

Local Artist donates sculpture to CHAIRity

By Linda Bentley

PHOENIX - CHAIRity is a public awareness campaign that takes place each October during Domestic Violence Prevention Month. The primary goal is to raise awareness in the community about the prevalence of domestic violence and the services available to those affected. The secondary goal is to raise funds for the City of Phoenix Family Advocacy Center to fund critically needed services outside the scope of their budget.

"Sit a Moment ... Stop the Violence" is the wording on an awareness campaign ad. Domestic Violence is a crime that affects one in five women and impacts the business community through absenteeism, business interruption and workplace violence.

CHAIRity 2001 is dedicated to raising awareness and funds for the purpose of providing needed services to survivors of domestic violence. The Arizona Cardinals and Newport Furnishings are this year's premier sponsors of CHAIRity.

Six artists were selected to design and create an art piece, each beginning with a 3 X 5 oversized aluminum chair, donated to the event by Steelcase, Inc., the largest manufacturer of office furniture in the world.

Jennie Curé, local sculpture artist and landscape architect, was selected as one of the CHAIRity artists this year. Her sculpture, "Healing Embrace" is num-



PHOTO BY LINDA BENTLEY

"Healing Embrace" by local artist and landscape architect Jennie Curé will be on display at Phoenix City Hall from Monday, Sept. 24 through Wednesday, Oct. 24 in honor of Domestic Violence Prevention Month.

ber four in her "Arizona Tin Man" series. Her whimsical sculptures are created from found mufflers, headers and tail pipes.

Curé, who has a degree in biology and a license in landscape architecture, branched off into her metal sculpture as a continuation of the art of gardening started as a young girl, by growing flowers in her father's vegetable garden.

The third annual CHAIRity event, sponsored by U S Business Interiors (USBI) will be held at their Phoenix showroom located at 3003 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1500 on Thursday, October

25 from 5 to 8 p.m.

The event will feature food, entertainment, a silent auction of the six artistically decorated "BIG CHAIRS" and an array of other "chair-themed" art created by local artisans architects, jewelers and designers. In addition to the silent auction, a variety of unique items will be available in a live auction.

Proceeds will benefit the City of Phoenix Family Advocacy Center.

The "BIG CHAIRS" will be on display at Phoenix City Hall Sept. 24 - Oct. 24 in honor of Domestic Violence Prevention Month.

Jennie Curé sees beyond scrap to the spectac

MARIELLE D. MARNE
Special to the Sentinel

Some people see scrap metal. Others, like Jennie Curé, see art. About a year ago, Curé developed a fascination with metal art. She began by collecting a few pieces for herself and then realized, "I can do that!" Undoubtedly, her experience growing flowers in her father's vegetable garden as a young girl helped to foster her talents in metal sculpture.

A New Hampshire native, Curé is a certified horticulturist, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and is a licensed landscape architect. She was destined for the outdoors!

As an extension of her landscape company, The Arizona Gardening Service based in Cave Creek, she sees beauty beyond perfect lawns, stately trees and budding blooms. Curé appreciates sculpture for accenting yards and to be placed strategically amongst gardens.

Her first piece of art was Emily. Emily stands beside a water feature Curé designed, complete with an umbrella. As she would explain, "I had the legs in the studio for a month or two. Then I got the body. And, that sat awhile. The pieces were independent of each other and I looked at them and thought, "I can make a person out of that!"

So, I put them together." And Emily was born!" She was created from a muffler, auto tail pipes and assorted other recycled scrap metal, and she's a true work of art.

Since Emily, Curé has crafted wreaths and flower arrangements, vases and cowboys, and even a leviathan 10 foot wide piece labeled The Cup, mostly from discarded materials. The bows on her wreaths are taken from radiators,



Sentinel photo/Marielle D. Marne

Jennie Curé is seen in her yard with one of her creations.

Curé even makes decorative mirrors that she said, "are a neat thing for a small garden space. They can look like a door or even a window" and add depth or otherwise alter the dimensions of a limited area.

Gleaning from her tenure in a nursery, she sculpted "The

Flower," from principles she learned when making arrangements. She included stripped 220 wire in her creation for a dramatic sparkle when the sun dances off the reeds. Of her various cowboys, Curé noted people can't help but to laugh or smile when they see

them. She enjoys the things people see in her work.

Curé has various sculptures on her acre and a garden. When she bought her property years ago, it was devoted to a desert garden, a desert garden she has called "the beach" are various sculptures. Ibises in all sorts of sizes. They are gentle birds used for fishing or sunbathing. They are metal chairs and pieces of rebar. They are an ideal complement to a pond or wading through a wash.

To learn more about Curé and her landscape company, Arizona Gardening Service, call her at 480-488-9343. Her unique metalwork can be seen at her studio. She has the perfect accessories for indoor and outdoor display!