

Elders are Our Superheroes: An Art Program for Elementary Students that Reinforces Positive Images of Aging and Builds Awareness Across Communities

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In an effort to advocate for the value of elders in our families and our communities, the “Elders Are Our Superheroes” art show was created. An art teacher in Urban Richmond, Virginia teamed up with a regional collaborative, The Greater Richmond Age Wave, to brainstorm a curriculum and project that educates elementary children and the community to celebrate and respect the wisdom and talents of elders. This program spotlights Grandparents as heroes in their own right, through the eyes of student. This collection of artwork is a rotating exhibit among local partners and businesses. People of all generations can delight in viewing this collection.

In this workshop, participants will get an insider’s peek of cultivating attitude shifts among youth and thinking of elders as superheroes, and learn more about successes we have experienced when presenting students’ works at various venues and events. Several children’s books and contemporary pieces of artwork that celebrate aging will be showcased.

Participants will get a chance to create artwork using a variety of media. Images will be created of the participants’ own grandparents in the superhero role, and images from the art shows of previous years will be shared.