

Art4All Florida  
Student of the Month  
May, 2021



14-year-old **Giana Sena** is an aspiring multi-media artist who has found a renewed sense of self-confidence since exploring the arts, akin to many children on the Autism Spectrum. Giana was nominated by her mother, Irene Sena, who homeschools her. She writes, “for Giana, a student who really struggles academically, the arts have given her something to feel good about. It has given her self-confidence I feel would have never been achieved without having the many successes she’s had.”

Arts4All Florida was wowed by Giana’s growth since starting at Making Light Productions, a Tallahassee based nonprofit inclusive theatre group focusing on arts education for people of all abilities. Irene recalls how “Giana looked forward to attending theater class each week. I watched her perform in front of an audience full of people, something I never dreamed she would accomplish.” Since then, she has started taking art classes and now uses drawing as a creative outlet whenever there is downtime. Not only has this translated to improved focus techniques but has also allowed for new friendships with her classmates.

Most recently, Giana has started taking guitar lessons. Although joining a class and learning new techniques can be daunting for anyone, Giana pushes through any fears. Of course, there is always some bumps in the road but Irene notes how she “can see [Giana] believes in herself now.” Previously Giana struggled academically, in her communication skills, as well as making friends. Today, it seems Giana has had a 180° experience since beginning in the arts.