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**CRACKED GLASS VASES TO BE FEATURED AT
FLOWERS BY JOSIE**

(Grayling, Michigan – April 1, 2008) Diana Nickerson glances out the window of her studio and studies the snow-covered, sloping fields of the old Nickerson homestead near Kingsley and dreams of spring. Then she returns to the task of placing numbered pieces of stained glass on the sun-burst pattern. In the center she will create a fused glass dove to symbolize peace. Each piece of glass has been cut and ground to precisely fit her pattern. Every pattern is original and is designed to satisfy the interest of her client. She has just finished wrapping the edges of the glass with copper foil and soon they will be soldered together.

Nickerson will be the featured artist at Flowers by Josie / Thanks-a- Latte during the Spring Art Walk on April 26th from 1:00 to 5:00 p. m. in downtown Grayling. Over a dozen businesses and artists will be paring up to bring fine art to the public on the opening day of trout season. Watershed Art Project will be offering an award along with two People’s Choice awards and a Mercy Hospital Purchase Award; over a thousand dollars will be awarded to give recognition to the fine artists that surround our community.

Diana began working in stained glass in high school in Gaylord and continued her studies at South Seattle Community College in Seattle, Washington. For the past seventeen years she has devoted herself to her art career; prior to that she held a day-job to help pay the bills. Ten years ago she expanded her creativity by using fused glass fired in a kiln and then worked with polymer clay combined with fused glass and bead work to create exquisite jewelry.

One bright afternoon, Nickerson was fascinated as the sun glistened off the intricate pattern of a shattered window that lay in her back yard. This broken window led

her down another path of creativity. She took some rose peddles and onion skin and glued them to glass vase. Then she carefully glued the bits of the broken window over the flower peddles and rubbed grout into the cracks. Over the years she has improved the process so the flowers don't lose their color and expanded their usefulness to lamp shades, candle holders, flower vases, and mirrors. Her studio walls are lined with bookshelves holding hundreds of pressed flowers from her garden. Creating these works of art is a tedious ten-step process, but the results are well worth the effort.

Watershed Art Project began in late 2007, when a half-dozen community leaders sat on the back deck at the home of Pam and Fred Fisher and brainstormed the impact that fine art could have on the economic and cultural future of Grayling. The Spring Art Walk is the second event organized by WAP and is being partially funded by a Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs mini-grant administered by Kirtland Community College.