



Alfano Family Arts in Medicine Studio

Testimonials

“When my son needs to come to the oncology clinic, he is not happy. It has become a part of his life and he expects to come here twice a week. But when he has to come to the clinic on Thursdays—he smiles! He knows he will spend a good part of his time with the "arts and crafts" ladies! He so looks forward to seeing Nitza and Barbara! The respectful attention that they give him and the masterpieces that they create together take his mind off all the atrocities he must endure. For the time he is with them, he is an artist! This art program makes the unbearable bearable. It makes coming to the clinic fun. These women are a gift for these children. They all run to the tables—many pushing IV poles in front of them. Nitza and Barbara are very special people with huge hearts and wonderful spirits. I cannot thank them enough for what they have given my son (AND ME!) during this arduous journey. Many Thanks and much love.” — Kim (Samson's Mom)

“The Alfano Family Arts in Medicine Studio is one of the most popular programs in the outpatient clinic as evidenced by the large crowds of children who participate each week. They are fully engaged in their projects for long periods of time and the smiles that emanate from the group when they share the projects is remarkable and provides an important therapeutic dimension to their day in the clinic receiving medical treatment.” — Dr. Steven Sands (Co-Director, Center for Comprehensive Wellness)

“I am a big fan of this program. The children truly enjoy the art and crafts that the artists bring to the clinic. The project materials are colorful and varied so that the kids really are free and creative. The artists inspire the kids' creativity. All of "my kids" have a lot of fun with the activities, look forward to them, and are very much engaged in the activity. I even enjoy spending time with the kids doing projects with them—in the non-threatening environment of the art table I get to enjoy the kids on a different level!!! I think the program is great!” — Cathy Mazzella (Pediatric Oncology Nurse)

“I have loved this experience and have learned so much. It is so easy to see the child as a patient and label them for what is wrong medically, without thinking about their interactions with their five brothers everyday and how the mom has to balance the whole family along with having a child that is sick. There is so much more to these kids than a medical chart and it is our job as physicians to see past a diagnosis and see the kids for who they are and really understand how we can make them better. I didn't know much about arts in medicine and I am so glad I was exposed to it because I can see how it is helping these children, as well as their parents and siblings, every week.” — Kristal Larsen (Medical Student)