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For Immediate Release**

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GRANT ENERGIZES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES

Breaking Down Barriers for Artists with Disabilities

The Towson Arts Collective (TAC) and the Ellene "Brit" Christiansen Memorial Fund (EBCMF) announces the opening of an all inclusive arts center.

Both the Towson Arts Collective and the Ellene "Brit" Christiansen Memorial Fund are nonprofit organizations that share a common mission: To introduce emerging talents, encourage and support educational development and provide a venue for artists to share their works with the community.

A memorandum of understanding was formed between the two organizations. A grant from the EBCMF will provide opportunities for all artists with disabilities to create, show and sell their work right alongside other professional artists. Our community will benefit from the natural integration of people with and without disabilities by re-creating our community together.

Ellene "Brit" Christiansen was passionate about improving the quality of life and quality in life for people with disabilities. As a professional artist, advocate and person with a disability she never let her challenges shadow her optimism for life. This Brit quote is testimony to that: "...And we who are born of the spirit, like the wind we are free..." Brit

Ellene loved children and art. She was passionate about bringing the two together as a way to express themselves and grow as individuals. This is the motivation

behind our efforts as we work to afford children and young adults the ability to create their own art and become inspired to think creatively. Brit simply wanted these young souls to recognize their abilities--not their limitations. Many artists will remember her as "Bolton Hill Brit".

Ellene's beloved husband, Richard Frye, states that "My commitment is to carry on Brit's legacy and passion for artistic achievement. She felt blessed to be given the opportunity to express her artistic talent and wished for every child having a disability the same opportunity. I will always remember Brit as: Once, twice, three times a lady... "

The Ellene "Brit" Christiansen Arts Center (EBCAC), located at 40 W. Chesapeake Ave. in Towson, Maryland, was formerly occupied by Kinko's. The location will offer artists 3,500 Sq Ft of space, which is three times the size previously offered.

TAC will formally mark the opening of the new space on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013 at 1 PM. As a tribute to Ellene "Brit" Christiansen, the Baltimore Watercolor Society will be exhibiting various works. A formal ribbon cutting, followed by reception & exhibit for the EBCAC is being planned for Saturday, November 2, 2013.

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For more information about EBCAC or to schedule an interview: please contact C. David Ward at 410-666-0086 or e-mail cdavidward@aol.com. For information about TAC and their programs please contact Diane Margiotta by e-mail at 23artist@gmail.com