



arts for life

2015 Annual Report

Asheville / Charlotte / Durham / Winston-Salem

Mia, age 2

Gina Daugherty, Mia's mom and Arts For Life board member, says:

“Cancer treatment without Arts for Life would have been unbearable.

Art gives children the outlet they need; it allows children to express what they are going through in a positive way.

Mia loves art of any kind and the volunteers are amazing with the kids and it also allowed time for us as parents to have a break while knowing she was fully engaged and happy.”





From the Board Chair of Arts For Life:



Within these pages, you have the extraordinary opportunity to see a glimpse of the faces of the beautiful, courageous children that come to our hospital art tables.

It has been an exciting year of growth for Arts For Life, including serving more children and their families than ever before in our 15-year history. We have expanded our programs serving children battling illness and their families during the most vulnerable times in their lives.

While each of us are rushing off to our next appointment or picking up our children from soccer practice, the families that we serve are walking into the hospital to receive life-saving treatments. Inside the corridors of the hospital, where our healthcare partners are doing their very best to provide world-class treatments for children who have serious or chronic illnesses or life-changing disabilities, our Arts For Life teachers are right there preparing special art projects and creative learning experiences for them.

Our programs create a magical space for these children and their families to rejuvenate amidst very challenging times. Because of you, and all those that support Arts For Life, we are there every day, welcoming the children and their siblings to a safe and joyful place where they can express themselves and their creativity and to feel free just to be a child rather than a patient.

In 2015, our Board of Directors and staff worked together to create our 3-year strategic plan and vision for Arts For Life. Together, we agreed that it is our hearts' desire that every child facing a serious illness will have the opportunity to be served by our life-changing programs. We prioritized community engagement, forging even stronger partnerships with our healthcare partners, and growing our base of support.



To paraphrase a famous quote by Forest Witcraft, as a Board and staff team, we believe that, **“One hundred years from now, it will not matter what our bank account was, the sort of house we lived in, or the kind of car we drove, but the world will be different because we, and all of our supporters, were important in the life of a child.”**

Starting today, we urge you to help us spread the word about the magical and miraculous things that are taking place at hospitals across North Carolina each day and to join our mission to bring the healing power of art to children who need it most.

With heartfelt thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary B. Nesbitt".

Mary B. Nesbitt



Journi
age 6

THE 2015 ARTS FOR LIFE TEAM

Staff

Annie Rogers
Program Director
ASHEVILLE

Anna Long
Program Coordinator
ASHEVILLE

Melissa Hyman
Music Teacher
ASHEVILLE

Sarah Ness
Program Director
CHARLOTTE

Mary Margaret Fulk
Program Director
DURHAM

William Dawson
Music Teacher
DURHAM

Betsey McLawhorn
Program Director
WINSTON-SALEM

Amber Scavo
Program Coordinator
WINSTON-SALEM

Kelsey Brown
Program Assistant
WINSTON-SALEM

Colin Allured
Music Teacher
WINSTON-SALEM

Rachel Zink
Executive Director

Snee Howard
Bookkeeper & Office Manager



Board of Directors

Mary Nesbitt, *Chair*

Karen Fitzgerald, *Treasurer*

Carol Mitchell, *Secretary*

Gina Daugherty

Lindsay Jones

Laura Funderburg

Lesley Powell

Wade Rogers

Anne Sessions

Wes Sugg

Katie Ward

Michael Worsman

plus *hundreds* of amazing
volunteers who give their time,
energy, and love to our young artists!



ARTS FOR LIFE STAFF (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT):
Rachel, William, Melissa, Betsey, Mary Margaret,
Colin, Anna, Annie, and Sarah

Our Signature Programs

ART TABLES in Clinic Waiting Rooms & Playrooms

Young patients visiting the clinic or staying at the hospital make a beeline for Arts For Life's Art Tables. With their Arts For Life teachers, children learn to create and develop art skills while they meet other kids and explore their talents.

BEDSIDE STUDIOS on Inpatient Units

Arts For Life teachers travel from hospital room to hospital room, teaching young patients painting, drawing, sculpture, writing, and more. For patients who can't leave their room or aren't feeling well enough to join the art table, their projects are tailored to their interests and abilities.

ART GROUPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Through partnerships with summer camps, special outpatient events for patients and families, and visiting artist workshops, Arts For Life helps kids and teens meet each other and interact in a fun environment, outside of appointments and hospital stays.

and

INTERNSHIPS & VOLUNTEERING

We would only be able to reach a fraction of number of kids we help without the time, energy, and dedication of our volunteer and intern team. Arts For Life is always looking for community members and college students to join us!

Visit artsforlifenc.org/get-involved to learn more about how to make a difference

Our Chapter Locations in NC



2015 by the Numbers



9,753

People Supported
patients, siblings, and family
members whose lives and
healthcare experiences were
enriched by arts education



23,225

Lessons Taught
visual art and creative writing
education

13,714

Hours of Service
filled with creativity,
discovery, and joy

263

Hours Taught Weekly
on average **37 hours** each day!

6-year-old Skye's Peace Sign

Nine-year-old *Nykee*,
a “regular” at the Arts For Life art
table, recently told his teacher:

**“The first time I started here
with cancer, and the first time
I saw you, I started doing art
because I saw the amazing
projects that all the kids were
doing and I wanted to do all
those projects!”**

Nykee was diagnosed with BCell
Leukemia (ALL) in January of 2010
and was in treatment for three years.
Then, he relapsed in 2014 and is in
treatment at Brenner still today.

For six years, Nykee has been
imagining projects big and small. From
a palm-sized mansion, to a cardboard
and tin-foil time machine he can step
into, to costumes stitched from felt
or fashioned together with paper and
glue, Nykee’s teachers know to expect
grand ideas when he sits down to do
art.



Nykee enjoys engaging the other
kids at the hospital in activities,
often inviting them to join him at
the art table, and even telling new
patients about all the “**amazing
projects**” they can create together.

When asked why he enjoys art, he
responded:

**“Art makes me feel
good, like *really good*.
Seeing art makes me
want to do art. I just
want to paint and all
that fun stuff!”**



Dylan, age 9

Creativity and Courage

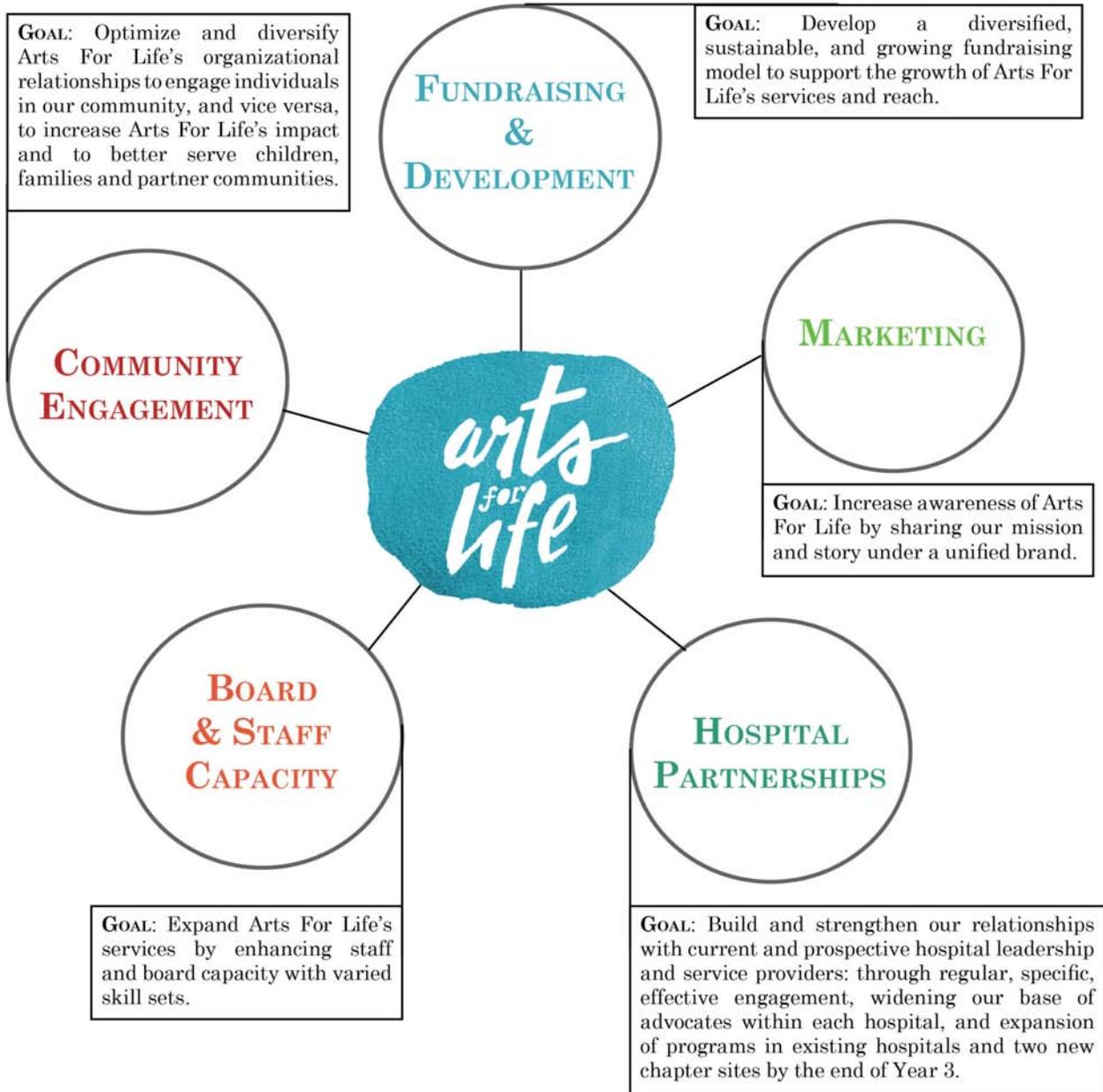
A FEW OF ARTS FOR LIFE'S
INSPIRING YOUNG ARTISTS



Clockwise, from top left: Haley, Savanna, Arianna, Uriah, Charlotte and music teacher William

Our 2015-17 Strategic Plan

Our **VISION** is that arts education will positively transform the healthcare experience for all children and their families.



Calla

might just be Arts For Life's biggest fan. Diagnosed with Type 1 Neurofibromatosis in the spring of 2015, Calla instantly found her place at the hospital art table.

Drawing, painting, creating gifts for family and friends: she loves it all. She especially loved the project pictured here, where she was able to turn a regular cat into a "cuckoo cat." Calla decided that the world would be a funnier, and more colorful, place if it were filled with rainbow cats!

Cara, Calla's mother, says, "If it weren't for Arts For Life, we'd have to drag Calla to the hospital each month for her chemotherapy. But because of Arts For Life, Calla literally counts down the days until she gets to come to Duke! *Instead of dreading her medicine, she says 'I wonder what they'll have for me at the art table today?'*"



Despite her tough circumstances, Calla is always smiling and greets her art teachers with her sweet, spunky spirit. In addition to creating her own works of art, Calla is always on the lookout to lend a helping hand or a compliment to another patient. "Just recently, I observed Calla at the art table offering to help another child take

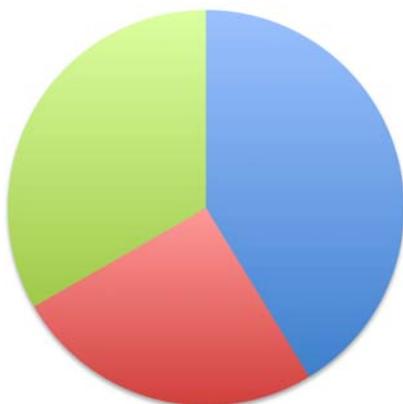
the lid off a marker when he seemed to be struggling," said Program Director Mary Margaret Fulk. "Without missing a beat, Calla looked at me and said, **'I can help him. We've met before. We're art table friends.'**"

While no parent would wish for their child to have to spend days, weeks, months or years in and out of the hospital, knowing that their child's art table friends are ready and waiting makes each hospital visit just a little easier.

Our Financials

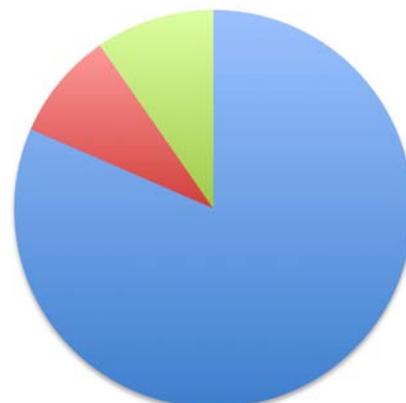
See more detail on our IRS Form 990 on our website, coming in summer 2015: artsforlifenc.org/compliance

REVENUE



● Donations	\$172,028
● Grants & Foundations	\$105,931
● Hospital Contributions	<u>\$138,720</u>
	\$416,679*

EXPENSES



● Program	\$346,539
● Management	\$37,489
● Fundraising	<u>\$41,041</u>
	\$425,069

*INCLUDES IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Artwork from Our Young Artists



Chris' poem reads: *The sky may be dark, the sky may be blue, but always remember that each day is new.*



Clockwise, from top left: "Cat Balloon," by 9-year-old Julia; "Perfect Day," by 17-year-old Chris; "Princess and Prince," by 6-year-old Skye; "Blowfish," by 9-year-old Mackasia; "The King," by 8-year-old Alan

What People Are Saying...

Heather Silva, *Child Life Manager
at Levine Children's Hospital*

While patients from across Charlotte and beyond are receiving the very best medical care here at Levine Children's Hospital to heal their bodies, Arts For Life will help our kids by nurturing their creativity, encouraging them to express themselves, and helping them stay active and engaged in life.

Sometimes you can't change a diagnosis, but you CAN bring joy and creative engagement into the healthcare experience – and that is exactly what this partnership means for us and our patients.

Barbara P., *grandma of Patricia:*

I have been bringing my 5-1/2 year old granddaughter, Patricia, to the Cystic Fibrosis center since her birth. We have come here faithfully every three months, and spent anywhere from 15 minutes to 30 minutes in the waiting room. For years, this waiting time was the worst, most frustrating part of our visit. Patricia was restless and spent her time whining.

However, Arts For Life has changed all of that with their wonderful art projects! Now, Patricia hops off the elevator and hurries to the waiting room to find "the art lady." Arts For Life has creative and fun crafts that interest various ages. One of the best things about these projects is that they can be put in a craft box and completed in the examination rooms, if the child hasn't finished them in the waiting room.

Patricia plays with her art project on the long drive home. And some crafts have even made it to church to occupy my wiggly little girl during long sermons! I would like to thank Wake Forest Baptist Hospital and Arts For Life for providing this wonderful service for our children.

Amber Hammer, RN, BSN:

Arts For Life creates a space where kids can be themselves; serving as a meeting place for our patients to create their own community within the hospital. One that is vibrant, joyful, and limitless.



Thank you for caring – it makes a difference!

What People Are Saying...



Heather P., mom of Neva & Sylvie:

Our children have really blossomed under the guidance of Anna and her team of terrific volunteers. Not only is this program therapeutic, but I see improved manual dexterity, confidence, and a sincere appreciation for the visual arts.

One of my daughters is profoundly visual, she wants to be an artist and indeed has the makings of one. This was effectually her very first art class, and simply while waiting on her sister to receive therapy. She used so many forms of art media, from paint to clay to oil pastels, lots of collage and 3-dimensional forms, as well. I was always impressed by the projects Arts For Life designed for the kids. My daughters loved it all.

It's amazing what a positive and lasting impact this program has had on her, and indeed, on us all. My other daughter, who didn't often draw, has now begun to draw and develop her own signature style. At home, we can't provide enough drawing paper! Thankfully, we had Arts For Life to supply us with that as well as the inspiration to keep creating.

We feel so lucky to have been a part of Arts For Life!

A survey of parents, conducted in 2015, yielded the following results:

88.7% of parents agreed that Arts For Life programs affected their child in a positive or very positive manner concerning overall experience in the clinic, interactions with staff, and the child's and family's coping skills

76.2% of parents agreed that Arts For Life programs have increased their child's feelings of accomplishment, control, and self-esteem

65.4% of parents agreed that since beginning participation with Arts For Life programs there has been a positive or very positive change in their child's social interactions, problem-solving skills, self-expression, and creativity

The results show that Arts For Life's students aren't just learning art skills; they're learning *life skills*, and having an easier time in the hospital, too.



Thank you! to Arts For Life's champions & supporters at



Our *gratitude* goes to our supporters, sponsors, and donors:

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The Leon Levine Foundation
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