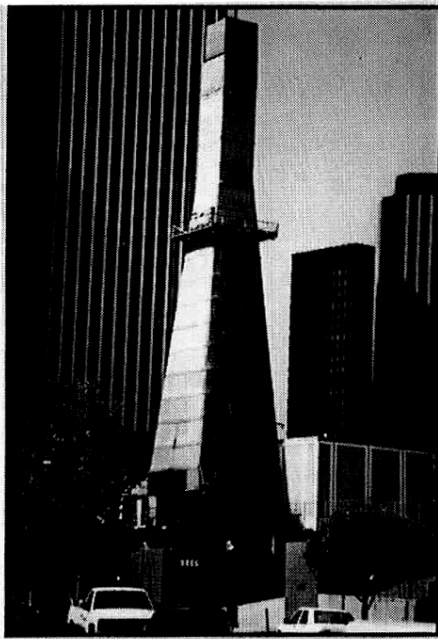


# BRNTWD

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## PROJECT 9865



How do you get Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein and Pete Wilson to agree? Bring them on board Project 9865 as committee members. They are taking part in endorsing a non-profit effort to help children confined to hospitals throughout California experience an adventure in creativity and a lasting sense of accomplishment.

These children will paint a deteriorating 11,000-square-foot tower in the heart of Los Angeles, without ever leaving the hospital. Thousands of healthy kids from schools, scout organizations, children's museums and boys and girls clubs will paint base coats on the tower's 100 panels. The panels will then be transported to hundreds of pediatric care centers and oncology camps across California for the hospitalized children to begin their own journey in creativity. When completed, the four-sided tower's design will represent each of the seasons in

vibrantly colored flowers, standing as a testament to the will and spirit of children experiencing happiness while coping with illness.

Artist Ed Massey, a noted social conscience for the modern art world, first got the idea for Project 9865 when he visited a children's hospital to read Milton, a book that he wrote. As he read the story, teaching children about using their imagination and creativity, he watched their reactions. It was then that he realized that using creativity also brings powerful emotional healing.

Bernie Massey, the project manager and artist's brother, explains the special adaptations available for those children who are wheelchair-bound, undergoing chemotherapy, or have IV's hooked to their arms. The "shoe brush" for those who are unable to use their hands is a tennis shoe with a sponge glued to the sole, enabling children to paint with their feet. And

flower and leaf stencils for those unable to stay within the lines will contribute to the consistency of the project's end result. "Every child will paint like Picasso," he says.

The high profile project, funded entirely through private and corporate contributions, is expected to cost over \$1,000,000 and is the first emotional and creative therapy program of its kind. Throughout the entire painting process, 12,000 people from all professions and walks of life will volunteer on behalf of the children.

After the hospitalized children have done their part in the project, they receive a 12-inch wooden replica of the tower with a set of watercolors to remind them what the finished project will look like and their part in it. With the project complete, the children will have painted an area twice the size of the Sistine Chapel -- a big impression for such small hands.

—Marsha McHenry Filippo