



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012

For more information, please contact
Clay Eals, communication officer
425.888.2777 (office), 206.484.8008 (cell), clay.eals@encompassnw.org

Art gift turns Encompass preschoolers into stars Donation of \$800 for supplies launches Front Row Giving program

It was a starry day at Encompass when award-winning graphic designer Brent Cook of historic Snoqualmie visited an Encompass preschool classroom to join 17 students in creating their own versions of Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night."

The blue, yellow and green paint, the white and black construction paper and even the egg whisks the 4- and 5-year-olds were using to create the Van Gogh-like circles in their skylscapes were funded in part by Cook and the Front Row Giving program he initiated recently. Encompass, the first recipient, received \$800 from the program on Dec. 13, 2011.

"What a great time I had," Cook said of his experience in emulating Van Gogh with the preschoolers. Front Row Giving, he says, was the perfect fit in making it possible.

"Front Row Giving is dedicated to ensuring that children in the Snoqualmie Valley have the opportunity to participate in hands-on art programs," Cook says. "Each year, we give a portion of our proceeds to purchase supplies that can be used to deliver quality programs for kids. We believe in the magic that happens when a child sits down at a table with all the clay, glue, paint and paper that they will need to explore their own creativity.

"As funding for these types of programs shrinks, local businesses and individuals must step in to ensure that these opportunities don't disappear within our community. We collaborate with proven partners to support existing programs with the purchase of supplies. These partners encourage young artists and create opportunities for students to explore, get messy and play with different media and techniques. Encompass has been a great partner."

After amassing \$800 for the program in its first six months, the veteran graphic designer visited Encompass to deliver the check and take part in the Van Gogh classroom project.

"We deeply appreciate Brent Cook's generosity of resources and time," says Gregory Malcolm, Encompass executive director. "His program is a model for our community."

Cook, who partners with a variety of organizations to provide in-kind services and other volunteer labor, says the fundamental goal for Front Row Giving is to "drive smiles today and innovation in the future that will strengthen our community and our country as a whole." He intends to name a different beneficiary every six months.

For more information, contact Cook at 425-749-7045 or at info@frontrowgraphics.com.