

## Painting a Picture of Giving

Written by Karen V. Contino

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Keene's Pointe resident Lance Volan sells his artwork to benefit tsunami victims in Japan.

According to Keene's Pointe resident Ingrid Volan, her son

That is why his family was tickled when he became a painter.

"He is a little shy and definitely a jocktype kid," Ingrid said. "Lance is a sports boy through and through. F

Art originally appeared as a one-time blip on the 11-year-old's radar. About a year ago, Lance unexpectedly

"His dad and I are so incredibly proud of him," Ingrid said. "He made one out of the blue a year ago for h

Despite the striking results, it remains a mystery what inspired Lance to create such a unique piece.

"We've been asking and asking where he learned [his] technique, and he says he doesn't know," Ingrid s

During a recent family trip to the 52nd annual Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival, Lance was again inspiri

"At church, our family has been learning the importance of doing and giving to help others," Ingrid said. "

Lance's father, Greg Volan, is delighted in his son's empathy for others.

"I am so proud of our son, Lance," Greg said. "He has such a good heart and really felt bad when he saw

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For Lance, selling paintings for charity made perfect sense.

“I thought it was a good idea, because they need help,” he said.

He immediately got to work making his art, which he creates freehand using two squirt bottles filled with

“I think people really like Lance’s art,” Greg said. “And I think they really like Lance in general. He is a go

Those around Lance have embraced his creativity. Classmates, teachers, coaches, family members, frie

“He sells the paintings for \$20 and asks people to pick two colors they would like for their painting,” Ingrid

Lance’s school, Windermere Elementary, has also been supportive of his efforts.

“His teacher and classmates have cheered him on and supported him in a beautiful way,” Ingrid said. “F

And Lance’s efforts paid off when he made his first donation to the American Red Cross of Central Florid

“He had the biggest smile on his face,” Ingrid said. “One thing he did ask was if he could hold all of [the r

Though timid at first, Lance quickly understood just how good it feels to give back.

“At first I was nervous, but then they were nice, and I felt good, because we raised a lot of money,” Lan

And Lance has another aspiration. He hopes to one day display and sell his art at the Winter Park Sidew

“I would feel very, very, very good, and I would love to,” Lance said. “It would make a lot of people buy m

Ingrid hopes her son’s generosity will spark the same kindness and selflessness in others.

“I hope this is one of those little stories that inspires us all,” Ingrid said. “That no matter how old we are, y

**Lance is currently accepting custom orders. To order one of his paintings or for more information,**

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