



**Art with a Heart  
in Healthcare**

**Year in Review**

**2019**

**BEARS**

Never  
Give  
Up!

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# Art *with a Heart* in Healthcare

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



**Our emphasis on patient-centered creative expression helps to humanize the high-tech atmosphere of clinical settings and to diminish fear and relieve pain while empowering patients who find themselves in a powerless situation.**

**We believe that creativity is fundamental to the human experience and that artistic expression promotes mental and physical well-being that leads to improved patient health outcomes.**



# Meet our Team

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

Hillary Whitaker - *Chair*  
Kacey Roache - *Secretary*  
Judy Powell - *Treasurer*  
Laird  
Casey Andeer  
Kerri Carter  
Bebe Alexander  
Bonnie Hayflick

## STAFF

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

Lori Presto, MSW  
*Program Director and  
Artist-in-Residence*

Maddie Firestone  
*Program Manager and  
Artist-in-Residence*

## ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

Ajamu Mutima  
Matt Richards  
Anne Roberts  
Bob Drost  
Jill Olmo  
Brooke McKinney  
Dylan Bauer  
Lisa Miyares  
Heidi Drost  
Meredith Sullivan  
Abigail Santos  
Alexis Audate

TOGETHER IN 2019, WE...

Served over **15, 000** patients and family members and have served over **100, 000** patients and family members since our beginning in 2001.

Provided **88, 000** hours of direct service, an average of over **1, 700** hours a week.

Delivered **900** art-to-go bags filled with art supplies.





Six days a week, AWAHIH invites patients and their families to join them for art-making in clinic waiting rooms and hospital play rooms.

AWAHIH Artists-in-Residence begin their day by inviting patients and families of Wolfson Children's Hospital and Nemours Specialty Clinic to participate in group art sessions. They see eyes widen, faces light up, and smiles appear. The clinic waiting room and hospital playroom fill up with a lively buzz of creativity, conversation, and laughter shared between patients, families, and caregivers as they make art together. Many will spend hours in the art room, creating several pieces of art in one sitting which can then be taken home or hung in their hospital rooms to promote a sense of comfort and cheer.



“AWAHIH is SO important to Jude’s mental health as he continues to adjust to his cancer diagnosis. When we first started coming to Nemours, Jude was very afraid and anxious. As time went on, he started looking forward to painting with AWAHIH in the waiting room and would say, ‘I can’t wait to paint at the hospital!’ Now six months later, his fear of the hospital is gone. AWAHIH has had a big impact on him overcoming his fear. They are such an important part of his overall treatment plan.”

- Julie, mother of Jude, age 3



# Bedside Studios

If patients are unable to leave their room or bed, we meet them where they are.

Frequently, there are cases when patients cannot leave their hospital room, but still wish to participate. In these instances, AWAHIH Artists-in-Residence (AIR) bring the creativity right to the their bedside, transforming patient rooms into art studios. AWAHIH currently offers bedside art sessions to patients at Wolfson Children's Hospital, Mayo Clinic, and St. Vincent's Healthcare. AWAHIH AIR are adept at personalizing the art experience and accommodating each patient's unique interests and abilities. With an emphasis on process over product, we encourage patients to experiment and express themselves. Our hope is that the patient finds solace, enjoyment, and healing in the art making process.



**Our services include  
but are not limited to:**

- Art requests
- Visiting artists
- Drawing and painting
- Jewelry design
- Clay sculpting
- Music
- Storytelling
- Caricature art
- Media art shows
- Digital art

**"Painting and sketching allowed me to calm myself. The stress of being in a new environment melted away because of AWAHIH. I greatly appreciated being able to express myself through an art form and I'd love to continue that. Thank you, Art with a Heart!" - Summer, WCH patient**

# Special Events

## Spotlight event: Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation Remembrance Weekend

For the past 15 years, AWAHIH has participated in the TCJFF Remembrance Weekend. For this year's theme, "Igniting Light in the Darkness," we facilitated a beautiful lantern bereavement art project with families who have lost a family member to pediatric cancer. Our team of artists and volunteers utilized their expertise to help more than 140 family members bring artistic visions to life as they remembered and honored their loved ones. Afterwards, the families attended a commemorative ceremony centered on their artwork. The glowing, personalized lanterns were a powerful symbol of hope and light in the darkness.



### In 2019, AWAHIH ...

- Facilitated art sessions at Remembrance Weekend with the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation (140 people)
- Provided one art session for Baptist Spiritual Care Holiday events
- Held art sessions at Wolfson 55 annual fundraising event
- Provided two art projects at Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida fundraiser
- Facilitated art project at Baptist Winter Festival opening of Wolfson Pediatric E.D.
- Provided art session at St. Vincent's Cancer Survivorship Event
- Hosted five art sessions in the Wolfson Children's Hospital Media Center



# Exhibitions

## Spotlight patient exhibition: Animal-Gamation

Our annual patient art shows are an opportunity for the patients of Wolfson Children's Hospital to express themselves creatively through a piece of art to be exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) and then in other locations around Jacksonville. This year's show, *Animal-Gamation*, was a play on the words animal and amalgamation. AWAHIH Artists-in-Residence encouraged patients to creatively answer the question: "If you could create your own animal ... what would it look like?" Together with AWAHIH Artists-in-Residence, sixteen patient artists reflected on their individual personalities, stories, and interests to create unique mixed-media pieces of art.



### This year, we ...

- Opened new patient exhibit *Animal-Gamation* at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Jacksonville and then displayed at FSCJ North Campus
- Displayed *A World of Their Own*, 2018 patient exhibit at FSCJ North Campus, Ponte Vedra Cultural Center, and St. Augustine Main Library
- Searched for a permanent home for *Another Side Revealed*, 2017 patient exhibit
- *Inside the Outline*, 2016 patient exhibit permanently installed at One Call Building, downtown Jacksonville
- Permanently installed *Unmasked*, 2015 patient exhibit, on tenth floor of Nemours Specialty Care Children's Clinic Jacksonville
- Displayed *Express Your Selfie*, 2014 patient exhibit, at St Vincent's Healthcare in Riverside



# Projects



## Spotlight project: Painted shovels for Baptist Medical Center groundbreaking ceremony

Artist-in-Residence Dylan Bauer custom-painted eighteen shovels that were showcased in Wolfson Children's Hospital (WCH) and Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville's (BMCJ) groundbreaking ceremony in May this year. BMCJ has broken ground on a new building that will house the Neonatal Intensive Care Center and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) as well as serve as the new 'front door' to the medical campus. The shovel art featured WCH, BMCJ, and AWAHIH logos, images symbolic of Jacksonville, and other medical related designs. These shovels symbolize our ongoing partnership with WCH and BMCJ. We look forward to continue growing with the hospital!



## In 2019 ...

- AWAHIH artist painted 16 shovels for the Baptist Medical Center groundbreaking ceremony
- Created personalized banner artwork for Bone Marrow Transplant patients rooms
- Painted bereavement art for WCH patients' families
- Worked with WCH PR to create AWAHIH/ Child Life video
- Created banners and signs for WCH staff (E.g. Nurses Week, awards, and thank you banners)
- Custom-painted a patient's back brace and a patient's proton therapy mask
- Worked with patients to create artwork for holiday cards for Auxiliary/WCH fundraiser

# Fundraising

## Spotlight fundraiser: Wine and dinner auction

Look at the  
impact we  
are able to  
make with  
your support!

This year, our wine and auction fundraiser was a complete success! Thanks to the generous donations we received from Giving Tuesday in December until this event in February, we were able to allocate enough funds to have an Artist-in-Residence in Wolfson Children's Hospital Day Stay Center two days a week for the next two years.

Since the start of the program, AIR Lisa Miyares has had over **500** interactions with patients in Day Stay! What's more, she built relationships with many patients and their families. In fact, some even plan their appointments based on Lisa's schedule to ensure they can make art during their time in Day Stay. In the midst of the pain and stress that come along with medical treatments, these personalized art sessions provide opportunities for creative expression that have a significant impact on patients, families, and staff alike.



## Fundraisers and Supplies Drives:

- Two Fundraisers at H. Whitaker Gallery
- Seated wine and auction dinner
- Christ Church Football Team - Supply Drive
- Lily Pulitzer Shop- and- Share event
- Carter Family - Catie Cares Art-to-Go Bags
- Mett Family - Art supplies
- St Marks Episcopal Day School - Art Supplies
- Girl Scout Troop 2010 - Art Supplies
- Quilters of Jacksonville - Fundraiser
- Woodworkers of Jacksonville - Wooden cars donation
- Altered State Dress Shop - Fundraiser
- Lakeside Junior High - Supply Drive
- Michaels - Supply Donation
- Palmer Catholic Academy - Hospital Door Signs
- Three Oaks Law - Fundraiser

# Partnerships

Spotlight partnership: St. Vincent's  
Medical Center Oncology Infusion  
Center



Three days a week, AWAHIH Artists-in-Residence and volunteer artists facilitate fine art sessions with patients as they receive chemotherapy infusions at St. Vincent's and Mayo Clinic. One of the AIRs who has been working with patients here is Matt Richards. Matt has formed relationships with many patients who receive weekly treatments. He has found that some patients prefer making art with him, while others find enjoyment and relaxation in watching him create a watercolor painting or an origami creation to take home with them (some of which are pictured here). Overall, Matt believes that the main benefit of using art in healthcare is when it becomes a calming, almost meditative process that helps patients lose track of time. He says his absolute favorite thing to hear a patient say is, "Wow, that went by fast!" That's how he knows he has helped make a difference for that patient.



## In 2019, AWAHIH ...

- Maintained partnership with University of Florida Master of Arts in Arts in Medicine program (1 Practicum student)
- Continued partnership with University of North Florida internship program (4 interns this year)
- Maintained 9th year of partnership with MOCA
- Renewed partnership with Kids Together Against Cancer (KTAC)
- Continued partnership with Nemours Children's Specialty Care Clinic
- Maintained program with St. Vincent's Healthcare in alliance with The Mayo Cancer Center outpatient infusion clinic
- Continued program providing bedside art sessions for adults at the Mayo Clinic San Pablo
- Partnered with Wolfson Children's Hospital to create a patient art project to promote childhood cancer awareness and a video to about the benefits of Child Life and our Arts in Healthcare program

# Services Provided by Grants, Fundraisers, and Partnerships

- One artist three days a week at Nemours Children's Specialty Care Clinic (NCSSC) Hematology/ Oncology (Hem/Onc) waiting room: **Nemours Foundation**
- One artist two days a week at NCSSC Hem/Onc waiting room: **Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation**
- Animal- Gamation patient exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Jacksonville: **Black Knight**
- Two-hour music & storytelling sessions weekly in Behavioral Unit: **Woodcock Foundation**
- Additional Artist-in-Residence at WCH for 20 hours a week: **Culture Builds Florida**
- Additional Artist-in Residence-at WCH for 20 hours a week: **Cummer Family Foundation**
- Three group art sessions in WCH Behavioral Health: **Hall-Halliburton Foundation**
- Distribution of 900 Art-to-Go Bags: **Carter Family (Catie Cares)**
- Kids Together Against Cancer (KTAC) group art sessions: **Kids Together Against Cancer (KTAC)**
- Extended nights and weekends: **Hall-Halliburton Foundation**
- General operating funds: **The Henri Landwirth Family Endowed Fund**
- One artist two days a week at Mayo Clinic St. Vincent's: **Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation**
- One artist two days a week at Mayo Clinic San Pablo: **Mayo Clinic**

Thank You

# Operational



**Art with a Heart is grateful for  
the selfless devotion of our  
volunteers!**

Patsy Moore  
Helen Meatte  
Janet Massey  
Benita Gunnion  
Illyssa Harrington  
Kianna Godoy  
Chrissy Granados  
Teresa Graham  
Benita Gunnion  
Illyssa Harrington

## 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

## Honorary Trustees

Louise Freshman Brown  
Professor  
University of North Florida

Suzanne Taylor  
Community Volunteer

Karen Wolfson  
Wolfson Children's Hospital

- Maintained strong working Board of Directors; board meets six times per year
- An AIR attended University of Florida two week Summer Intensive program
- An AIR attended the National Organization for Arts in Health (NOAH) national annual conference
- Over fifteen news publications
- Two TV news appearances

# *In Loving Memory*



## **AJAMU MUTIMA**

This year, we celebrated the life of the late Ajamu Mutima. Ajamu was a beloved member of the AWAHIH team for ten years. Throughout this time, he provided music and story telling sessions for over 5,000 WCH Behavioral Health patients and more than 600 family members at special events. Ajamu had special way of speaking directly to the soul, evoking deep introspection during his interactive and insightful musical sessions. The healing Ajamu encouraged in others over his lifetime will live on eternally in the hearts of many.

# Sponsors

Art with a Heart in Healthcare extends our deep appreciation to the many philanthropic organizations, businesses, and individuals who supported our mission during 2019. The success of our programs would not be possible without you. We look forward to a prosperous and exciting 2020!



*Woodcock Foundation*  
FOR THE APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS, INC.



**KIDS TOGETHER AGAINST CANCER**  
SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES DEALING WITH A PARENT'S CANCER JOURNEY



The Henri Landwirth Family Endowed Fund



HALL-HALLIBURTON FOUNDATION

**Nemours** **CUMMER FAMILY FOUNDATION**



**Ascension St. Vincent's**



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