

The Periwinkle Foundation Arts and Creative Writing Program provides enjoyable, educational and meaningful artistic opportunities for patients and families. The Periwinkle Foundation partners with local arts organizations to provide weekly programming at Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Centers ranging from dance and music performances to professional writers and artists who work bedside with children to create short stories, poetry and art which are shared in The Splendid Review and Making A Mark traveling art exhibit.

The Arts and Creative Writing Program is based on the belief that the creative process involved in art is healing and life enhancing. Music, performing and visual arts, creative writing and story-telling enhance the treatment environment and provide a focus on the psychosocial aspect of healing.

Boredom... The unspoken side effect of cancer treatment. Long hours in clinics and never-ending days in the hospital was my reality for almost 3 years. My weak immune system also meant absolutely no social life - this alone was the hardest pill to swallow. I watched the minutes pass by ever so slowly until I got my labs drawn, or office visit, or chemotherapy infusion, or blood transfusion. "Time, it just takes time," they all would say. Time to worry about the unknown future, time to worry about the onset of pain or nausea, time to wish I was anywhere but the hospital.

For me, the resolution was The Periwinkle Foundation Arts and Creative Writing Program. When I was painting a picture, my mind would forget about the present inconvenience, called cancer. Each stroke of a paintbrush drifted me to a world full of colors and possibilities. If I couldn't find words to describe my feelings, I would leave it to a picture to explain. Through this program I also met many interesting and creative people who could talk to me about various things besides my obvious health issues.



*"You are My Sunshine"
by Cameron James*

Thank you for fighting to keep this invaluable program alive!!!

Amanda