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Artists for a Cause says 'thank you'

To the editor,

Artists for a Cause executive director Terry Barber would like to thank Elisabeth "Betty" Lahti for her generous \$50,000 donation to support Artists for a Cause, a Palm City-based organization. Barber and Lahti have become close friends and share a common belief that their gifts were meant to be shared for the betterment of the community, a philosophy that prompted Barber to found Artists for a Cause after the loss of his mother to cancer. Lahti has a history of supporting charities which provide either children's services or arts opportunities.

Since every A4AC program

helps children with arts education opportunities, mentoring opportunities, and seeks to promote health via expression through the arts, she recognizes that the organization's mission and her own philanthropic goals are aligned. Artists for a Cause helps hundreds of visual and performing artists each year to use their talent for community improvement, stimulating culture and meeting the critical needs of communities.

Upon presentation of the check, a group of staff, volunteers, and student artists arrived to thank Betty for her important support of the cause they care so much

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the people many local companies with job openings are seeking. "We're trying to assist the indus-

and it's inherently difficult to track due to variations for why people don't seek jobs.

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about. She said only "This is what I do." In the last few years alone, this strong woman who all but refuses to expend resources on herself, has been instrumental in the creation of both a library and a Boys & Girls Club in Indiantown. Both new buildings proudly display her name.

Lahti was raised by parents who were very active in their own communities, passing down some strong values which Lahti has in turn passed on to her three children, all of whom have their own foundations. Though women had not even been given the right to vote yet, her mother, an author and educator, Bernice Rowland Ilick, graduated from Syracuse University in 1912 and was awarded distinctions such as "Phi Beta Kappa" and "Outstanding Woman of the Class." She was an English and art history professor, published writer, and avid classical music enthusiast. Graduating the same year from Syracuse, Her father, the Rev. J. Theron Ilick, passed on both a love of discovery, and a special concern for all God's creatures,

big and small.

Lahti received her degree in social work also from Syracuse University, and has used that training throughout her life both in careers, and in her work on several nonprofit boards throughout the country. Raised for several years in China, Lahti's frugal nature can be seen in her everyday choices, as she wastes nothing, pinching pennies which add up to monumental, life-changing support for others.

It is the second time Lahti has awarded Artists for a Cause with a major gift. We encourage you to visit www.a4ac.org to see what we are doing not only to make one of our most discerning heroes proud, but also how you can get involved using art as a solution for community improvement.

Thank you,
Artists for a Cause
Palm City

Editor's note: In last week's edition of *Your Voice News & Views*, the amount of Lahti's donation was incorrectly reported. The donation was for \$50,000. *Your Voice* regrets the error.