

Art exhibit benefits Middle Way House

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Many local women artists worked together to bring this year's Women Exposed benefit to life. It opened Friday night and continues 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday upstairs at 101 E. Sixth St.

Friday's opening featured a lively crowd and lots of musical performances in addition to the many pieces of visual art on display.

The show is a fundraiser for Middle Way House and The Rise. The show is "empowering women through helping Middle Way House and through creating art," said Filiz Cicek, one of the event organizers.

There among the many works on display were hanging mobiles of plates and cups, a pink feather framed portrait of Dolly Parton and a special digital video installation by German artist Baerbel Roothar.

"Lots of art by women, it's always a good thing. It's a great cause, too, so it's a double bonus right there," said visitor Kristen Byl.

All were there to help women and children experiencing domestic violence.

"Every single person in here means money for Middle Way House," said Joy Hanford, an event organizer. In its fourth year, she said each Women Exposed show brings in upwards of \$1,000 for Middle Way.

Friday's festivities included a rousing performance by a cappella singing group Kaia and the sounds of the African mbira, sometimes known as a thumb piano, played by Abby Byers, Sarah Cluff and Angela Scharfenberger.

"The main idea was that we should be an eclectic group of people, some that would be considered high art and others that would be considered craft makers," said Cicek.

A guest views work at this year's Women Exposed art benefit for Middle Way House. Mercedes Rodriguez | Herald-Times

