

Visit exhibit and share 'For the Love of Animals'



The month of February will include the second annual "For the Love of Animals" exhibit at FEC. This highly successful event is a chance as an artistic community to support the local Florence Area Humane Society (FAHS). With paintings or photographs, artists share their talents and help get the word out about the importance of supporting shelter animals. Beside each rod displaying the works of individual artists is a photo of an animal up for adoption at the FAHS.

During a special reception set for Friday, Feb. 12, all proceeds from the exhibit between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. will be donated to FAHS.

In addition, while at the reception, guests can buy raffle tickets to win a voucher for a portrait of their pet to be painted by well-known local artist John Leasure.

The drawing will be held at 2 p.m. Also, there will be a photo booth set up for pet photos, to be developed almost instantly.

Complimentary refreshments will be served for both pet owners and their pets, along with a bin for donations of pet food for the FAHS. This exhibit is a win-win for all.

For more information, visit www.eventcenter.org.

Share your heart, support for local youth arts

On Saturday, Feb. 13, beginning at 6:30 p.m., Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) will once again celebrate the magic of youth performing arts through a lively fundraising party called "Share Your Heart." Sweethearts, singles, friends and supporters are encouraged to join

the fun at this Valentine's Day themed event. Children will sing songs from the heart, and guests will be invited to participate in a unique silent auction, live auctions, dessert auction and games such as the "Kissing Booth" and a brand new "Heart Breaker!" game, in which guests can try their luck at winning delicious wine — all while supporting local kids in the arts.

Last year, CROW raised \$46,000 through auctions, pledges and donations, which put the nonprofit well on it's way to securing it's new home: The CROW Center for the Performing Arts, located at 3120 Highway 101 in Florence.

"Share Your Heart is like anything else CROW does — it's over the top," says artistic director and CROW founder, Melanie Heard. "Events like this are made possible by countless volunteer hours, incredible silent and live auction donations from community members, and lots of old-fashioned hard work from the CROW parents, volunteers and production team. We are so incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped us get to this point. But we still have miles to go before we sleep."

In the spring of 2015, CROW temporarily secured it's new home through the help of an infusion of immediate funds from an anonymous investor. However, the funds must be repaid in full with a period of one year to 18 months. "And the sands are already slipping through the hourglass,"

said Heard. CROW still has to raise nearly \$220,000 to repay the investor, plus additional funds to finish renovations so that they are able to open their doors to the kids.

In addition to concentrated fundraising efforts, CROW has been actively pursuing large grants from major foundations throughout the United States. "We have hired an incredible grant writer to help with our efforts, and are truly blessed by this individual's talent and propensity for writing eloquent grants."

CROW has big plans for the new facility, which will house ongoing classes in dance, voice, theatre, and scenic artistry, as well as protect the organization's sets, costumes, and props. With the addition of their own space, CROW plans to continue its ongoing community outreach in even more ways, through more involvement in local schools, more scholarships for summer camps, a Senior living center mentorship program, and "anti-bullying" and "literacy building" theatrical programs, targeting students of various grade levels.

Single tickets are \$40 for adults and \$25 for youth (12 and under). A full table of eight can also be purchased for \$300 and CROW encourages local businesses to sponsor a table and bring some friends and colleagues. Tickets include wine

(adults only) and hot hors d'oeuvres, as well as a chance to bid on the amazing baskets prizes and desserts up for grabs. The evening will culminate with a "Raise Your Paddle" donation opportunity and exciting live auctions on some "big ticket" items.

Doors open at 6 pm, and the event begins at 6:30. To reserve your seats, call the Florence Events Center at (541) 997-1994, or visit www.eventcenter.org. For more information about the CROW program visit www.crowkids.com or contact Melanie Heard at (541) 999-8641.

"Our Florence area folks have always shown how big their hearts are for worthy projects, and we hope we can count on this same generosity and love to carry us through to the finish line," says Heard.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FEBRUARY

February:
Crab Crack — Feb. 6
Lane Blood Mobile — Feb. 8
For the Love of Animals art reception — Feb. 12
CROW Share Your Heart — Feb. 13
Ballet Fantastique — Feb. 20
Heart 2 Heart — Feb. 20
Wallflowers and Wine — Feb. 26
If Gathering Women's Conference — Feb. 27

MARCH:

Concealed Weapons Training — March 2
Florence Home & Garden Show — March 4-6
SHS All-Band Concert — March 7
PTA Talent Show — March 10 and 11
Rotary Auction — March 12
Glen Miller Orchestra — March 18
Cavy Show — March 19
SMS Band Festival — March 30



ONGOING EVENTS:
Florence Rotary Club luncheon -
Tuesdays at noon

CENTERSTAGE

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