

Within my life, I have become involved with numerous beneficial organizations. But one organization in particular has stuck with me, Studio 190. This is an amazing organization that resides within Delaware County. This particular organization can be found within Walton, New York. I have not always been aware of this organization, but when I discovered it my life changed. It changed for the better. I believe that everyone would benefit from becoming involved with this organization.

This specific organization is an extension of the ARC, which is an astounding organization that helps people with special needs. Studio 190 is an art studio that allows people that have special needs, of all ages, to go and express themselves freely. The detail about this specific studio that differentiates itself from other similar programs, is that this building will not restrain people if they become frustrated. People with special needs are still human, and the majority of organizations don't treat them like they are. Most will treat special needs people like children. They will use a demeaning childish voice, which can upset some because they are still their own person and do not want to be treated younger than they are.

Studio 190 has buses of people coming in daily, usually from 8am-4pm. The bus system will pick up the people from homes and transport them to the studio. There are numerous different activities that take place within the building. Such activities can include painting, embroidery, paper mache, and gardening. Also, the workers teach math and money management, social and coping skills, and reading and writing. The workers are there to help and assist people when it is appropriate. The art that people make is displayed and sold within the studio, and it is quite beautiful. This studio is extremely crucial to the structure of our community. Our community, as a whole, includes the people that so desperately need places similar to the studio.

Without resources for people with special needs, these people would suffer. What kind of community would we have if we did not care and assist people who need it?

This organization is not only useful for the people who use the studio, but it is also constructive for the rest of the community. People are welcome to come and volunteer at the studio, this can help further educate people. Also, the young children that can feel isolated and out of place can benefit from the kind faces from the people who work with them. People who decide to work at the studio can obtain a new perspective on life. Working with people who have special needs allows people to gain a relationship with others and also permits them to get to know the people who live in the community better. The people who work here are truly the best kind of people. They are kind-hearted, patient, and well-rounded. I aspire to have the values they have.

I have volunteered at Studio 190 numerous times. I became involved with this organization approximately two years ago. This is not a great amount of time, but I have learned and grown a tremendous amount since then. The art barn at the Delaware County fair is run and organized by the workers from the studio. The people who have special needs, and are consistently at the studio, are welcome to come and work at the art barn. This allows them to use what they have learned at the studio in real world situations. When I worked at the art barn I was deeply impacted. Everyone there was so kind and caring, the people with special needs were teaching me how to do crafts with the children. I believe I have befriended the people from the studio. I'll sit and listen to their life stories and keep them company.

Faith Lambert, Walton Central School

I have deep love for the people who need places like Studio 190. I feel empathetic and connected to the people I have worked with, but I don't feel sympathetic because that is not fair to them. This organization has impacted me and is crucial to our community.