Arts For Life is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting people facing serious illnesses and disabilities. By providing educational art programs, we enrich patients’ lives, nurture their minds and spirits, and encourage positive healthcare experiences for children and their families.

Arts For Life began as a small project in 2001 when AFL’s founder, Anna Littman, gave cameras, film, and journals to young cancer patients. Littman became a part of the hospital community of patients when her 11-year-old sister, Katie, was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer.

While helping to care for her younger sister, Littman also began teaching art. First, she was teaching just Katie. Then she started teaching Katie’s neighbors in the hospital, then six other kids on the unit got involved, then twelve, then twenty. Patients and parents responded positively to the art lessons and asked for more. Our educational art lessons quickly proved to be successful ways to help patients cope with their medical treatments and hospital stays, decrease stress and anxiety, and keep patients active and engaged.

Today, Arts For Life supports over 6,000 young patients, siblings, and family members each year, in four children’s hospitals and communities across North Carolina. We offer three art programs:

• Young patients arrive to the clinic and make a beeline to Arts For Life’s Clinic Art Stations. With their AFL teachers, the children learn to create and develop art skills while they meet other kids and explore their talents.

• In our Inpatient Bedside Program, AFL teachers travel from room to room teaching young patients guitar and music, painting and drawing, and sculpture and writing.

• Arts For Life’s Art Support Groups & Special Events help patients to meet one another and interact in a supportive, fun environment.

Arts For Life also runs successful Artist Fellowship Programs and Volunteer and Internship Programs.

To learn more about Arts For Life, get involved, or donate to support children and families in your community, visit our website or Facebook page today.

artsforlifenc.org

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