

what's INSIDE?

Children statewide help paint monument

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interacting with the little kids. They even forgot about their IVs."

The Massey brothers created special tennis shoe paintbrushes that allow children who cannot use their arms to paint by "shoedancing." They also developed "hockey stick" paintbrushes that help children who are in wheelchairs to paint.

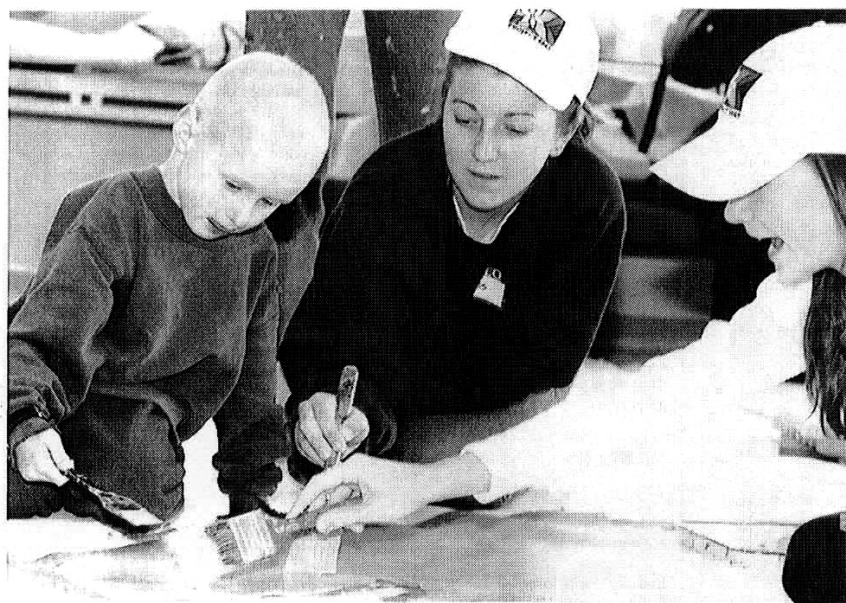
Ed Massey said, "We're going to bring attention not only to the cause of these children who are participating but we're putting flowers in a place where flowers would never exist. For children battling for their lives, giving life back to a structure is a wonderful concept."

Joan Kazerounian, coordinator of Child Life Services at LPCHS at UCSF, said, the project "blends so beautifully with our philosophy of supporting children socially and emotionally. It helps to normalize a very abnormal environment for them."

Once the panels are complete, they will be hoisted into place by large cranes. Dedication of the monument is set for this summer.

If you'd like to know more about Project 9865, visit their website at www.project9865.org.

Janet Basu contributed to this report.



Cancer patient Gilbert McKenna, 4, gets a helping hand from Stanford student volunteers Tree Goodwin and Sasha Stern at a recent Project 9865 visit to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford

Art project serves as tribute to young patients

By Monique Binkley Smith

Pediatric patients at Lucile Packard Children's Health Services are helping make history. As part of an art therapy program, called Project 9865, young patients are creating the largest monument in the western United States. Children at hospitals across the state are painting individual canvas panels that will cover an oil tower located along one of the most traveled arteries in the Los Angeles area. The tower will be seen by millions of people annually and will serve as a tribute to seriously ill children and their families.

Located on the Beverly Hills/Century City border, the tower is 13 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty and has twice the painting surface of the Sistine Chapel ceiling. Each of the tower's sides will be draped with canvases of painted flowers representing one of the four seasons.

LPCHS at Stanford and UCSF recently drew more than 80 patients, siblings and parents at painting days hosted at each of the two hospitals. Volunteers from the community, including 70 Stanford students trained by Project 9865, helped the children brush bright colors onto the large canvases.

Named after the oil tower's street address, Project 9865 is part of a larger creative therapy program called Portraits of Hope. The program, created by artist Ed Massey and his brother, author Bernie Massey, to enhance the quality of life for hospitalized children and seniors at adult care centers, started as a grassroots effort, but has since attracted the attention of celebrities and lawmakers in the state.

Colette Case, manager of the Recreational Therapy/Child Life department at LPCHS at Stanford, said the project has helped create a sense of community for the children.

"When they are painting, they identify with each other. They talk to each other when they normally would not," Case said. Two teenagers, who are usually "too cool" to talk to the younger patients, "were down on the floor painting and

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