

EDITORS: The partnership with AGH occurred just yesterday, and we are hoping to add this important information to the press release the Art League moved previously about the hugging heart program. Thank you.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - UPDATE**

**Art League and Atlantic General Hospital ask community to show support for local healthcare providers by sending hugging hearts**

**OCEAN CITY, MD — April 14, 2020** — The Art League of Ocean City is calling on the community to show support for local healthcare providers at Atlantic General Hospital by sending hugging hearts to the hospital.

The Art League has begun a community-wide art project and installation called “Have a heART – Give a hug.” To show community strength during the pandemic, neighbors are encouraged to hang hugging hearts in their windows, and businesses to post them on their signs and marquees. The project has now been expanded to include a call for showing support for healthcare providers at AGH.

“All of us have seen the images on the news showing the brave caregivers who every day put their lives on the line for us,” Rina Thaler, Art League executive director, said. “When we announced this hugging heart program, we reached out to the hospital to determine how we could



use this piece of art to show the community's support for their caregivers.

“So many of our friends and neighbors are working hard to keep us healthy and safe – doctors, nurses, aides, office staff, lab technicians, ambulance drivers, housekeeping staff, maintenance, food preparation staff, and so many others. We need to show them we think and care about them.”

Toni Keiser, vice-president of public relations for the hospital, said the hospital saw the hugging hearts as a way to show their caregivers just how much the community appreciates their dedication.

“At AGH, we are a team, and every member of our staff is a key player on the team,” Keiser said. “This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize and thank all of our associates for the significant efforts they have put forth to allow us to continue to provide care for our patients and our community during this difficult time.”

The community is invited to download images of the hugging heart from the Art League's website at [www.ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org](http://www.ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org) or on the Art League's Facebook page. The hugging heart is available as both a color image to print directly on home printers, and also as a coloring book-style page that can be printed for children and family art projects. The Art League encourages artists to print and paint their own versions using the template.

“We are encouraging everyone to download these images, make them your own, write a personal message of love and support to our local caregivers, and send them to AGH,” Thaler continued.

Hearts can be mailed through the Post Office to: Atlantic General Hospital, Att: Caroline Phillips, 10320 Old Ocean City Blvd., Berlin, MD 21811. Or digital hearts can be uploaded to [COVID19donations@atlanticgeneral.org](mailto:COVID19donations@atlanticgeneral.org).



*The Art League of Ocean City is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the visual arts to the community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs and community art projects. Financial support comes primarily through membership dues from individuals and corporate sponsors. Funding for exhibits is also provided by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts, organizations dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.*

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EDITORS: Digital hugging heart files are attached.

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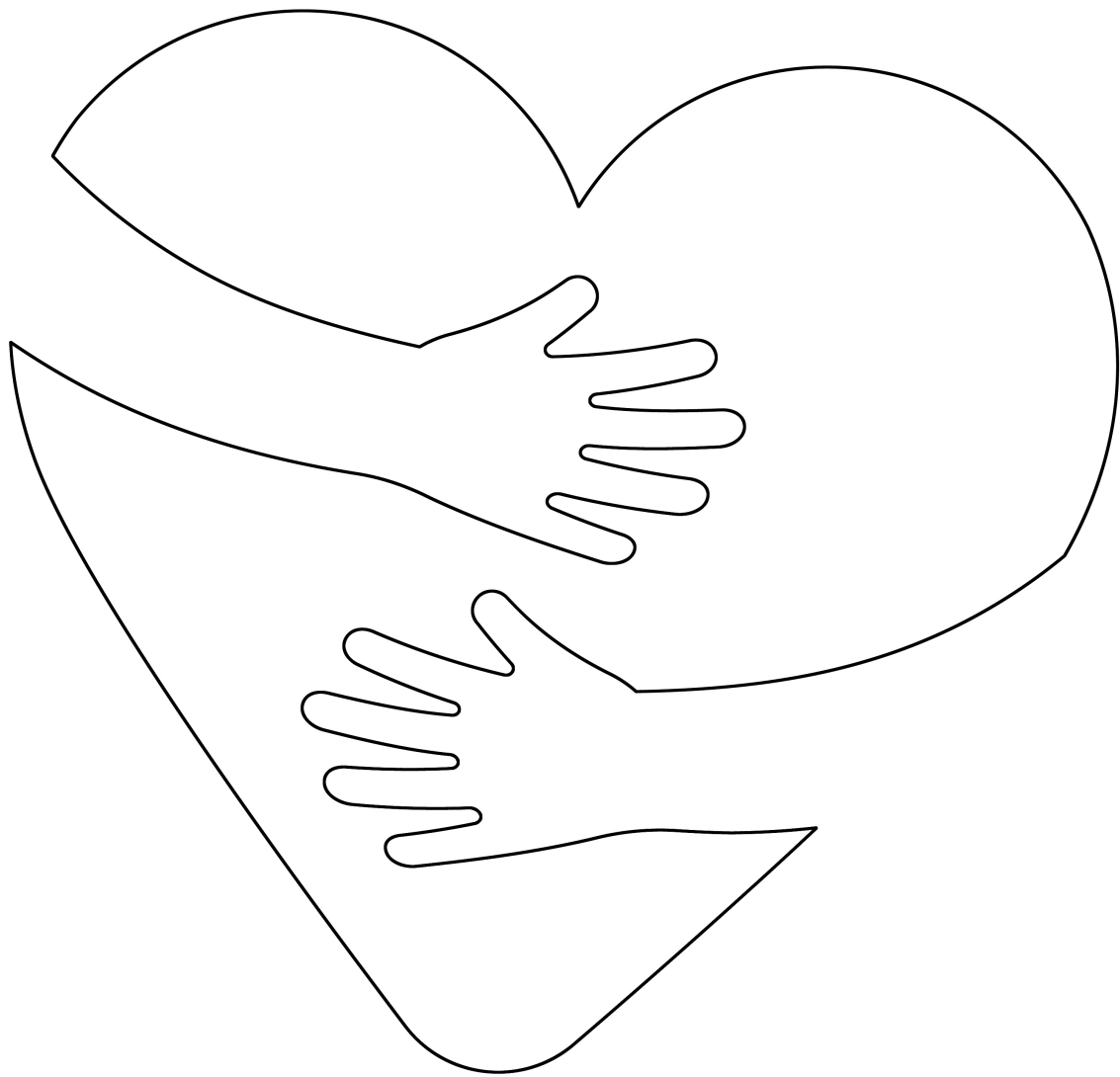




Have a heART - Give a hug

With hugs from The Art League of Ocean City, Maryland





**Have a heART - Give a hug**

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