

A tree grows in West Newton

Wednesday, August 30, 2006

For the past two months, budding artists age 6 to 72 have joined together to paint a 40-by-16-foot mural on the south-facing wall of Newton Community Service Center's West Newton facility.

The yet-to-be named mural, created under the guidance of local artist Tova Speter, depicts activities at NCSC and the interactions of its visitors around a giant tree.

"This mural is a perfect way to engage people in the process of creating art," Speter said. "I enjoy facilitating this process that combines the richness of community, collaboration and self-expression."

"This mural is a great community project and terrific fun," said Bill Garr, NCSC executive director. "Staff, neighbors, board members and children from our summer camp and day-care programs are having a blast bringing this image alive."

The NCSC mural, the last of three involving nonprofit community organizations in greater Boston, is funded in part through a grant from the Fund for the Arts, a restricted fund of the New England Foundation for the Arts, and a joint venture with the Art Connection, a nonprofit dedicated to making the arts more accessible to community organizations.

People can still drop by Tuesday evenings through September to paint. For more information, contact Jean Devine at 617-969-5906, ext. 119.



Artist Anyahlee Suderman, center, paints an outline for Emmy Garr, left, to fill in on a new mural on the side of the Newton Community Service Center in West Newton. (Staff photo by Jim Walker)