



**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 Health Proton Therapy Institute
- Volunteers in Medicine Jacksonville
- Wolfson Children's Hospital





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	Together	Kelly Burnett	Edith Clark	CSI	Mindy Ezring
Janice Abdelnour	Anne Bean	Verona Burnham	Jim Clark	Helen Curran	Brian Feldman
Elizabeth Adams	Dustin Bell	Grace Burud	Chris Clark	Caroline Davis	Heather &
Tax & Business Advisors Inc	Bent Family Foundation	Paula Buss	Darrell Clarkson	Jill & Jed Davis	Shaun Ferenc
Denise Akers	Laurie Berger	Caldwell Bankers	Kristin Clay	Decca Live	Jennifer Ferguson
Janice Alley	Sarah Bermudez	Brooks & Brett Cleek	Jennifer & Brian Cleek	Kelly Delaney	Ferguson, Inc.
Altamar Brands, LLC	Clare Berry	Cannon	Cannon	Dick's Wings and Grill	Erica Ferreira
Ambler Art Group	Berry & Co. Real Estate	Cantina Louie	Coastal Elements	Bret Dodson	Julie Fetch
WJC Design	Biscottis	Capitol Materials	Sarah Collins	John Dodson	Alan Fickling
Amelia Island Fun	Body 20	Coastal	Nancy Condron	DogBeach	Blake Fickling
Arbus Magazine	Toni Boudreaux-Godwin	Carla Shoes and Accessories	Congaree and Penn	Dream Finders Homes	Fickling
John Arnette	Josh Bowling	Andy Carroll	Brian Cook	Dream Finders Homes	Construction, Inc.
Atlantic Coast Marine	Shannon Brady	Kerri Carter	Cookie Bird St. Augustine	Julie and David Drew	Jim Filmont
Brooks Babcock	Katia Bravo	William Carter	Leslie Cooper	Duval Ford	First Horizon Bank
James Babcock	Darline Kristina Braz	Brandy Carvalho	Copy Right Jax	Suzanne Ebert	Gina & Ross
Lauren Baker	Sallyane Brown	CBV Cares, Inc	Chao Framing	EBR Systems, Inc.	Fishman
Baker County Christian Co-op	Alison & Charles Bruce	Brandy Carvalho	Shane Chetty	Jim Eddings	Fishman Pediatric Dentistry
Leigh Barbour	Peter Burkhardt	CBV Cares, Inc	Roger Corse	Kristin Ely	Chris Flakus
Maher Baz Beaches Music	Steven Burkhardt	Chao Framing	Cosmetic Surgery Affiliates	Episcopal School of Jacksonville St. Mark's Campus	Florida Blue Foundation
		Shane Chetty	Erica Chigounis	Marsha Clare	Florida Financial Advisors
		Roger Corse	Christ's Church Academy	Steve Coutu	
		Cosmetic Surgery Affiliates		Karim Crowley	
		Erica Chigounis		Suzanne Evans	

John Forgus	Boutique	Christine Lazinsky	Laird Myer	Elizabeth Reeves
Forvis Mazars Foundation	Melissa Intemann	Michele D. Lee	Etleva Nasi	Graciela Retureta
Enhancement Strategies	Joseph Irizarry	Marie Legene	Natural Life	Gretchen Swinson
Karen Freedman	Ryan Irvin	Kara Lenz	Northeast Florida	Taco Lu
William D Freeman	ISU	Juan Leoni	Chapter of NACE	Anna & Michael Tari
Sharon & Fred Funk	Michael Itkoff	Parker Lepore	Don Nicols	Jeff Tawney
Gardenista Jax	J. Hilburn	Deanna Leschinski	Linda Nogle	Justin Taylor
Matt Garner	Ashley Jacek	Hilary Libman	Cynthia Norenberg	Robyn Taylor
Chad Gates	Langley	Deborah Lightfield	Nancy Norman	Suzanne Taylor
Inger Geraghty	Jacksonville	Lily Pulitzer	Nothing Bundt Cakes	The Brumo's Collection
GigiBead	Jaguars Foundation, Inc.	Jaguars	Nancy Ogden	Sweet Heart Tattoo Studio
Chris Gilbert	Jacksonville Zoo	Foundation, Inc.	Dariusz	Gretchen Swinson
Elizabeth Giusti	Janney	Jacksonville	Okoniewski	Taco Lu
Tabitha Glass-Harrell	Montgomery	Jaguars	One Call	Anna & Michael Tari
David Godwin	Scott	Foundation, Inc.	Tulin Ostfeld	Jeff Tawney
Elizabeth Goedelman	Allegro Jaros	Jacksonville	Paige Pringle	Justin Taylor
Lindley Gorman	Jax River City Lions Club	Jaguars	Memorial Trust Fund	Suzanne Taylor
Teresa & Ian Graham	JE & Dano Davis	Foundation, Inc.	Palm Valley Fish Camp	The Brumo's Collection
Mindy Gregory	Families Charity	Jacksonville	Anthony Papa	Sapana Foundation
Hampton Golf	Lisa Jeffrey	Jaguars	Maggie Parks	Boutique Sawgrass Marriott
Dave Harden	Connie & Brent Jett	Foundation, Inc.	PASTA Fine Art	The Grant Family Foundation
Danielle Hardner	Jayne Jett	Jaguars	Gallery	THE PLAYERS Championship
Melanie & Cale Harris	Joan Jett	Foundation, Inc.	Elizabeth Paul	The Social Society of Ponte Vedra Beach
Alison Hebert	John Scott	Jaguars	Scoliosis PTJax	Jodi Lee Thomas
Larry Hebert	Samar Johns	Foundation, Inc.	Serenity Sculpting Cards	Jeff R Tidwell
Elizabeth Helfrich	Kelly Johnson	Jaguars	Interior	Guy Tomassani
Julie Henderson	Cathy Jones	Foundation, Inc.	Bethany Perrotti	Catherine Topol
Henri Landiwirth	Joy Vision	Jaguars	Peterbooke	Laura Towne
Family Endowed Fund	Acupuncture	Foundation, Inc.	Chocolate Basket	U.S. Legal Services
Amy Herfurth	JWBC	Jaguars	PGA Tour	Glenn Ullmann
Hillary Hickam	Andrea Kaelin	Jaguars	Charities, Inc.	USAble Life
John High	Karen Freeman	Jaguars	Helen Pickney	Joe Valinho
Bill Hill	Kim Karshner	Jaguars	Pinnacle Financial Partners	Leslie Vaughan
Chris Hill	Sandra Kavanaugh	Jaguars	Partners	K L Venkatachalam
Hillary Whitaker	John High	Jaguars	Julie Pippins	Steve Von Oetinger
Gallery	Bill Hill	Jaguars	Pivot CPAS	Jacqueline Vosburgh
Tom Hilton	Chris Hill	Jaguars	Plantation Oaks	Heather Sims
Elizabeth Hohmann	Hillary Whitaker	Jaguars	Playful Pleats	Brad Wallace
Dave Holden	Gallery	Jaguars	Ponte Vedra	Jo Sinclair
Alice Holt	Tom Hilton	Jaguars	Beach Rotary Foundation, Inc.	Ashley & Casey Smith
Ashton Hudson	Elizabeth Hohmann	Jaguars	John Meserve	Terese Whitaker
Jenny Hughes	Dave Holden	Jaguars	Millie's Ice Cream	James White
Callie Hugo	Alice Holt	Jaguars	Milly Kate Designs	Suzanne Wilbur
Chaz Huguengard	Ashton Hudson	Jaguars	Miriam's Jewelry	Don Wilhoite
Lucinda Hunter	Jenny Hughes	Jaguars	Chris Mobley	Dick Williams
Hylant Group	Callie Hugo	Jaguars	Abigail Portis	Chrys & Bill Yates
Amanda Iannella	Chaz Huguengard	Jaguars	Lori Presto	Mary Stein
In Balance Fitness and Wellness	Lucinda Hunter	Jaguars	Dan Pritchard	Jan Stewart
	Hylant Group	Jaguars	Robert Pritchard	William Radler
	Amanda Iannella	Jaguars	Really Good Beer Stop	Dr. Vanni Strenta
	In Balance Fitness and Wellness	Jaguars		Jeanwoo Yoo
		Jaguars		Stretch Lab First
		Jaguars		Heather Zimmerman
		Jaguars		Stacy Znamirovsky
		Jaguars		and everyone who purchased items on our Amazon Wishlist!



**A HEARTFELT THANKS
TO OUR 2024-2025
DONORS!**



OUR TEAM



“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.

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

Heidi McLeod - Board Chair
Teresa Graham - Secretary
Judy Powell - Treasurer
Kerri Carter
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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 Carroll
Jazzmyn Hayden
Lauren Hernandez
Megan Kiernan
Cheyenne Svabo
Rachel Webb

BOARD OF ADVISORS

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

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Louise Freshman Brown
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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