



# THE PIETERS FAMILY *life center*

## The Magic Paintbrush Project at the Pieters Family Life Center FAQ

### **Q: What is the Magic Paintbrush Project?**

**A:** The Magic Paintbrush Project builds bridges for special needs families by blending the needs of the individual with the needs of the family, creatively capturing the abilities of special needs individuals and their caregivers with art materials. The Project enables participants to work together in new and exciting ways.

The Magic Paintbrush Project's unique approach was developed to meet the needs of the individual, family and caregivers. Our program focuses on the abilities of the family while embracing the challenges of a special needs diagnosis, therapeutic regimen and daily living. The Project expands the boundaries and relationships between the special needs individual and their caregivers, celebrating their unique style and creating experiences that will last a lifetime.

### **Q: Who can participate in a Magic Paintbrush Project Workshop?**

**A:** Families with a special needs loved one are welcome and encouraged to participate. We welcome parents, siblings, and close family members to join in the fun.

We also support staff and residents of group homes.

Programming is also available for integrated classrooms and to agencies who provide services to the special needs community.

### **Q: What can you expect at a workshop?**

**A:** Family Fun! Each workshop is tailored to the needs of the participant and their family members. Our facilitator will assist you with the appropriate materials to help you meet your goals and expectations. We encourage activities which color outside the lines and they can get a bit messy. Our staff will support all participants throughout the experience. A typical workshop lasts about an hour and can include paint, clay, colorful papers, movements, communication, music and activities that were designed around you and your needs. Each family will receive at least one piece of art created during their session.



### **Q: This looks messy, what should my family wear?**

**A:** Although we say that "Life Is... Washable!" we always remind folks that clothes are not stain resistant. Even though we use washable paints and materials, it is suggested that everyone wear clothes that they aren't afraid to get dirty. It is also suggested that everyone come prepared with a change of clothes to wear home.



**Q: How much does a workshop cost?**

**A: \$30** for one child and one parent/caregiver  
**\$40** for whole family (living in household)  
**\$10** each additional person

A typical Magic Paintbrush Project session costs over \$100 dollars in materials. The Pieters Family Life Center uses a combination of family payments, grant funds, and in-kind donations to cover the costs of the session.

**Q: My kid hates messes, will Magic Paintbrush Project be appropriate?**

**A:** Since each session is tailored to meet the goals and needs of the individual family, the level of “messiness” can be changed based on the family’s needs. There are several Magic Paintbrush Project workshops that offer a less messy alternative.

**Q: Where and When are the Magic Paintbrush Project workshops held?**

**A:** Magic Paintbrush Project workshops are held in the art studio at the Pieters Family Life Center. The workshop dates and times are individually scheduled by each family to meet their needs. The Pieters Family Life Center also offers a “*On The Move*” Magic Paintbrush Project workshops to schools, agencies, and the special needs community on the road in their neighborhood.

**Q: How do I schedule a Magic Paintbrush Project workshop at the Pieters Family Life Center?**

**A:** It’s simple! Just call the Pieters Family Life Center at (585) 487-3500, email us at [info@pietersfamilylifecenter.org](mailto:info@pietersfamilylifecenter.org), or stop on by at 1025 Commons Way, Henrietta, NY 14623.

**Q: What happens to the art created in these workshops?**

**A:** Participants are able to keep their creations or they may choose to share them in galleries throughout the Pieters Family Life Center. As pieces are donated to us, they are available for sale. The proceeds from the sale are used to purchase materials for the workshops for the direct benefit of the participants.



**Q: What do you mean by Life Is...Washable?**

**A:** Families as caregivers are taught to be proactive. We clean up the messes before they happen, often choosing not to participate in all of life’s benefits because of the potential for a “mess”. There are times when life’s messes are sources of frustration and completely inconvenient. Making messes is not normally a part of the plan.

The Magic Paintbrush Project helps families and caregivers embrace the challenges of special needs. We make messes, big bright and beautiful messes, and the outcome is a celebration of the ability of the family to adapt and create new opportunities. We teach that it’s not about cleaning up or avoiding life’s challenges because of the potential of a mess, instead we support that the potential is in the mess itself.

Using paints, and other creative art materials, we encourage families to engage and the resulting artwork is a reflection of their “journey to the mess and back” providing a touchstone for future success.