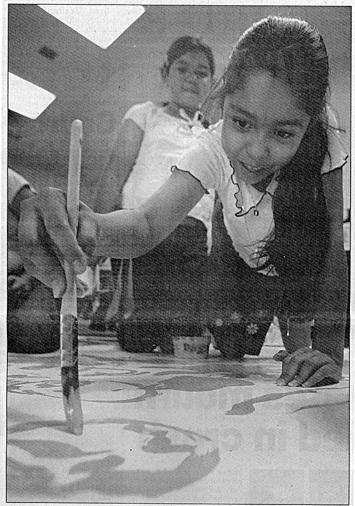


TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2004



David Sprague/Staff Photographer Children at Montague Street Charter School paint part of a 40,000-square-foot canvas Monday. Their art will help cover a giant passenger blimp, to be flown across the nation.

BIG DREAMS CAN SOAR

Kids' art to fly across U.S.

By Rachel Uranga Staff Writer

PACOIMA - With red, purple and blue paints, 7year-old Manuel Dehoyos brushed out his dream: to become a wealthy doctor so he can help people such as the homeless man living in the alley next to his house.

His hopes and those of dozens of other students at Montague Street Charter School fueled a furious painting spree there Monday. More than 60 children jostled for a space in front of portions of a massive 40,000-square-foot canvas that will eventually cover one of the

largest passenger blimps.
The Soaring Dreams Airship will be flown across the nation. The dreams of 6,000 children, including Manuel, will be displayed next year at baseball stadiums around the country, beginning at Ameriquest Field in Arlington, Texas.

"I want to be a doctor," said Manuel, reflecting on his dream. "If you dream, it can come true."

That's exactly the message at Santa Monica-based Por-bat Santa Mon that Santa Monica-based Porgrants or the children of pieces.



Montague Street Charter School kids are among 6,000 in four states painting panels to cover a giant blimp.

immigrants. Many live in

dream and shows them that putting their mind to something, they can accomplish something," said Susan Mas-berg, executive director of the group that has helped launch Holly Mejia, a fifth-grader at several high-profile projects, including a 170-feet-tall tower on Olympic Boulevard at the and be part of something larger. border of Century City and A parent, Emma Banuelos,

traits of Hope, founded in nization aims to inspire people 1995, sought to communicate to children at the Montague or illness by exposing them to Street event. Most are immi- high-profile, one-of-a-kind art

For the airship project, large portions of canvas were "It gives the kids a chance to painted by children and will

Montague, is just glad it gave her a chance to have some fun

watched her son as he put away his paintbrush.
"This makes them proud,"

she said.

Rachel Uranga, (818) 713-3741 rachel.uranga@dailynews.com