

rosie

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art from the heart

Ed and Bernie Massey help hospitalized kids bring a message of joy to the world with their off-the-wall projects.

By Lisa Meyer

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IN SEPTEMBER 2000, WHILE ASSISTING A friend who works as a welder, Manuel, then 17, offered to loosen a valve on an oxygen tank. The tank exploded, and Manuel lost his right arm below the elbow and his right leg below the knee, among other injuries. Today, after enduring a year of painful reconstructive surgeries, Manuel is in an auditorium at the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Los Angeles, painting orange flowers on a panel. In about five months, his art will decorate the tops of taxicabs in several major cities, thanks to Portraits of Hope, a program that brings healthy children together with kids in hospitals to create public murals.

"When these patients are painting, they can forget about everything else that's going on in their lives, at least for a little while," says Ed Massey, 38,

who started Portraits of Hope six years ago with his brother, Bernie, 42. Since then, the program has touched the lives of approximately 39,000 kids.

The Massey brothers have the same wavy, reddish-blond hair and welcoming smiles. But they've traveled distinctly different career paths—Ed is an artist; Bernie's spent much of his life in business and in public-policy positions. However, both believe in using their talents to help others, and when it comes to their work—"improving the human condition"—neither takes no for an answer.

Portraits of Hope started in 1995 when Ed, also an author of children's books, was giving a reading at a Los Angeles pediatric ward and noticed that the kids there were drawing but had few other activities. Driving through the city a few days later, he



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