

the memory project



LOCAL STUDENTS MAKE LIFELONG GIFTS FOR CHILDREN AT ORPHANAGE Art students at North Rose-Wolcott participate in Memory Project

Art students at North Rose-Wolcott High School have joined the Memory Project again, a nationwide initiative in which advanced, high school art students create original portraits for children living in orphanages around the world. Given that children who have been abandoned, orphaned, abused, or neglected usually have few personal keepsakes, the purpose of the portraits is to provide them with a special memory of their youth, to honor their heritage and identity, and to help them build a positive self-image. The project also provides an opportunity for young Americans to open their hearts to children who have endured many hardships, and to promote the value of sharing kindness with others.

The Memory Project has been featured on national television several times, most notably when Katie Couric concluded her very first broadcast of the *CBS Evening News* with a story about the project's success at an orphanage in Nicaragua. The project has also been covered by major newspapers and magazines throughout the country, all telling the story of students who have participated.

Students at North Rose-Wolcott are participating as part of a course titled Advanced Art or Drawing & Painting. To do this, the students receive pictures of children who are waiting for portraits, and then work in their art classrooms to create the portraits. Once finished, the Memory Project organization delivers the portraits to the children, and the children are then invited to create drawings or write letters to send back to the art students. In total, the students will make portraits for 16 children living at an orphanage in Nicaragua.

The Memory Project is a nonprofit organization based in Madison, Wisconsin. This is the project's fourth year of operation, and already more than 10,000 portraits have been produced by high school art students around the country. North Rose-Wolcott students have been involved from the beginning of the project. Their work has been featured on the web site, in brochures and in magazine articles. Locally, the Wayne County Council for the Arts had an exhibition of the portraits in 2005.

To be involved, each student has to donate \$15.00 to help with the costs of running the program. Currently, the NRW Art Club is footing the bill for this project. Anyone who would like to contribute to this worthy project can contact Mrs. Teska at NRW High School, 315-594-3100.