Boston Living Center to honor late North End sculptor Randy Goldberger

By Jeremy C. Fox, Town Correspondent

Randy Mersel Goldberger, a sculptor who lived in the North End until her death in January, will be honored at an upcoming event at the Boston Living Center.

On May 14, the Back Bay non-profit resource center, which offers help to those with HIV and AIDS, will officially name the art studio at its Stanhope Street location the Randy Goldberger Art Studio in recognition of Goldberger's 16 years as a volunteer art instructor at the center and her service on its board of directors.

The ceremony will also introduce the Randy Goldberger Art Program Fund, which will accept donations to support the center's ongoing art programs.

"Randy not only excelled at teaching clay sculpture, she was a wonderful listener, who believed that getting the BLC members to talk and open up was as important and moving as their art," said Andy Finard, who worked with Goldberger on the center's board and in the art studio, according to a statement released by the center.

The event will also recognize the efforts of all members of the center's board, which is disbanding due to the organization's merger with Victory Programs Inc. on March 1.

The board served through difficult months following the November 2010 discovery that the center's then-executive director, Valerie Tebbetts, had embezzled funds. An emergency fund-raising effort garnered more than $200,000 to keep the center operating until the merger with Victory Programs was final.

Tebbetts pleaded guilty last December to embezzling more than $120,000 from the center and was sentenced to five years' probation.

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