



John and Kathy Mestas stand in front of the mural they painted at InspirationField. The mural commemorates "Old Tiger Field." COURTESY PHOTO

Mestas paints mural to commemorate 'Old Tiger Field'

La Junta's "Old Tiger Field" will never be forgotten. Not with the incredible mural of Tiger Eyes that was painted by La Junta's very own John Mestas.

John Mestas, who was born and raised here, couldn't have been more excited when Johnnie DeLeon, CEO of InspirationField asked him to paint a mural inside the brand new facility which now resides at 612 Adams Ave. "I was very excited about the idea and knew it had to be something special, something that all the individuals and staff would enjoy looking at as they walked down the hall," Mestas stated.

The mural measures 20 feet long by 10 feet tall and was painted all by paintbrush. The Tiger Eyes mural is the biggest one Mestas has completed so far. The project took approximately a month to complete. Mestas stated that he couldn't have done it without his wife Kathy, who is also his assistant.

This mural is one of the many projects Mestas has donated to the community, from signs, memorials and school murals. The many day and night hours have all been Mestas' and his wife's donation to InspirationField. "We don't ever ask or expect any kind of pay for what we

do. The smiles on people's faces as they walk by and look at our work is all I want. It's all for our community to enjoy, that's my reward, and I have always believed in paying it forward!" Mestas stated.

"The mural is an everyday reminder of old Tiger Field and a favorite conversation piece for many of the tours that have been given at our new facility. I remember walking by numerous times when John and his wife were painting the mural before the building was complete and was just mesmerized by how he was able to create something so big and incredible," Caitlin Coffield,

Community Relations Manager stated.

Mestas and his wife also run a Host Home for InspirationField and have housed three individuals going on 11 years now.

Old Tiger Field will always be remembered whenever you walk the halls of InspirationField. Tours can be given on an appointment basis so anyone can come view the wonderful mural created by Mestas.

Contact Caitlin Coffield, Community Relations manager, to make an appointment for a tour. Coffield can be reached at 468-9408. Her email address is: ccoffield@inspirationfield.org.