



## News Release

For immediate release – July 2, 2019

### **Bittersweet's Art Advocacy Program at the Sylvania Red Bird Art Walk**

Northwest Ohio... The Social Recreation Program (SRP) at Bittersweet Farms in partnership with local art instructors and the Red Bird Arts District in Sylvania invite everyone to join them on Friday, August 2 at the Red Bird Art Walk! The teens in the SRP Art Advocacy Program will be selling their original artwork at a booth on the corner of Main St. and Maplewood Ave. in Sylvania from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The teens will be selling handmade arts and crafts created in a five-week Art Advocacy Program. The Art Advocacy Program provides teens in the SRP the opportunity to create a variety of art pieces, improve executive functioning, and self-advocate at the Sylvania Red Bird Art Walk.

Bittersweet's SRP consists of therapeutically-based programs and activities that focus on community integration and social interactions, as well as developing independence. The program consists of various types of events and sessions including community events, therapeutic groups, and a social skills group with the University of Toledo. The SRP Art Advocacy Program is funded through a grant from the Toledo Regional Autism Network Fund of the Toledo Community Foundation.

Community Outreach Specialist, Meghan Oberle, says, "The Art Advocacy Program is a fantastic opportunity for the teens in the SRP to learn a new skill, practice working together as a team, and become more comfortable attending events in the community. The teens will be accompanied by their trusted teen mentors, who will help make this a safe and comfortable experience."

#### **About Bittersweet, Inc.**

*For 36 years, Bittersweet, Inc. has been successfully serving adults and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders across three locations in Ohio. Bittersweet offers unique supports that encourage individuals with autism to grow and develop their abilities and talents in an agricultural setting. The Bittersweet community offers many products for sale to support employment and vocational opportunities for individuals with autism. The mission of Bittersweet, Inc. is to positively impact the lives of individuals with autism and those whose lives they touch.*

#### **SRP Contact:**

Meghan Oberle  
419 875 6986, ext. 1209; [moberle@bittersweetfarms.org](mailto:moberle@bittersweetfarms.org)

#### **Media Contact:**

Julie Champa, Development Director  
419 875 6986, ext. 1272; [jchampa@bittersweetfarms.org](mailto:jchampa@bittersweetfarms.org)