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Operation ReImagine Gives Hospitalized Children Opportunities for Creative Expression

Anonymous donor funds partnership between Resource Depot, Alliance for Kids /

Children's Hospital at St. Mary's Medical Center and Quantum House.

(West Palm Beach, FL) May 18, 2014 – Children undergoing medical treatments at two West Palm Beach centers will receive a special experience beginning this fall, thanks to a seemingly unlikely community partnership.

Operation ReImagine is a joint effort between local nonprofit Resource Depot, Alliance for Kids / Palm Beach Children's Hospital at St. Mary's Medical Center and Quantum House to provide hospitalized children with opportunities for creative expression.

Says Lisa Barron, Director of Programs for Alliance for Kids, who coordinates Child Life activities at Palm Beach Children's Hospital at St. Mary's, "Operation ReImagine provides experiences for our patients far greater than a single gift – the opportunity for creative self-expression, for control over a part of their artistic creation that many do not have over other components of their daily lives. For these reasons, we are proud to be partnering with a local organization that can provide the materials and educators to make run such a program in our Children's Hospital."

It all starts at Resource Depot, where staff and volunteers are busy creating ReImagine Kits brimming with creative materials. Many of these supplies are drawn from their own "wond3Rland warehouse" of donated reusable resources, with the addition of connectors and tools such as glue, tape and scissors so that each child can create a finished product.

A Resource Depot teaching artist will make regular visits to both the Palm Beach Children's Hospital at St. Mary's and Quantum House for a year, spending the morning at each site twice per month working in a small group setting with children and helping them with the creative process. Additional ReImagine Kits will remain on site for children not present during the visits, and for those who wish to participate but aren't physically able to attend a session.

The ReImagine Kits and artist sessions provide opportunities for children to use their imaginations, experimenting with different social and emotional roles while they explore new ways to look at and manipulate everyday objects and expand their problem solving skills...and bringing creative joy into the lives of both the child and his or her family.

"The innovative art program will be the perfect distraction for Quantum House families," says Roberta Turney, Executive Director of Quantum House. "Families who stay at Quantum House have a child who's being treated for a serious medical condition. Operation ReImagine will allow them an experience they wouldn't otherwise have while receiving treatment."

During Operation ReImagine's pilot year, Resource Depot will be seeking support to continue and expand the program. More information about Resource Depot and their arts, education and environmental programs can be found at www.resourcedepot.net or by calling 561-882-0090.

About Resource Depot

Resource Depot is a Palm Beach County nonprofit whose programs are building a more sustainable, creative Palm Beach County through reuse.

Founded in 1999 by a diverse group of charter members from the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, the Palm Beach County School District and Florida Power & Light, their mission is to divert clean, safe, reusable materials that would otherwise be destined for the landfill into the hands of people who can use them for educational and artistic purposes.

Local teachers, families and nonprofits can become annual members to "shop" at Resource Depot for educational and arts materials, bring their class for student experiences or have Resource Depot visit their school. Additionally, Resource Depot facilitates a number of grant supported programs that deliver a blend of art and environmental education to local students. The public is welcome to visit the gallery and boutique of repurposed and upcycled art, attend DIY classes and community events, and support through donations of funds or reusable items and volunteer efforts.

For more information, visit www.resourcedepot.net or call 561-882-0090.

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