

> Program brings together kids and retired folks, all of whom want to create < PAGE 3

Where art is ageless



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James Gregg / Arizona Daily Star

Betty Boyer, left, Emily Bliven and David Lowery work on a drawing project at Sonora Health Center, which is at Oro Valley's Splendido.



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Age is no factor in artistry

> YOUNG AND NOT-SO-YOUNG GET TO KNOW ONE OTHER IN CLASS SETTING <

By **Andrea Rivera**
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Coloring inside the lines is optional.

Young Rembrandts and Sonora Health Center at Splendido host a weekly art class for children, and no one participating in last Thursday's class was there to judge.

They were there to enjoy the company of someone well out of their age bracket.

"It's fun working with them because they always make funny jokes about how they can't draw straight lines and other stuff," 10-year-old Alexis Ranieri said of the residents at the continuing-care retirement community in Oro Valley.

Alexis' mother, Rhonda Ranieri, is a social-service coordinator at Sonora and facilitated the art class so residents could interact with a younger generation.

"It's an opportunity for both the residents and the children to have a positive experience in interacting with one another," she said.

Her daughter had taken drawing classes with Young Rembrandts when she was a student at Painted Sky Elementary School. Rhonda Ranieri was impressed with how the program was run.

Young Rembrandts provides art lessons to children in some 30 elementary schools and other venues throughout the Tucson area, but working with older adults is a first for owner Angela Burton.

"This is a fabulous idea," she said.

Ranieri believes the children and residents will benefit from creating artwork in the same room.



Photos by James Cragg / Arizona Daily Star
Claire Edgar, 84, left, stops in to visit her friend Betty Boyer, 85, as Emily Bliven, 12, and David Lowery, 75, work on a drawing project as part of the Young Rembrandts program at Sonora Health Center.



The art starts to take shape for Betty Boyer, Emily Bliven and David Lowery during the program that mixes children with retired people at Sonora Health Center.

Also, children are not always able to establish relationships with older adults when they don't live near their grandparents, Ranieri said.

"This provides an opportunity for children to get to know older adults and to hear wonderful stories about their lives, which will enrich the lives of our children," she said.

Burton and instructor Fay Beard were joined by about eight residents and five children at a class on July 16.

Classes are held for about an hour every Thursday and will continue until early August at Sonora, 13500 N. Rancho Vistoso Blvd.

Young Rembrandt artists Jen-

nifer Xiao, Kenzie Ceravolo and siblings Colton and Sophia Patch participated in last Thursday's class. The day's project: Drawing sailboats in sections.

Joan Cappuccio, 77, and her husband, John, were two of the Splendido residents taking part in the class.

"I love the kids. There's nothing like having the kids here," Joan Cappuccio said.

Jennifer, 10, equally enjoyed her hour with the residents.

"They're good artists," she said.

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