



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **‘ART WITH A HEART’ RELOCATES TO MILL NO. 1**

*-- Move Allows Non-profit To Better Serve Community; Expand Programs --*

JANUARY XX, 2018 (BALTIMORE): After 18 years of using visual art to enhance the lives of Baltimore’s people in need, Art with a Heart (AWAH) has a new home. The Hampden-based non-profit has experienced steady growth since it was founded in 2000, so much so that the need for additional space was imperative. The new 7,400 square-foot, LEED-certified offices, located in Mill No.1 at 3000 Falls Road provide plenty of room for expansion. In addition to the much needed work and art display areas, it delivers stunning views of the Jones Falls through panoramic floor to ceiling windows and ample natural light. Smartly designed common areas allow for group collaboration and multiple places to meet, strategize, and inspire one another.

But it’s the *amount* of space that has employees and volunteers buzzing. To engage with more people and expand their programming, AWAH needed room to grow. Supply storage in their previous location was an issue, as was the ability to schedule multiple events and/or meetings simultaneously. A limited footprint meant limited programming options, volunteer engagement and collaboration for the organization’s workforce development efforts. If AWAH wanted to engage with more people and serve a larger audience, a change of address was critical.

According to Founder and Executive Director Randi Pupkin, “We began looking for more space in spring of 2017. Since moving, it has brought a fresh rush of energy to do even more with the community. More space means more projects, more workforce training, more volunteer engagement, more classes, more events, and most importantly, more youth empowerment through greater opportunities!”

One of Art with a Heart’s longest running initiatives is its HeARTworks Program. At risk youth, ages 14-24, learn critical job and social skills in two ways: by

creating visual art in a safe, supportive and collaborative environment, and via facilitated training sessions. Participating youth also gain retail experience through their work in HeARTwares, AWAH's social enterprise/retail store, located onsite. Since the job program began in 2004, more than 1000 youth have benefited. Of those participants, 70-percent have found employment, stable housing, or continued their education.

However, offering a brighter future for the city's most vulnerable residents isn't the only way AWAH makes Baltimore better. They provide more than 11,000 classes every year, bringing interactive visual art classes into group homes, community centers, shelters, permanent housing facilities, hospitals, senior living facilities, and schools.

"We believe everyone should have access to visual art," adds Pupkin. "The social and academic benefits of art are well documented, particularly for children. Research shows that a child who's exposed to the arts acquires a special ability to think creatively, be collaborative, focus, discover, and innovate. To deprive Baltimore's children of these benefits is unacceptable."

"We are fortunate to have them as one of our tenants," stated David Tufaro, founder of Terra Nova Ventures, owners of Mill No. 1. "We are excited about the synergy that will be generated by their presence with both our tenants and the community."

A public open house is scheduled for April 8, 2018 and a list of exciting events is coming in the near future. Portions of the space may be rented for community events and gatherings on a limited basis.

The lease was brokered by Terri Harrington, SVP of MacKenzie Commercial Real Estate and took one week to close.

For more information, volunteer opportunities, and/or program details visit [artwithaheart.net](http://artwithaheart.net).

**About Art with a Heart:**

[Art with a Heart](http://artwithaheart.net) is a non-profit community art organization that aims to enhance the lives of individuals in need through the visual arts. Its services include providing visual art classes, organizing public art projects and a running a youth job program. Its projects have been featured in *The Baltimore Sun*, WBAL, WJZ, WBFF, Maryland Public Television, *The Baltimore Times* and the *American Educator*.

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