

# THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY VISUAL ARTS CENTER

160 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton, North Carolina [www.rcvag.com](http://www.rcvag.com) 828.288.5009

March 5, 2010

## REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

In December of 2008, the dream of a Visual Arts Center for the Rutherford County Visual Artists Guild was just that -- a dream. Now it is a dream come true. At the end of our first year, the Visual Arts Center had become so successful that we expanded into new space in order to pursue new opportunities.

Over the past year, the Guild has grown in membership to over 120 artists and friends. The Visual Arts Center now displays the work of more than 65 artists, giving them a central marketplace for commission sales. The studio classroom is in daily use, and our corps of dedicated teachers has offered watercolor, drawing and knitting classes to name a few. These classes have attracted nearly 50 students. Our Tour of the Arts Summer program for children filled a much-needed opportunity for community outreach to 20 participants in three week-long sessions.

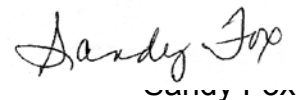
All of this happened while we continued to sponsor the Spring Art Hop studio tours and the fall Celebration of the Arts at the Foundation. Special events taking place at the Visual Arts Center in 2009 included the summer "Wheel & Coil & Slab" juried pottery exhibit, Dulcimer Music Nights, Art for Fun nights, and the very successful Christmas Boutique.

To look briefly at the economic impact of the Center, art sales through the gallery totaled \$21,000, with commissions to our members of \$14,000. Classes and events brought in revenue of \$4,000. Donations and grants brought in another \$7,500.

None of this would have been possible without our volunteers. There is no way to count the thousands of hours that have been spent in preparing the spaces, displaying the art works, staffing the Center, teaching the classes, keeping the books, developing programs, and planning events. Just keeping the Center open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. five days a week for a year comes to a total of 7,800 hours. Many, many more hours are spent behind the scenes.

Not only have members been generous with their time, they have also been generous in their support, making donations of materials and money. If we have left your name off of the list on the back page, we regret that and hope that you will give us the correct information. Record-keeping sometimes slipped through the cracks in the rush to open the Visual Arts Center. We truly are grateful for every contribution.

All in all, 2009 has been a year of excitement, a year that has brought new energy to the Visual Arts community. We hope that your enthusiasm will continue to sustain us in the coming years as it has this past year.

  
Sandy Fox