

NEWS RELEASE

Homeless Children and Cancer Patients Connect at San Francisco Hospital

Young Cancer Patients Receive Holiday Gifts from Homeless

December 17, 2001, SAN RAFAEL, CA - Homeless children from San Rafael will visit young patients in the Pediatric Oncology Unit of California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco on Friday December 21 at 4:30 pm, bringing gifts both tangible and intangible for the holiday season. This marks the 10th anniversary of this annual visit, organized by Gloria Simoneaux, director of the nonprofit organization DrawBridge: An Arts Program for Homeless Children.

"It's amazing to witness the connection the children make with each other so naturally and so quickly," says Simoneaux, whose organization provides the art supplies the children bring to the cancer patients. "What both groups have in common is the experience of a life in which they are faced with traumatic and unpredictable situations."

This visit is a powerful example of people in need taking time for others in need. The homeless children who participate in the visit discover that they do in fact have something valuable to give, as their time and companionship brings joy to other children. The exchange invokes compassion, and for everyone involved, deepens the understanding of the unique challenges faced by different groups in our community.

About DrawBridge: An Arts Program for Homeless Children

Established in 1989, DrawBridge is a local nonprofit organization that runs weekly art groups for children at 28 shelters and low-income housing facilities in six Bay Area counties, serving more than 1,700 children each year. Our mission is to provide art programs for homeless children in an environment that fosters their sense of childhood joy, creativity and exuberance.

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