

Health center to display Hmong art

Folk art produced by Milwaukee's Hmong community will be on display Saturday and Sunday as the 16th Street Community Health Center, 1032 S. 16th St., hosts an exhibit and sale.

Three types of work created by the Hmong will be available for purchase: paj nraub xia, a form of reverse applique; paj nraub lau, a thread-count embroidery; and batik, a complex craft practiced only by women of the Blue Hmong.

Hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. More than 80 artists will be represented. The event is part of the center's yearlong observance of its 25th anniversary.

"Our community-based health center is an important resource to a culturally diverse neighborhood that includes the Hmong community," said John Bartkowski, chief executive officer of the center.

"This event offers people a chance to see and learn more about the rich Hmong heritage."

In addition to exhibits, activities will include a presentation on the history of Hmong art, folk stories and demonstrations of art-making techniques.

The health-care center was visited by almost 31,000 patients last year, 45% of its patients are under age 11.