

# Crafts & Conversations

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TCU Mentor: Dr. Misha Galaganov

## Project Overview

Crafts & Conversations was established to foster community among TCU students and the residents of a local retirement facility, Trinity Terrace. During monthly meetings, students and residents share their stories while collaborating on season-themed craft activities, including murals, cross-stitching, snow globes, suncatchers, decoupage, and upcycled terrariums. TCU students who volunteer in these monthly meetings build meaningful friendships, combat stereotypes against the elderly, and improve communication and leadership skills. In addition, each event opens with a performance by TCU music students, enabling them to cultivate their craft and share their talent. Even throughout the pandemic, Crafts & Conversations nurtured memories and connections through Zoom and masked in-person meetings. With a commitment to sustainability, this project will continue to enrich the lives of residents at Trinity Terrace and Brookdale Westover Hills, providing dedicated student volunteers with opportunities to strengthen the Fort Worth community.

## Background

### Collaboration among TCU Pre-Health, TCU School of Music, and Trinity Terrace

- Founder: Annemarie Thompson
- Student Leader: Rima Abram
- Project Team: Alyssa Schexnayder, Erica Kaminga, Genevieve Aiwonegbe
- TCU Mentor: Dr. Misha Galaganov
- Trinity Terrace Representatives: Carol Stanford and Ruby Ramirez



### Goals

- Foster meaningful social and community connections
- Combat stereotypes against the elderly
- Provide a space for TCU students to lead, serve, and share their talents

## Accomplishments

- Donated leftover craft supplies to the Welman Project for use in underserved schools
- Increased attendance (students and residents) at craft meetings
- Hosted solo and chamber music performances

### Sustainability plan

- Expansion of project to Brookdale Westover Hills, serving individuals in assisted living/memory care
- 2024-2025 project team: Alyssa Schexnayder (student leader), Grady O'Gara, Eric Shepherd



## Project Description

### Monthly Craft Activities

- Events include music performances by TCU students
- Partnership with Brookdale Westover Hills (BWH) - April 2024



### 2023-2024 Meetings

- Decoupage Jars and Vases (09/24/2023)
- Decoupage Pumpkins, Halloween Wreaths (10/08/2023)
- Plush Pumpkins (10/21/2023)
- Windchimes, Scarecrows, and Bingo (11/12/2023)
- Holiday Ornaments (12/03/2023)
- Valentine's Heart Wreaths (02/04/2024)
- Paper Shamrocks and Leprechauns (03/03/2024)
- Pressed Flower Lanterns (03/24/2024, 04/06/2024 at BWH)
- Canvas Scrapbooking (04/14/2024)
- Cinco de Mayo Craft Party (05/05/2024)



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