



**VANDERHEYDEN**  
*Giving new life to children and families since 1833*



**Connected Kids Outreach Award**  
**Vanderheyden's Digital Photography Program**  
<http://www.connectedkids.info/>

Vanderheyden Residential and Community Services for Youth, Individuals and Families is excited to announce a new Digital Photography Program made possible through an Outreach Award given by Connected Kids, an online information system about programs, services and events in the Troy and Rensselaer County communities for young people. The Photography program will allow students on campus the opportunity to participate in a group, run by an Expressive Arts Therapist wherein they would have access to digital cameras in order to photograph the world from their perspective. The concept seemed particularly appropriate for adolescents due to their developmental stage, the difficulties of which are furthered by being placed in residential care. Due to their desire to seek realism and perfection in their artistic endeavors, many adolescents are reticent to draw or paint, feeling self-conscious about the result. Due to this fact, many do not pursue artistic endeavors, for fear of being deemed sub-par.

Students would be encouraged to focus on images and views that are specifically important to them individually, and to consider how their own world interacts with and exists within the broader community. The group would meet at least once a week in order to share their images and discuss them with peers. In addition, the group would involve some form of creative writing to accompany the photographs.

Once a month, selected photos will be posted on the Connected Kids website for public viewing and comment.