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A colorful ideal for kids' health

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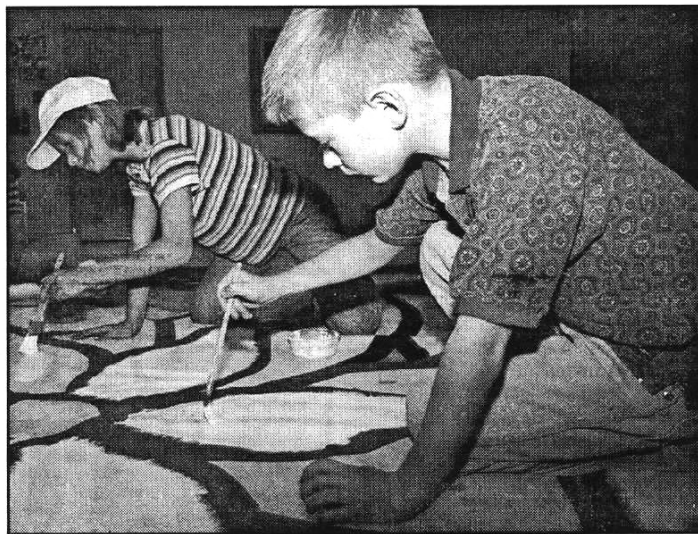
Barton Memorial Hospital's pediatric patients participated last week in a statewide creative therapy program for hospitalized children.

As part of Project 9865, 10 of Barton's patients, between ages 5 and 17 painted a 7-by-20 foot "winter" panel with purple hues. They listened to children's music provided by the program, and upon finishing received a gift bag, including a hat and poster.

"The kid's loved it," said Marla Sharp of Barton Memorial Hospital.

The goal of the project is to create the largest monument in the Western United States by installing 100 painted panels on a 165-foot oil tower located at the gateway to Century City and Beverly Hills, according to project spokesperson Susan Nassberg.

Each of the structure's four sides will represent a season, with the



Jim Grant/Tahoe Tribune

Travis Phillips, 7, right, and his sister Amanda, 9, paint a floral design on panel No. 6 in the Snowflake lobby at Barton Memorial Hospital last week.

name of participating children and facilities posted at the base of the monument.

When the project is complete, scheduled for the end of this year, the mural surface area will total 15,000 square feet.

Base coats were applied to the panels by children in organizations

such as the Boy's and Girl's Club as well as various churches and synagogues. The panels are then shipped back to Project 9865 headquarters in Los Angeles, where the floral design is outlined before being distributed to the approximately 100 participating hospitals, oncology and AIDS camps.