Child Guidance Center, a local not-for-profit mental health treatment center providing services to children ages 3 to 17.

"The pinwheel is a symbol of the joy and innocence of childhood, but just as pinwheels only spin with help, we need the power of the entire community to change attitudes and help more children get access to the care they need," said Fred Hines, President and CEO of Clarity Child Guidance Center, a sponsor of 1 in 5 Minds. "The work of these artists sends a powerful message that we can all play a role in helping more children access mental health care."

Rex Hausmann, a San Antonio based artist who enlisted help from other locally and nationally renowned artists for the project, found the pinwheel to be an ideal canvas to reflect on the struggles facing children with mental illness. His pinwheel features bright, colorful graphics on the exterior panels of the pinwheel, with the interiors marked by drawings of family, friends and other thoughts that often spin through the minds of children.

-MORE-

Other participating artists include Carla Veliz, Kiel Johnson, Louis Vega Trevino, Jayne Lawrence, David Almaguer, Hector Garza, Kim Parker, Carle Rhodes Stephenson, Garry Sweeney, Steve Daluze, Cristina Noriega, Bruce Hahn, Larry Graeber and Albert Gonzales.

The idea of using the pinwheel to promote the mental health of children was embraced by all of the artists who contributed their talents, Hausmann added.

“Every artist involved was honored to participate,” Hausmann said. “The fact that they could express themselves in this structured format to help children was really special.”

A list of the pinwheel locations can be found online at 1in5Minds.org. The public is encouraged to show their support by sharing photos of themselves in front of the pinwheels on social media using hashtag #pinwheels4change.

Without proper treatment, children with mental illness are twice as likely to abuse drugs and alcohol and twice as likely to end up in the juvenile justice system. Half of them will drop out of school and many will attempt suicide.

One in 5 Minds aims to help more children get the treatment they need by removing the stigma surrounding a mental illness diagnosis. The website 1in5Minds.org provides information on real-life struggles with mental illness, along with warning signs of mental illness in children and information on resources in the area.

The website also encourages people to take a pledge that they will speak openly and respectfully about mental illness in support of those suffering from it.

“Any form of illness, physical or mental, deserves the same opportunities for treatment and the same compassion from the community,” Hines said. “Fortunately, improving access to mental health care is something that everyone can contribute to in simple ways, such as talking about it openly.”

For more information visit 1in5Minds.org.

ABOUT 1 IN 5 MINDS

The One in Five Minds campaign, created in 2013 and sponsored by Clarity Child Guidance Center, strives to educate the community, parents, professionals and leaders about mental illness. The campaign focuses on raising awareness about mental illness and aims to break down stigma. Many times parents and community members hesitate to speak up or ask the important questions about mental illness because of stigma. The goal of One in Five Minds is that no one will be afraid to speak about mental illness and that all children in Bexar County who need treatment will be able to access it, regardless of ability to pay. For more information visit online at 1in5Minds.org.

ABOUT CLARITY CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER

[Clarity Child Guidance Center](#) (CGC) is the only not-for-profit organization in South Texas providing crisis assessment, inpatient, outpatient and day treatment mental health care to children ages 3-17.

Clarity CGC offers the region's largest concentration of child and adolescent psychiatrists, with its onsite affiliation with Southwest Psychiatric Physicians. In addition, the center serves as a teaching hospital for The University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio and Baylor College of Medicine. Clarity CGC's treatment network includes an eight-acre campus in the South Texas Medical Center with a 66-bed hospital and six-bed Crisis Assessment Center, as well as a Clarity Child Guidance Clinic located on the West Side of San Antonio .

Clarity CGC is also committed to removing the stigma often associated with mental illness and has created the [One in Five Minds](#) campaign to raise awareness and educate the community, parents, professionals, and leaders about mental illness. Learn more and take the pledge at 1in5minds.org.

Clarity CGC is a United Way agency and serves children in need, regardless of their family's ability to pay.

###