



VIRTUA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

We have had much success in the Pediatric Pavilion with Alicia's Art Cart since receiving in summer 2019. Our staff uses the Art Cart with several populations: patients who are treated in the pediatric emergency department, for psychiatric patients, for medical patients who are being observed for extended time periods, and of course for inpatients. As we have transitioned into our "busy season" (winter) patients who have extended stays benefit tremendously from Alicia's Art Cart.

Child Life staff at Memorial, including Child Life Specialists Leslie Alexander and Christine Shuey, along with Pediatric Nurse Director Bobbi Gray, indicate that Alicia's Art Cart is instrumental in providing our teens with appropriate activities to support them through their hospital stay. Bobbi Gray says, "one of the most magical things about Alicia's Art Cart is that it allows patients to open up to our staff as we offer them support. We find that when we bring Alicia's Art Cart to them, they instantly let down their guard. This doesn't only just help us find an activity to suit their interests, but builds trust and allows the teens to see our staff as allies."

Recently, an adolescent patient who required blood transfusions was getting frustrated with having to be hospitalized longer than anticipated. She initially refused any Child Life interventions, choosing to play on her phone and watch TV. Luckily our Child Life Specialists are persistent! As soon as Alicia's Art Cart was presented to this patient, her whole demeanor changed. She brightened noticeably, got right to work on crafts, and continued to use the Art Cart for the remainder of her stay. She was discharged with a much improved state of mind.



Our staff at the Pediatric Pavilion at Virtua Memorial are very thankful for having this resource for our patients. We would like to conclude by sharing a beautiful note that our patient Savanna recently created as an expression of her gratitude. She felt strongly that she needed to thank Alicia's parents and let them know what a difference they are making.

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The Alicia Rose Victorious Foundation is a national, non-profit organization providing age-appropriate programs and activities for children and teens receiving treatment for cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

ARVF is a tax exempt charitable organization under the 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Code and is registered with the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey.

ALICIA'S ART CART

Dear Parents of Alicia, 

My name is Savanna [redacted] I'm 13 years old and you have no idea how much this cart has helped my short stay here at CHOP at virtua memorial. The Alicia's art cart is honestly amazing and the cause and reason for it is beautiful. During my stay I got bored and kind of home sick with nothing to do. Don't get me wrong the hospital has tons of fun stuff but alot or all is veered towards smaller children. I was in my room and then one of the really nice nurses offered me the Alicia's art cart. She wheeled it to my room and once she opened it I was ecstatic with all of the awesome supplies. I've made a bracelet, a painting, and this card but all around Alicia's art cart has helped me tremendously through my stay thank you both so much

Love Savanna [redacted]

