

# Local student art finds a gallery

## Charlotte Street eatery offers its wall space to young, aspiring artists

*"We're proud to have their work hanging in the store and our customers enjoy and, often buy, what they see."*

**By Tula Andonaras**

STAFF WRITER

The Charlotte Street Cafe has recently become more than a neighborhood eatery. It has turned into an art gallery where works of local children decorate the walls in hope of being sold.

Cafe manager Shawn Barger and cafe employee/UNCA art student Mary Poulos came up with the idea.

"We said wouldn't it be fun to get some art from kids and hang it on the walls," Barger said. "In the beginning, there wasn't any intention of selling the work, but customers would ask to buy them. So, we asked the kids to tag their own prices. They're thrilled when they sell their work and fill their pockets with the money."

Barger said the cafe accepts art work from kids up to middle school age. Each showing lasts for two weeks.

"If a work is sold before the two weeks are up, we ask that the artist leave it in the store until the end of the showing," she said. "But we do mark it sold."

Barger said she contacted some of the local

SHAWN BARGER

CAFE MANAGER

schools to create interest in the gallery, but response from them was not very enthusiastic.

"I was told they were busy doing other things," Barger said, "but no matter how busy, I'm sure kids would be anxious to have their work put on display."

"Most of what we hang up is from children of customers."

Barger said she welcomes art from students in city and county schools.

"We'd also like to have some from the preschoolers."

When kids turn their art in at the cafe, information is collected on each piece, it is titled and a price is tagged.

"We feel the kids deserve as much attention

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