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Gallery showcases local talents

By Marilyn Forbes

Thursday, June 19, 2008



The Uniontown Art Club's works can be found at Vincent's Gallery.

Unique broken china furniture and display pieces are also featured at Vincent's Gallery.

More than 30 talented artists and craftsmen now have a new venue to display their works. Vincent's Gallery officially opened its doors in downtown Hopwood.

story continues below



A consignment gallery, operated by St. Vincent de Paul, Vincent's offers its customers a variety of hand-crafted and unique items, all by local artisans and Appalachian craftsmen.

And the newly opened establishment has already proven to be a success and a popular draw with artists and customers alike.

"When we opened, we were trying to bring in about 11 artists," said Roy Sarver, St. Vincent de Paul Board of Directors president. "We've been open for only two weeks and we already have 37 artists. We

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are happy with the way it has been received and business has been very good."

Wishing to go a different direction from the popular thrift shops and used furniture stores in the area, St. Vincent de Paul board, in a recent planning session, sought a new location for a gallery to showcase local talent.

"We wanted to open something that would be a help to the community as well as a help to the artists," Sarver said. "Some of these 'starving artists' have some nice things and we wanted to give them a place to display their items."

The gallery, which is located in the former historic Speedway Hotel, is fully restored and the ideal setting to display works. The 2,500-square-foot building is divided into several smaller rooms, creating a maze of beauty and talent.

Items and artwork include extensive country theme bric-a-brac, one-of-a-kind sterling silver jewelry pieces, hand purses, candles, stained glass, handmade quilts, photography and paintings.

Unique items include broken china mosaic furniture, hand-carved walking sticks and canes and hand-made note cards.

The Uniontown Art Club's wares cover an entire section, and fun, unusual pieces dot the entire gallery.

"These artists are amazing," Sarver said. "They can take something that is thrown out or an item that is used for something totally different and transform it into a work of art."

All items in the gallery are reasonable priced, with the majority listing under \$50. Many are one-of-a-kind treasures.

The gallery is presently full, but interested artists can be placed on a waiting list.

Vincent's Gallery is located at 1167 National Pike in Hopwood. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Parking is available in the rear of the building. For information, call 724-439-9400.

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