



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Jessica Wheeler
(602) 546-0824
(602) 202-2229 (pager)
jwheeler1@phoenixchildrens.com

Phoenix Children's Hospital Names Patient Artists, Artwork for 2006 Holiday Cards

Artwork Sales Supports State's Largest Pediatric Provider of Cancer Services

PHOENIX, Ariz. (August 8, 2006) – The countdown to the holiday season has begun with only 138 days remaining until December 25, 2006. It's not too early for Arizonans to start thinking about which holiday greetings to mail this year. Phoenix Children's announces the patient artists and their holiday card designs for the 2006 Art Project, supporting the Hospital's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders.



Matthew Cigan of Peoria, age 16

Matthew was diagnosed with a brain tumor at age three. Since then, Matthew has had only one reoccurrence of the tumor, but has suffered some brain damage with cognitive and developmental delays. Matthew is legally blind, but he has always persevered in the face of adversity. According to his mom, Matthew lives his life without letting his circumstances get him down. Matthew has always loved legos, so it's no surprise that his favorite place to visit is Legoland in California. He's been there three times (and counting). Matthew also likes Harry Potter, collecting and trading Pokemon cards, swimming, video games and word search puzzles. He also enjoys going to Camp Sunrise and Camp Rainbow for kids with cancer. He has three older brothers, James, Steven and Jeremy, and three pets, his favorite being his cat Cindu. This year he will be a junior at Desert Pointe Academy.



Laura Correa of Phoenix, age 17

Laura will be a senior at St. Mary's High School this year. She was diagnosed with a brain tumor at age eight. Since that surgery, Laura has been tumor free. She suffered some vision loss, but has always compensated for it well. Laura loves to scrapbook, play volleyball, and take care of her pet rabbit Cinnamon. This year Laura will be a "counselor in training" at Camp Rainbow, a camp for kids with cancer and other blood disorders, working with the younger kids and helping with activities. Laura, who has three sisters and a brother, also enjoys visiting San Diego and watching Jim Carrey movies. She plans to attend college and hopes to be a veterinarian.



J.J. Jennings from Phoenix, age 10

One of J.J.'s favorite things to do is to take things apart so he can see how they work. When J.J. was diagnosed with leukemia in December of 2002, it was one more thing he set his mind to figuring out. He's currently preparing for a bone marrow transplant, and has always faced his challenges with courage and humor. J.J. loves being in front of a crowd. In fact, when social workers came to his school to explain leukemia to J.J.'s classmates, he decided to make the presentation himself! When he isn't modeling or playing sports (especially baseball), J.J. is probably hanging out with his friends. He enjoys watching lacrosse, Star Wars movies, and grilling. He has a chocolate lab named Abby, a rabbit named Precious, two turtles and 52 fish. J.J. is a fifth grader at St. Francis Xavier.

Hailey Osborne of Peoria, age 10



Hailey is a fifth-grader at Frontier Elementary School. She was diagnosed at age eight with a brain tumor, and had surgery the next day to remove it. Doctors found the tumor had spread to her spine, and Hailey went through three months of radiation and nine months of chemotherapy, and after only three months, she had returned to school. Hailey is compassionate, organized and quiet. But underneath her shyness lies a fierce determination and strong will that has served her well. After her first surgery, she left Phoenix Children's Hospital in a wheelchair and went through months of physical therapy so she could regain her balance. To everyone's surprise, Hailey returned to cheerleading less than one year after her diagnosis. Hailey also loves horses, Disney's Tinkerbell, and listening to music. She wants to be a schoolteacher or an artist. She has an older brother Trevor, a younger sister Madison, a dog named Annie, and her cat Baby.

Riley Sorenson of Ahwatukee, age 12



An eighth grader at Centennial Middle School, Riley is creative and compassionate young lady. She was diagnosed with the first of three brain tumors at age 11 months. Riley has endured years of chemotherapy and radiation. A stroke occurred after Riley's brain surgery in 2005, and she had to learn to be left-handed instead of right-handed as her entire right side was affected. Riley's Mom describes her as loving, kind, brave and caring and is her "Hero". In turn, Riley says her Mom is the person she most admires because she "takes such good care of me." Riley loves to play (and win) at board games. She enjoys country western music, whistling, stuffed animals and traveling. She loves to paint butterflies, trees, flowers and rainbows and often frames them as gifts for family and friends. Riley loves her big sister, Randi and her big brother, Shane, and adores her Pomeranian, Sasha and the family's three cockatiels. Because of vision loss due to Riley's tumors, she created her Christmas card by cutting out triangles and arranging them to form a Christmas tree.

Retail packages are \$10 for 15 cards and available at Valley Bashas' and AJ stores, and online at www.phoenixchildrensartproject.com beginning November 1. Businesses statewide can also get involved with the annual Art Project. For a \$1,000 donation, businesses select a patient's original holiday drawing and help support programs and services at the Hospital's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. Corporate donations fund scholarship programs for cancer survivors, research, state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment and lab services, family and community education programs, and a week-long summer camp for kids with cancer. Phoenix Children's provides these services at no-cost to families.

For more information, contact Mindy Jones, Development Coordinator in the Hospital's Foundation, at mjones1@phoenixchildrens.com or (602) 546-2663.

The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Phoenix Children's is the largest provider of hematology and oncology care in Arizona. The Center's mission is to offer the highest quality, comprehensive, family centered care to patients and their families. Phoenix Children's offer state-of-the-art pediatric cancer management to almost half of Arizona's children diagnosed with malignancies and/or life-threatening hematologic diseases. The Center is affiliated with Children's Oncology Group, an international group of more than 114 leading children's hospitals engaged in laboratory and clinical research to find the best therapy for childhood malignancies. Through individual and corporate contributions, the Center is able to provide new research options, educational opportunities, financial assistance and psychosocial support for Arizona children and their families.

Phoenix Children's Hospital is Arizona's leader in pediatric care and is one of the 10 largest free-standing children's hospitals in the nation. The most comprehensive array of pediatric specialists in the State practice at this one organization. The outstanding clinical expertise, as well as high patient volume, and an unwavering commitment to caring only for children, all contribute to Children's leadership position. For information about Phoenix Children's, visit the Hospital's award-winning website at www.phoenixchildrens.com.