

"A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can **YOU** Do?"



Beverly Fuqua hopes to continue creating and teaching art until she can no longer hold a pencil, pastel or brush.

Ms. Fuqua has a rare genetic disorder, Osteogenesis Imperfecta, which led to her having to use a wheelchair by the late 1990s. Still, she looked upon this as a blessing - a development in her life that would allow her more opportunity to focus on her art. She made time to use her talent to teach fine art to children with disabilities, helping them to build self-esteem and confidence through their own artwork. She continues to teach summer workshops, to help raise funds for service animals, and to raise public awareness of mobility issues, accessible parking, and, with her partner Otis, make people aware of the role of service animals in providing independence, safety and confidence in their partners.

Ms. Fuqua has a particular passion for painting animals and sees deeply metaphorical messages in their poses. This year's winning entry is titled "In the Pink," and features five pink flamingos wading in shallow water with a forest in the background. Flamingos, she says, tend to always flock together. "Apart, each can be vulnerable, but as a flock, each becomes safer and stronger. By working together, they are all safer."



Beverly with her partner, Otis

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