

Local volunteers transform emergency response vehicles into Portraits of Hope

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Students helped paint panels that will be laminated on to emergency response vehicle in Aspen/Snowmass.

Don't be surprised this summer when you see Aspen/Snowmass emergency response vehicles drive by decorated in brightly colored floral prints. Thanks to the efforts of brothers, Ed and Bernie Massey, and their organization, Portraits of Hope, local students and community members have volunteered to create these mobile displays of public art that have changed the lives of thousands of disadvantaged people throughout the world.

In 1995, Ed Massey and Bernie Massey founded Portraits of Hope, continuing their utilization of art and poignant visual imagery for large-scale projects of social consequence.

Developed initially for seriously ill and physically disabled children, the 501 (c)(3) program conceives and develops one-of-a-kind motivational art projects that merge the production of dynamic public art works with creative therapy for hospitalized children and civic education for students of all ages.

Portraits of Hope projects have involved tens of thousands of youth and adults in high-profile civic collaborations that have visually and spectacularly transformed everything from airplanes, buildings, and the New York City taxi fleet to blimps, tugboats, and NASCAR racecars.

To date, more than 800 hospitals, schools, after-school programs, and social service agencies have directly participated in Portraits of Hope projects and programmatic activities in addition to a wide array of adult community groups.

If you would like to get involved in creating these awe-inspiring works of art and learn more about Portraits of Hope, there will be "Community Sessions" for all ages at the Willits Center in Basalt from 11-3, this Saturday and Sunday, (April 13 & 14), located in the vacant space adjacent to the Whole Foods parking lot. To learn more, go to www.portraitsofhope.org