

Celebrating Through Art

Maryland's First Lady Yumi Hogan hosted *Celebrating Through Art: The First Lady's Mental Health Awareness Youth Art Display* in the Lowe House Office Building, May 5-12. The event marks Children's Mental Health Awareness Week and highlights the expressive power of art for all young people. Children and youth from across Maryland submitted works of art for display depicting something which makes them feel happy, healthy, and hopeful. Young artists, with and without disabilities, will come together as one artistic voice to highlight the importance of mental health for children in Maryland. First Lady Yumi Hogan held a reception for the artists, their teachers, and families.

"I would like to thank the Children's Mental Health Matters Campaign and its partners for providing me with this opportunity to recognize the importance of children's mental health, and to highlight the artistic talents of young Marylanders," said First Lady Yumi Hogan. "I truly appreciate all of our young artists for sharing their talents with us, and am very pleased to support this campaign. As an artist myself, I understand the unique power of art that helps us communicate, heal, and grow."

The art show is an outreach event of [Children's Mental Health Matters!](#) a collaboration of the Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMd) and the Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF), with support from the Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness of the importance of children's mental health. Each year, **Children's Mental Health Matters!** sponsors events, workshops, outreach and other awareness raising activities. The Maryland Department of Disabilities and Maryland State Department of Education joined the campaign to support the First Lady's Youth Art Display initiative and bring attention to the need for unified and aligned strategies when addressing children's mental health needs in our state.

For more information on the Children's Mental Health Matters Campaign, please visit [Children's Mental Health Matters!](#)