



express yourself

PHOTO CONTEST

the world through *their* eyes

Express Yourself is an opportunity for special needs children to use photography to show others their view of their world.

This unique event gives the children an opportunity for greater reflection and to develop a greater self esteem. Photography is an avenue for special needs children to express themselves creatively and emotionally by communicating visually.

"The introduction of photography as a creative outlet to these special children will stimulate their minds," says Thomas Balsamo of Portraits By Thomas.

This event also gives the public an understanding of the depth special needs children have. The public will have the opportunity to read what that each young photographer was thinking while he or she captured their image.

An **Express Yourself Gallery** event to honor all artists will be held July 14th, 6pm at The Garlands of Barrington for all participants and their families. We are inviting the community to participate in the creative experience by encouraging Barrington area residents to come to the gallery and cast their "People's Choice" votes for the best photograph on exhibit.

Express Yourself is created for and offered to children with special needs who have been identified as requiring educational assistance with an IEP or served under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

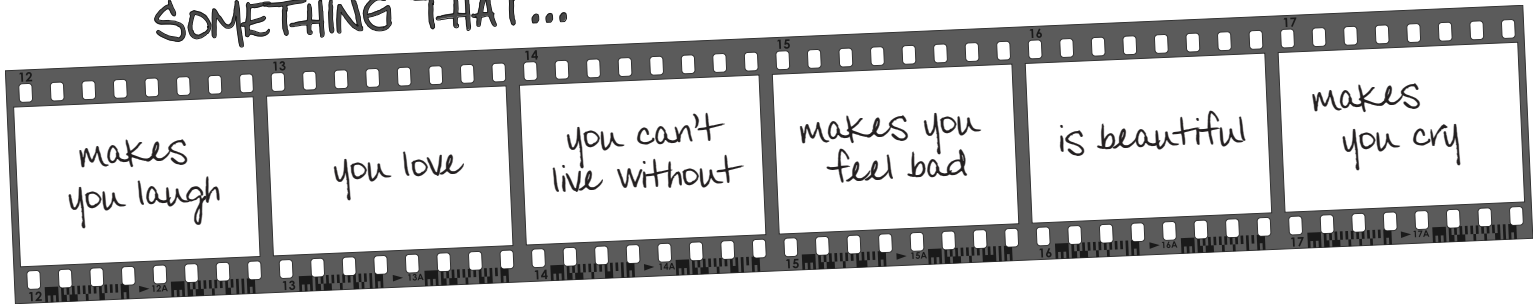
YOUNG SHUTTERBUGS EXPRESS YOURSELF! STARTING APRIL 15.

Express Yourself is looking for 25 special needs individuals between the ages of 8 and 23 years old. The participants will attend a photography lesson taught by professional photographer Thomas Balsamo. Participants will photograph images in 6 categories. Once produced, images will be framed and displayed in a gallery. A hard bound book showcasing all participant's work will be produced as well.

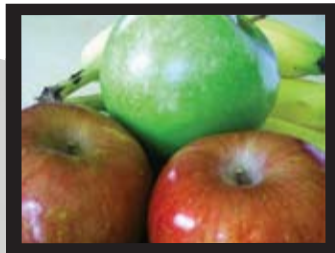
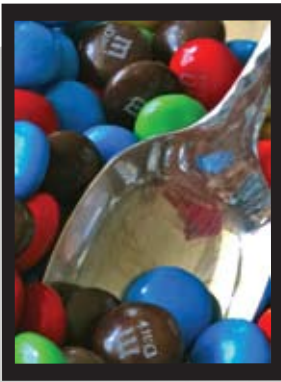
Visit www.expressyourselfexhibit.com for more information, Official Rules and to download the Contest Application. DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION, FILL IT OUT AND SEND IT IN!

CREATIVE CATEGORIES

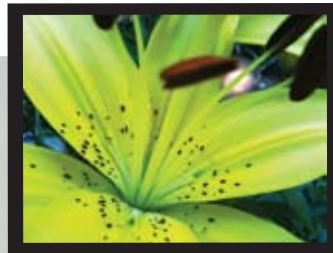
SOMETHING THAT...



Let's celebrate the beautiful creative vision our kids have!



Photos by Samantha Schmitz.



Sponsored by the Barrington Area Special Voices. (501C3)



The traveling gallery show and book is produced by Books That Tough.

Contact info: Thomas Balsamo 847.487.7710 thomas@portraitsbythomas.com

Visit www.expressyourselfexhibit.com for more information.