



***Art with a Heart
in Healthcare***

Year in Review 2025

***Providing fine art
experiences that enhance
the healing process for
patients and families.***





Art with a Heart in Healthcare

A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

What a wonderful first year this has been for me as Board Chair of Art with a Heart in Healthcare (AWAHIH)! My husband and I first learned about the organization a few years ago and were inspired by its mission to share the power of art with patients and families.

Jacksonville's healthcare is outstanding, and at the eight healthcare facilities where our artists work, AWAHIH adds what I call compassionate-plus care. While clinicians manage treatment, our artists offer creative experiences that provide comfort, self-expression, and empowerment.

Our Executive Director, Christy Ponder, recently shared a story of a teenage boy who hadn't spoken in days. When one of our artists brought an iPad for him to create digital art, his room soon filled with laughter and conversation—proof of art's healing power.

At the opening of our patient art exhibition, "The Art of Music," I was moved by the connection between artists, patients, and families. Seeing patients proudly share their creations reminded me how meaningful these moments are and how deeply our artists' work touches lives.

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors and supporters who joined us for our annual gala, A Fine Heart Experience, and our inaugural golf tournament. **As we look ahead to 2026, I invite all our friends to continue supporting us as we celebrate our 25th anniversary** and advance our mission of bringing personalized fine art experiences to patients and families in healthcare settings.

With gratitude,
Heidi McLeod, MA (Hons), MPhil, PhD



ABOUT THE COVER ART



Thirteen-year-old Evie, a patient at Wolfson Children's Hospital, brought together her love for art and music in this one-of-a-kind creation. Inspired by Edison Lighthouse's song "Love Grows," she painted a guitar featuring an anatomical heart, blooming flowers, and drifting musical notes. For Evie, the piece symbolizes the way love flourishes when it is shared freely and openly, from one heart to another.

ABOUT US

AWAHIH brings creativity and meaningful artistic experiences directly to patients and their families. Since our founding in 2001 by cousins Lori Guadagno and Lisa Landwirth Ullmann, we have reached more than 150,000 individuals across Jacksonville, Florida, through personalized fine art experiences that support the healing process. Our Artists-in-Residence, supported by dedicated volunteers and interns, bring visual art and music into healthcare settings six days a week, meeting patients where they are and creating opportunities for everyone to engage. By fostering imagination, connection, and hope AWAHIH helps humanize hospitals and enrich the patient experience.

OUR SERVICES:

- Bedside art sessions
- Group art sessions
- Music sessions
- Support group art sessions
- Virtual art sessions
- Patient art requests and special projects
- Staff art sessions
- Healthcare-related special events
- University of North Florida internship program



WHY ART?

1. Boosts self-esteem, sense of identity, and purpose
2. Improves attention span and memory
3. Enhances fine motor skills and mind-body connection, and reduces the stress response
4. Strengthens community and reduces isolation

OUR 2025 PARTNERS

- Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside
- Baptist Health
- Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Mayo Clinic
- MOCA Jacksonville
- Nemours Children's Health
- UF Heath Proton Therapy Institute
- Volunteers in Medicine Jacksonville
- Wolfson Children's Hospital



OUR 2025 SPONSORS

- The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida
- Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville/City of Jacksonville
- Florida Blue Foundation
- Florida Division of Arts and Culture
- Hall-Halliburton Foundation
- THE PLAYERS Championship
- Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Foundation
- Share MD
- Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation

"Thank you, AWAHIH, for being a safe haven for our family during this storm!"





FUNDRAISERS

This year, AWAHIH proudly hosted our annual gala, A Fine Heart Experience, along with our inaugural golf tournament. We extend our deepest gratitude to our event sponsors, committee members, attendees, and everyone who contributed to making both events a success. A heartfelt thank you also goes to all who donated to AWAHIH and continue to support our mission. Below is a list of individuals who generously gave between 2024 and 2025.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE:

- A fine art experience for **20,000** patients and families
- Over **13,750** hours of art and music sessions
- More than **2,000** markers, colored pencils, etc. to patients
- More than **3,000** packages of air dry clay

A'propos Janice Abdelnour Elizabeth Adams Tax & Business Advisors Inc Denise Akers Janice Alley Altamar Brands, LLC Ambler Art Group WJC Design Amelia Island Fun Arbus Magazine John Arnette Atlantic Coast Marine Brooks Babcock James Babcock Lauren Baker Baker County Christian Co-op Leigh Barbour Maher Baz Beaches Music	Together Anne Bean Dustin Bell Bent Family Foundation Laurie Berger Sarah Bermudez Clare Berry Berry & Co. 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**A HEARTFELT THANKS
TO OUR 2024-2025
DONORS!**





"THE ART OF MUSIC"

Seventeen pediatric patients from Wolfson Children's Hospital, in partnership with Art with a Heart in Healthcare, transformed guitars into vibrant expressions of their favorite songs for exhibition at MOCA Jacksonville. Each piece tells a unique story, reflecting the young artists' passions, personalities, and dreams. Families joined us for the opening reception, filling the room with unforgettable joy. Watching the children see their creations on display and walk out to their favorite songs, lighting up with pride and excitement, was truly one of the highlights of our year.



"Fight Song" by Rachel Platt has been the soundtrack to some of Miracle's toughest moments. Her guitar is a bold tribute to her story and strength, adorned with fireworks, boxing gloves, butterflies, and the weight of the medical halo she once wore.

"No matter the circumstance, you can overcome it!"
-Miracle, age 13



Thank you,
Florida Blue, for
sponsoring this
exhibition.

OUR TEAM

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

Christy Ponder -
Executive Director
Patty Baldwin
Dylan Bauer
Bob Drost
Heidi Drost
Kianna Godoy
Evan Guttormson
Jaycee Guttormson
Amy Irizarry
Brooke McKinney
Lisa Miyares
Matt Richards
Abigail Santos
Jill Swanson
Micaela Yates

VOLUNTEERS

Sean Collins
Perri Funk
Debra Greetis
Mary Lane
Helen Meatte
Laura Towne
Gillian Vaughan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board Chair
Teresa Graham - *Secretary*
Judy Powell - *Treasurer*
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Toni Boudreaux-Godwin
Connie Jett
Casey Kensil
Laird
Michele D. Lee
Anne-Marie Forbes Lynn
Maggie Parks
Jo Sinclair
Ana Tari
Hillary Whitaker

UNF INTERNS

Cassandra Brown
DeAnna Carrol
Jazzmyn Hayden
Lauren Hernandez
Megan Kiernan
Cheyenne Svabo
Rachel Webb

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Lori Guadagno -
Co-founder
Lisa Landwirth Ullmann -
Co-founder
Bebe Alexander
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Jennifer Guthrie
Sam Hall

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Suzanne McCormick-
Taylor
Karen Wolfson

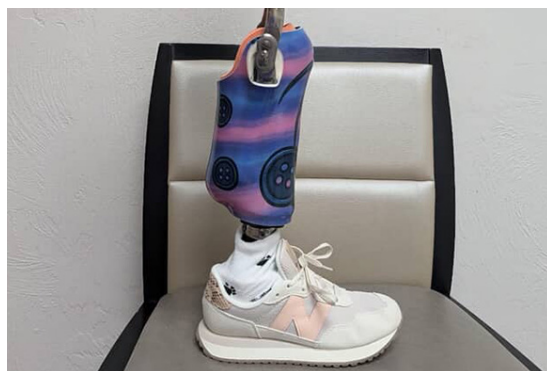
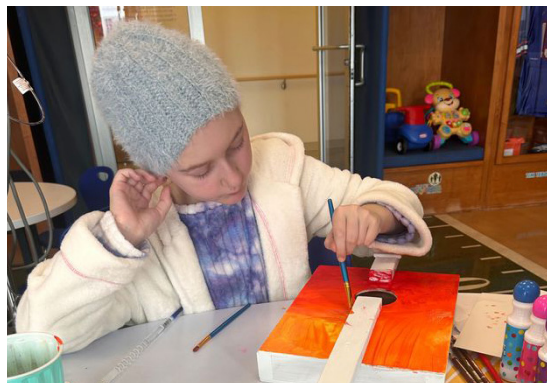
BOOKKEEPER

Kim Karshner



GET INVOLVED:

1. Make a donation
2. Host a supply drive
3. Volunteer
4. Follow, like, and share our social media



GIANNA'S STORY

When Gianna was just 9 years old, she received a diagnosis that changed her life and meant spending significant time in the hospital. Much of that time was spent with AWAHIH, especially in the playroom during long visits. As Gianna remembers, "Art with a Heart helped me so much when I was going through treatment. Going to do art in the playroom was like being in a different place. I got to meet new friends and other artists who just wanted to talk about art with me and help me with my art."

Together with our team, Gianna created a beautiful piece that was featured in our Art of Music exhibition: a painted guitar inspired by her favorite song, "deja vu" by Olivia Rodrigo. We loved spending time with Gianna and her family and had so much fun creating art together. Her hospital room became a colorful gallery, filled with works from every AWAHIH artist.

Gianna also formed some truly special connections. She recalls, "Dylan became someone that would always cheer me up if I wasn't feeling good. Thank you, Art with a Heart!" In a full-circle moment, Dylan's artwork was chosen as the design for her prosthetic leg—a lasting symbol of creativity, friendship, and hope through some very challenging times.



LOOKING AHEAD:

***Celebrating 25 Years of
Art with a Heart in Healthcare***

SAVE THE DATES:

2nd Annual AWAHIH Golf Tournament-
Monday, September 21, 2026

25th Anniversary Gala-
Saturday, October 24, 2026





Art with a Heart in Healthcare

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