

## 2019 FYSB RHY Artistic Expression Contest

Our design is a thumb-print with words dispersed throughout. The piece is 49 inches high and 3 feet wide. We used graphite to sketch the design and filled everything in with acrylic paint. The words written in the lines of the print represent different things that the people who live in our facility find unique about themselves. The uniqueness of the fingerprint paired with unique individual qualities is what we decided best fit the theme: Uniquely You.

At the start of this contest we were unsure what it was we wanted to try and show. We thought we should try to paint different faces, but then we remembered how hard it is to paint a face. With that idea out of our heads, we went back to the drawing board. After coming up with nothing, we took another look at the theme. That's when we started brainstorming the different things that make each person unique besides just their faces. We went back and forth with some decent ideas and some terrible ones until some blurted out "fingerprints are different for everybody." No one could believe how simple yet perfect that was!

Once that part of our main idea was established, we started to figure out how to make it more personalized for all of the residents in the building. Luckily one of the staff members here had a good idea, we could have everyone write down what they think makes them unique anonymously. Once we got answers from everyone, we came together and picked out the words or phrases that fit the theme the best.

With our concept done, we only had two steps left: find a location and medium, and execute our ideas. We set up a meeting with our facility program director and decided that we could paint our fingerprint on the wall in our library. Everything seemed to be falling into place! The only thing we still had to do was to paint. It was difficult to find people willing or able to paint, but there were a few of us who stuck with it and finally got it completed!

Looking back at our fingerprint, it's easy to tell that it has a different meaning to everyone who looks at it. For example, I believe that it is visualizing how everyone is different, just like a fingerprint. By bringing the words into the design it is just further showing how every individual is unique, not just physically, but also through their character and personality as well. While on the other hand, one of the co-artists says that it is demonstrating how everyone is unique in a good way. Everyone found something completely different to say about themselves because no two people are the same, which is why she really liked the fingerprint idea. Overall, she said that she thought the message was to embrace your uniqueness and love who you are because there is no one else like you. These are just some of the reasons we felt that this was the perfect design! We wanted something that fit the theme of this contest, but also would continue to be meaningful to people who see it in the future.