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## Phoenix Children's Hospital names patient artists, artwork for 2007 holiday cards

*Artwork sales supports state's largest pediatric provider of cancer services*

### *20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Holiday Card Project*

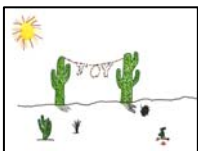
PHOENIX, Ariz. (August 27, 2006) – The countdown to the holiday season has begun with only 125 days remaining until December 25, 2007. It's not too early for Arizonans to start thinking about which holiday greetings to mail this year. Phoenix Children's announces the patient artists and their holiday card designs for the 2007 Art Project, supporting the Hospital's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders.



Eight-year-old **Joshua Gass** was diagnosed with leukemia one year ago. Josh recently completed his first year of chemotherapy, with two more years to go. Joshua is a sweet and soft spoken kid with a big heart. Wanting to help others diagnosed with cancer, Joshua is raising money to help find a cure for leukemia with the help of his neighbors, classmates, and friends. He has spent a lot of time at Phoenix Children's over this last year with several complications, including a lung infection that kept him in the hospital for two months; most of that time he was sedated. When he awoke, his first question was to ask his mom how the fundraising was going. He's definitely a kid with a focus. Joshua lives in Goodyear.



At age one, **Caitlyn Lopez** was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a type of cancer that often begins in the tissue of the adrenal glands. Caitlyn's was on her kidney. Doctors were able to remove the neuroblastoma surgically without any radiation or chemotherapy – something her family is very grateful for. Caitlyn has annual follow-ups, and has been cancer-free since the surgery. Caitlyn is very nurturing and caring, taking care of her dolls and her younger brother Dimitri. This Girl Scout enjoys playing t-ball and going to Build-A-Bear Workshop®. She loves pizza and the Disney princesses, especially Ariel and Aurora.



**Travis VonEnde** was diagnosed at age eight with rhabdomyosarcoma, a type of cancer that often occurs in the reproductive organs of children. Today at age 12, Travis' cancer is in remission. The day Travis found out he had cancer, it had already been a tough day. His dad was leaving for Iraq that same day. Luckily, his dad got the news just in time and returned to his son's side. Travis underwent chemotherapy treatments for 10 months. According to him, the hardest part was being in the hospital for so long, including during his birthday. Travis also had several blood transfusions – something he describes as "boring...but at least I got to watch TV during it."

Travis is described by his mom as adorable, bright, sensitive, and mature. Travis loves riding bikes and playing video games. He is from Avondale.



**Kellie Miner** is 13 years old. Diagnosed with leukemia at age 10, Kellie has been undergoing chemotherapy for much of the past three years, and had a bone marrow transplant in September 2006. Kellie is a thoughtful, bubbly, and sweet teenager who is very mature for her age. Wanting to help other kids diagnosed with cancer at Phoenix Children's, Kellie hosts a softball tournament each year that benefits the Hospital's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. She has also raised money for the Hospital in other ways, and has donated toys and supplies to the Center. Kellie is very knowledgeable about the disease she fights, and the toll it has taken on her physically and emotionally. She admits there have been difficult times, but has found strength through the support of her family. Kellie loves swimming, beading, sewing, and her yellow lab, Sadie. Kellie lives in Peoria.



**Tyler Christine Danner** is 11 years old and was diagnosed with eye cancer in February 2007. Within 10 days of Tyler's diagnosis, she had surgery to remove the cancer and started chemotherapy. It's an aggressive form of cancer and Tyler has been diligent with her treatment. Today, she's halfway done with her radiation and chemotherapy. Despite a very tough year, Tyler has taken it all in stride, and continues to get straight A's at school while battling the disease. Tyler enjoys working on the computer and creating her own Power Point presentations...just for fun. She also likes poetry, bowling, and gymnastics. Her family describes her as strong-willed, high-spirited, and funny. But she has a serious side as well – a personality that has enabled her to keep a positive attitude and fight the disease head-on. Tyler is from Chandler.

For more information, contact Amy Cobb, Development Coordinator in the Hospital's Foundation, at [acobb@phoenixchildrens.com](mailto:acobb@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](http://www.phoenixchildrens.com).