

Sharon Files

Wellness and Advocacy Center Art Program Success Story

As I sat down to speak with Sharon, she was wearing a bright pink wig, a long sleeve white t-shirt with a multicolored tank top, an orange hoodie worn as pants with her legs through the arms, and rainbow striped leggings. After our interview, she changed her clothes twice before leaving for the day.

Sharon Fields found out about the Wellness and Advocacy Center through Oakcrest. Before attending Wellness, she went to classes at the Creative Living Center on Chanate Road. Sharon said, “Naomi took a picture of me the first day I walked into Wellness. She discovered me and works with me.” They have been taking pictures together for the last ten years. Sharon estimates that they have taken between 2 and 5 thousand photos together.

Sharon described her artistic process as starting with making the clothes on her body. “Inspiration comes from the clothes.” Through her process, she finds “expression from clothes and through clothes.” Sharon said, “Sometimes all I have is the clothes. Sometimes put the clothes ahead of myself.” It is in clothes that Sharon speaks the truth of who she is and the life that she has lived. Her clothes are a kaleidoscopic representation of her inner world constantly shifting as she moves through the day.

Sharon said that the Wellness Center is “the best thing that ever happened to me” and she is “in love with it all.” Sharon added, “I find peace in my work with Naomi.”

Sharon is one of the featured artists in the upcoming art show “Recovart” happening at the Finley Center from October 23rd through December 6th. A reception will be held on October 25th from 5 to 7pm. Sharon said that she will be at the opening of the show and you might find her wearing a gown upside down.



By Sean Bolan