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Portraits of Hope

Kids at Marshall Hospital join in nationwide art project

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If a kid were to stand beneath the 152-foot-tall Statue of Liberty and look up, the grand lady of liberty would look like she could conquer the world.

Kids suffering from short- or long-term illness need a hero, someone who can tower over them and protect them.

Interned elderly who often clock their days with the arrival of breakfast, lunch and dinner, know how long days can be behind the walls of a hospital or care facility.

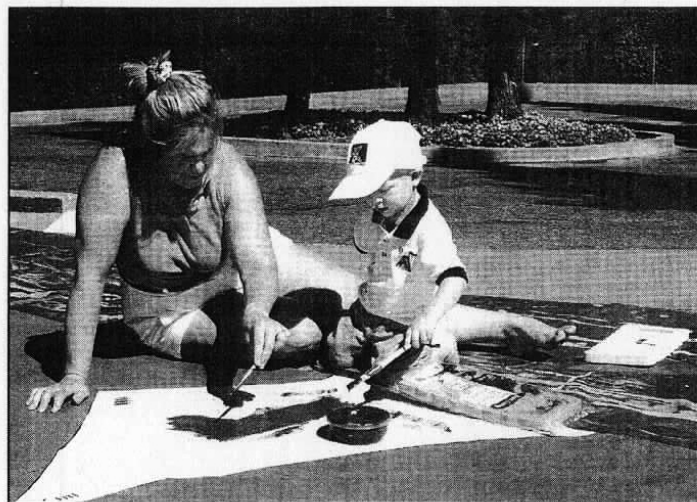
In an effort to make time in the hospital as interesting and motivating as possible, a program titled Portraits of Hope has been introduced. Created by artist and author Ed Massey and Bernie Massey, director of the center for American Studies and Culture, the Portraits of Hope program is aimed at enhancing the quality of life for hospitalized children and seniors at adult care centers.

It is their belief that these two segments of the population, which are often isolated from and forgotten by others, can have joy and pride brought into their days through artwork.

Panels are being made by hospitalized children and elderly people, helping to form the Western United States' biggest monument, which, when finished, will tower 163 feet - 13 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty.

Recently the children in pediatrics at Marshall Hospital completed a panel that will be included in the gigantic monument.

When completed, the monument will be erected at the gateway to Century City and Beverly Hills, one of the busiest thoroughfares in Los Angeles.



Democrat photos by William A. Scales

CINDI AND WESLEY MUCHOW work on a section of the panel that will make up a winter scene for the Portraits of Hope monument that will be constructed in Los Angeles. Each panel is 7-by-20 feet. Below, painters work on the large panel that will hang on a tower in Beverly Hills.

Titled Project 9865, the monument will include 4,000 seriously ill youngsters and will transform an existing 11,000-square-foot southland tower into a celebration of life. Children battling cancer, AIDS, and burn trauma, among other conditions, will paint a surface area more than twice the size of the Sistine Chapel ceiling, without ever leaving the hospital. Project 9865 is a non-profit effort.

