

The Healing Power of Art

By Jayne Guertin

Friends of Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital Healing Arts Program to Host Rollicking Inaugural Fundraiser: [The Healing Arts Inspire 2017](#);

Celebrate the Healing Powers of Art at Inspire 2017, a fundraiser for Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital Healing Arts Program

If you've been to a healthcare facility lately you may have noticed something different and life-affirming, such as walls hung with colorful paintings, bedside carts of art supplies, live music, people busy with art projects in waiting rooms. That's because healthcare practitioners have discovered what artists have long known: hospital-based healing arts programs, such as music, movement, painting, visual arts, and literary arts, have all been shown to help children, adults and their families better cope with the stresses caused by illness and the healthcare environment.

Hasbro Children's Hospital was at the forefront of this movement. Its Healing Arts Program (HAP) began nearly 20 years ago when the program's Founder and Director, Paula Most, who holds a BFA from Pratt as well as an Master's in Art Education, introduced the idea to the hospital while she was working at the Museum of Art, RISD. "The program began with a pretty simple concept," she says, "which was to bring art into the hospital." She did so by, literally, packing up reproductions of works of art that appeal to children—for instance, the primitive paintings of Henri Rousseau—and ferrying them to the hospital. The backsides were pasted with a short story about the artists, and lessons in a variety of art media were designed around the artworks.

Health is not only a state of body but also a state of mind, that's why the program is now an integral part of patient care and the healing process, it brings comfort and joy to patients and family. Staffed with trained artists who offer experiences like Music on Rounds, Bottles of Hope, and Art While You Wait, today it serves both adults and children at Rhode Island and Hasbro Children's Hospitals.

Funding sources partially come from the Hospital and through grants and philanthropic donations, so Paula is always searching for addition funding sources for the program. This year, on October 19, Friends of Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital Healing Arts Program will host a rollicking inaugural fundraiser for [The Healing Arts Inspire 2017](#); aptly named as the program has inspired many former patients to seek careers in the arts and/or medicine.

EVENT INFO: The Healing Arts *Inspire 2017*, Thursday, October 19, 2017, 5:30pm – 8:30pm, at the Historic Providence Art Club, 11 Thomas St., Providence, RI 02903. Tickets at <https://www.lifespan.org/events/healing-arts-inspire-2017>