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### **Art Exhibit for Homelessness Awareness**

BOONE, NC (October 13, 2009) – Artists have long used their medium as an expression of their identity and life experiences. The same is true for some local folks who have experienced homelessness and their work is being displayed at the Jones House in October.

As part of a National Homelessness Awareness initiative in November, four artists and poets will display their works for three weeks. The display will include paintings, wood work, textile arts and poetry.

“When we take time to listen, those who have found themselves in a homeless situation each have a unique, and sometimes unexpected, story to tell,” said Jill Kuykendall Landers, Director of Development for Hospitality House. “Some have chosen art as a way to express their journey,” she said. “This exhibit is more than art, though. It’s about people in our community who have faced adversity, overcome their struggles and worked to rebuild their lives.”

The art will be displayed at the Jones House in The Open Door Gallery, located on the second level. The Open Door Gallery was designed to offer space to display the work of new or emerging artists. “We are excited to offer this exhibit space to showcase the work of those who have experienced homelessness,” said Cherry Johnson, Executive Director for Watauga County Arts Council. “We hope community members will take time to view the exhibit and learn more about homelessness in the High Country.”

The art will be on display beginning October 15 through November 6. The Open Door Gallery is open to the public from noon until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. There will be a reception at the Jones House Friday, Nov. 6 as part of the Downtown Boone Art Crawl. Representatives from Hospitality House will attend the reception.

Hospitality House is a non-profit crisis intervention agency that provides shelter and services to the homeless, operates the community soup kitchen and administers WeCAN - the local crisis assistance program. Hospitality House is a High Country United Way agency. For more information, log on to [www.hospitalityhouseofboone.org](http://www.hospitalityhouseofboone.org) or call Jill Kuykendall Landers, director of development, at 262.3461.

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