



Art with a Heart
in Healthcare

2021

YEAR IN REVIEW



BEARS

Never
Give
Up

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Art with a Heart in Healthcare

We believe that creativity is fundamental to the human experience and that artistic expression promotes a sense of well-being that leads to improved patient health outcomes.

AWAHIH is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing personalized fine art experiences that enhance the healing process for patients and their families.

Meet Our Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hillary Whitaker - *Chair*
Casey Cohen - *Secretary*
Judy Powell - *Treasurer*
Bebe Alexander
Toni Boudreaux
Kerri Carter
Teresa Graham
Bonnie Hayflick
Laird

DIRECTORS

Christy Ponder
*Co-Executive Director and
Artist-in-Residence*

Lori Presto, MSW
*Co-Executive Director and
Artist-in-Residence*

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

Dylan Bauer
Bob Drost
Heidi Drost
Kianna Godoy
John Guinta
Brooke McKinney
Helen Meatte
Lisa Miyares
Matt Richards
Abigail Santos
Jill Swanson



***"We accomplished
many great
achievements
together in 2021!"***

Bedside Art Sessions

In 2021, Art with a Heart in Healthcare (AWAHIH) Artists-in-Residence (AIR) provided personalized fine art experiences to approximately 10,000 patients! Most of these patients were children and adolescents at Wolfson Children's Hospital (WCH). AWAHIH also continued to provide patients and the public with art sessions online via our virtual arts program, "Let's Make Art," in which we premiered more than 50 live-streamed art tutorials. In addition, the playrooms of WCH opened back up which meant that AWAHIH was able to resume art sessions in the playrooms for patients one at a time. This has allowed many patients the enjoyment of making art with AWAHIH AIR while getting a much needed break from their hospital rooms. We believe that creativity is fundamental to the human experience and that artistic expression promotes health and well-being that leads to improved patient outcomes, helps to reclaim a patient's sense of self from illness, and enhances the healing process for patients and their families.



Our services include:

- Art Requests
- Drawing
- Painting
- Jewelry
- Clay
- Music
- Origami
- Caricature Art
- Live-streamed art tutorials
- Digital Art



"To me, Art with a Heart in Healthcare means healing, distraction, and good company. Art helps me pass time in the hospital and gives me something to do besides just laying in bed."

- Gillian, age 20,
WCH patient



Behavioral Health

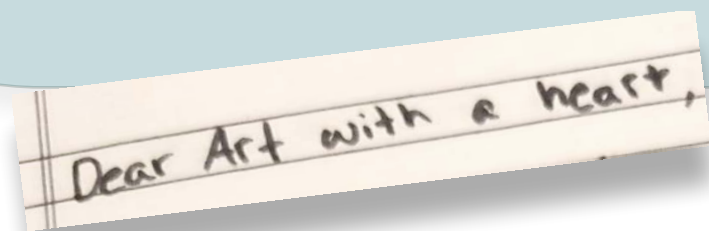
This year, AWAHIH continued to facilitate group sessions for pediatric Behavioral Health (BH) patients at WCH as well as adult and geriatric BH patients at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville (BMCJ). Partnering with John Guinta from Streams of Sound, INC., our team provides a handpan music experience along with visual art sessions. The BH department has been exceptionally busy this year, therefore, it is more important than ever that AWAHIH helps to enhance the healing process for this patient population by providing both music and fine art experiences.

Overall, patients are pleased to have the opportunity to express themselves creatively while listening to the meditative sounds of the handpans. One patient wrote to AWAHIH, "Your music was stunning, captivating, and most importantly calming. It can be hard for kids like us to find something grounding, but you supplied that. I can't thank you enough. I hope you continue to assist in treatment." In all, AWAHIH provided more than 1,700 BH patients with group art sessions!



"Patients respond well to the soothing music of the handpans and always appreciate the sessions with AWAHIH. This ambience allows the patients to relax and fosters creative self-expression. The artists with AWAHIH provide positive support, guidance, and encouragement to patients attempting to express themselves through visual art no matter the artistic level of the patient."

- Preston Watson, MMT, MT-BC Activity Specialist/Music Therapist



Community Outreach



In June, AWAHIH led families who have lost a child to pediatric cancer through an art session in partnership with Tom Coughlin Jay Fund (TCJF) at their annual Remembrance Weekend for the 16th year. For this year's project, AWAHIH AIR and volunteer artists guided families through painting river rocks and flower pots. The project went along with the weekend's theme of "growing through grief." This theme emphasizes that while grief never fully goes away, one can strive to grow around it. AWAHIH's art session provided a respite from the family's heavy bereavement and a safe way of expressing emotions. Participants conveyed how much they enjoyed the session and that they appreciated the opportunity to create beauty and find hope in a relaxed environment. Their creations were used in a special ceremony that further assisted the commemoration of their children. AWAHIH is honored to play a part in helping to enhance the healing process for families who have endured so much.

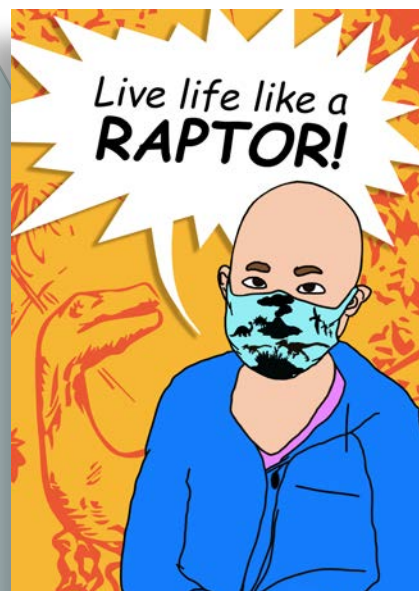
- Facilitated art projects with more than 90 participants at TCJF Remembrance Weekend and an art project for TCJF caregiver event
- Presented at the National Organization for Arts in Health National Annual Conference
- Provided an art session and a speech at World Sickle Cell Day event
- Hosted more than 10 live art sessions in the WCH Media Center
- Premiered more than 50 Facebook Live art sessions
- Provided a group art session for Kids Together Against Cancer (KTAC)
- 10 news publications; 1 TV news appearance



Patient Exhibitions

For AWAHIH and MOCA's 11th annual patient art exhibition this year, our team envisioned a theme that would reflect the current times and allow WCH patients to express themselves in an artistic and meaningful way. Thus, "Behind the Mask" came to fruition. Collaborating with AWAHIH Artists-in-Residence, patients created digital self portraits and answered the question, "What are you thinking behind your mask?" Each of the patients' portraits feature a uniquely designed face mask which spotlight their interests and personalities. All artwork was illustrated on AWAHIH iPads using Procreate. Some patients expanded on their prior skills with this digital painting application, while others enjoyed learning a new art form. The patients drew inspiration from the style of pop artist Roy Lichtenstein, complete with bold colors and word bubbles, which guided the creative process and united the artwork into a cohesive exhibition.

Participants feel a great sense of pride having their artwork displayed in MOCA and afterwards in other locations around Jacksonville, FL. Thank you to Florida Blue Foundation for sponsoring this exhibition!



"A couple weeks after I started chemo, an artist from Art with a Heart walked into the room and asked me to do art. It made me happy because I had something to do instead of thinking about other stuff. My artwork means to be strong and brave."

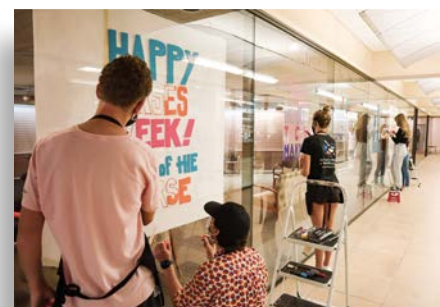
- Ava Jones, age 8,
WCH patient

Special Projects



AWAHIH carried out several special projects this year. One of these projects involved AWAHIH Artists-in-Residence and volunteers creating more than 20 paintings for Nemours Children's Health (Nemours) Pulmonology/Allergy exam rooms and triage areas. These paintings for patients, their families, and the staff of Nemours highlight the flora and fauna in the local environment and ecosystems of the St. Johns River, which can be seen from the windows of the unit. A description (in both English and Spanish) of the plant or animal in the painting is displayed next to each work of art. Coloring pages corresponding with the artwork are provided for patients to color on, either during their wait at the clinic or at home. This project aligns with AWAHIH's mission of enhancing the healing process for patients and their families through a fine art experience. We would like to thank Nemours for their ongoing support and for funding this project that patients and their families can enjoy for years to come.

- Painted more than 20 paintings for NCSCC Pulmonology/ Allergy department exam rooms
- Painted banners and medical equipment for WCH patients
- Decorated WCH windows for Nurses Week
- Created holiday cards with patients for WCH fundraiser
- Painted patient medical equipment
- Made banners for WCH staff
- Contributed artwork to MOCA's Project Atrium exhibition, Imagination Squared



Fundraising

While AWAHIH's annual fundraising event was postponed again this year, our organization still received significant support from foundations, sponsors, and donors. One person in particular who organized several art supply drives to collect materials for Art-To-Go bags was AWAHIH Board of Directors member, Kerri Carter. Kerri commenced the Catie Cares Art-To-Go bag initiative in 2012 in honor of her daughter, Catie, who loved doing art with AWAHIH while she was in the hospital so much that she wished that every hospitalized child could have access to art supplies. Art-To-Go bags allow patients in the hospital or homebound to have access to a fine art experience, which can help to enhance the healing process. Thanks to Kerri and others, AWAHIH has been able to give away over 4,550 Art-To-Go bags over the past nine years!

- Kerri Carter: Supply drive
- Hillary Whitaker Gallery: Donation
- Teresa Graham: Fundraiser
- Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club Foundation: Donation
- Christ Church Academy in honor of Catie Cares: Supply drive
- Painting with a Twist Ponte Vedra location: Donation
- Woodworkers of Jacksonville: Wooden toys
- Episcopal School of Jacksonville, St Mark's campus: Supply drive/ Artwork
- Kendra Scott Jewelry: Donation
- Ananya Inchal and Dorian Vlasov (Nease High School IB program students): Supply drive
- Snacks for WCH staff: AWAHIH Board of Directors



Partnerships



AWAHIH continued partnership with Mayo Clinic Jacksonville (MCJ) San Pablo campus and Mayo Clinic Cancer Center at St. Vincent's Riverside (SVR) providing fine art experiences for hospitalized patients and their families. At SVR, AIR Lisa enjoys many meaningful interactions with patients while she offers them the opportunity to create art. One touching story Lisa shared is about a patient she worked with named Sakena. Lisa explained, "Sakena is a single mom of three and just adopted two children in December. She thinks of herself as a warrior against her blood disorder. The first time Sakena participated in an art activity, she painted an inspirational frame in bright colors which she presented to me as a thank you to AWAHIH. Sakena says she is very grateful for the services of AWAHIH and to be able to spend her time creating art while receiving her treatment." In addition to the benefits of art making, non-medical relationships like this one between patients and AWAHIH AIR can help enhance the healing process and healthcare experience.

- Continued partnership with Wolfson Children's Hospital
- Continued partnership with Mayo Clinic Jacksonville and Mayo Clinic Cancer Center at St. Vincent's Riverside
- Maintained program with BMCI Adult Behavioral Health department
- Sustained partnership with Streams of Sound, INC.
- Continued partnership with University of Florida's Arts in Medicine masters program
- Maintained partnership with MOCA Jacksonville
- Kept up partnership with Kids Together Against Cancer
- Continued partnership with Nemours Children's Specialty Care Clinic
- Maintained strong working Board of Directors - met monthly and welcomed two new members

Operational



Board of Advisors

Lori Guadagno - Co-founder
Lisa Ullmann - Co-founder
Robert Monsky
Cynthia Jacoby Greene
Katherine Loeb
Sam Hall
Brooks Cannon
Kathy Soler-Sala
Melissa Roland
Jennifer Guthrie
Kasey Roache

Honorary Trustees

Louise Freshman Brown
Professor; University of North Florida
Suzanne Taylor
Community Volunteer
Karen Wolfson
Wolfson Children's Hospital

Volunteers

Maddie Firestone
Patsy Moore
Janet Massey
Teresa Graham



Services Provided by Grants, Foundations, and Sponsorships

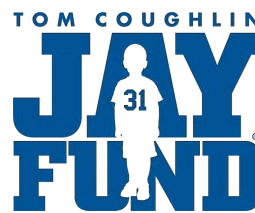
- **Wolfson Children's Hospital/ Baptist Foundation:** Five days a week at Wolfson Children's Hospital
- **Nemours Foundation:** Three days a week at Nemours Children's Health hematology/oncology waiting room
- **The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund:** Two days a week at Nemours Children's Health hematology/oncology waiting room
- **Florida Blue Foundation:** "Behind the Mask" patient exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Jacksonville
- **Woodcock Foundation:** Two-hour handpan music sessions weekly in WCH Pediatric Behavioral Health
- **Culture Builds Florida:** Additional Artist-in-Residence at WCH for twenty hours a week
- **Cummer Family Foundation:** Additional Artist-in-Residence at WCH for twenty hours a week
- **Hall-Halliburton Foundation:** Three group art sessions in WCH Behavioral Health/ funding for weekends
- **Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation:** Monthly Kids Together Against Cancer (KTAC) group art sessions and two days a week at the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center at St. Vincent's
- **The Henri Landwirth Family Endowed Fund:** General operating funds
- **Mayo Clinic:** Two days a week at Mayo Clinic San Pablo
- **The Respond Adapt Recover Fund from the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida:** Funds for virtual arts program
- **Baptist Foundation:** Six hours per week at Adult and Geriatric
- **Share MD:** Office space
- **Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville and the City of Jacksonville**



THANK YOU

Our Sponsors

Art with a Heart in Healthcare extends our deep appreciation to the many philanthropic organizations, businesses, and individuals who supported our mission during 2021. The success of our programs would not be possible without you!

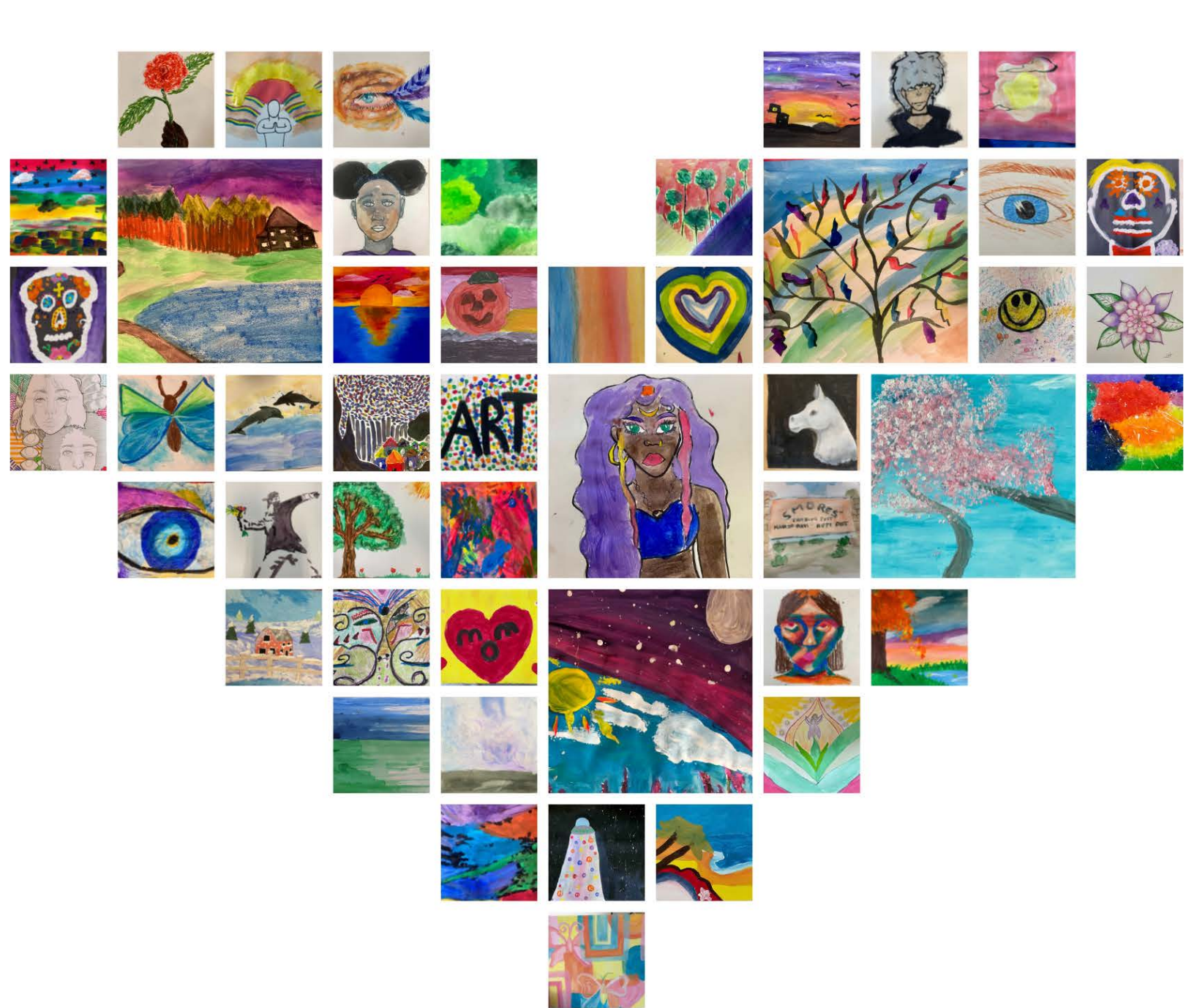


The Henri Landwirth Family Endowed Fund





Patient Artwork



Art helps people to feel fully
alive, regardless of the
presence of a physical disease.



*Art with a Heart
in Healthcare*

WWW.AWAHIH.ORG

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