

# The Daily Item E-Edition

-- CLOSE WINDOW--

## Print Version

Print Page

Last modified: Monday, March 19, 2007 11:22 PM EDT

### RAW Arts



Johnny Nguyen of RAW Art Works' Good To Go group works on his piece of a mural at the Lynn YMCA's youth center Monday.

## group creates mural at YMCA

By David Liscio / The Daily Item

LYNN - A small group of teenage Lynn boys completed a relatively large mural inside the Greater Lynn YMCA youth center Monday, bringing to a close their special project begun shortly after the new year began.

Members of the "Good to Go" team of artists, part of the Raw Art Works studio at 37 Central Square, the boys focused their creativity on delivering positive messages through painting.

"Mostly it's about doing the right thing, making the right decisions," said Jason Cruz, the art therapist who supervised the project. "It's about choosing your path."

The right side of the mural depicts a blue wave, the left a bolt of energy. "They both end up in an orb of orange at the center," said Cruz. "No matter which side you come from, you get to the center and there you can make a better choice. The mural has lots of messages, like if you go for quick money, you might end up in jail. But the other path, even though it means working hard, eventually leads to better success because you don't have to worry about where

the money came from."

According to Cruz, the five boys are ages 14-18 and currently enrolled in local high schools.

"They dedicated their mural to the teens of Lynn. They used acrylic paint on the back wall in the YMCA teen center. It's awesome," he said, noting the mural is about 10 feet high and 80 feet long. "These are kids who are motivated to make art. You have to want to create art before it can happen."

Cruz said Good to Go is comprised of young artists dedicated to public art or community-based art.

"These kids want to use art to revive or beautify Lynn," he said.

Anyone is welcome to interview for membership in Good to Go by calling Cruz at RAW Arts at (781) 593-5515, ext. 206.

"Right now we're interviewing for next year. Kids interested must bring their own art to the interview," he said.

Ebony White, director of the YMCA teen center at 20 Neptune Boulevard, and Tania Buck-Ruffen, director of childcare services, assisted Cruz in overseeing the art project.

.....

-- CLOSE WINDOW--

