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## PRESS RELEASE

### 7th Annual Art Exhibit held at Advocates, Inc.

#### *Observance of Mental Health Month*

FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, May 18, 2006 ... In observance of Mental Health Month, Advocates, Inc. this week showcased a collection of original artwork by clients, staff, representatives of other area human service providers, and local artists at its 7th Annual Art Exhibit. The event, open to the public, was held at Advocates' headquarters at One Clarks Hill in Framingham.

Mental Health Month is an annual national campaign to promote mental wellness and increase the public's awareness of mental health issues and the many programs and services available to citizens in their communities

The Annual Art Exhibit featured a collection of creative work including original paintings, photography, sketches, drawings, sculpture, music and poetry. Selected artwork was available for purchase from individual artists, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Advocates' Quality of Life Fund and programs for the arts.

Since 1975, Advocates has provided an environment where people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and physical challenges can participate, prosper, and contribute in their communities. Today, the agency is among the top 20 human service organizations in the state, with more than 800 employees, and programs in cities and towns throughout Eastern Massachusetts.

Advocates' Annual Art Exhibit is a tradition of recognition and celebration of gifted artists with disabilities, and the dedicated human services staff members who provide not only programs and services, but encouragement, concern and caring. The event is also designed to raise public awareness and understanding of people with disabilities.

The Annual Art Exhibit was one of a number of Advocates events scheduled throughout the month of May in observance of Mental Health Month.

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