

HOLIDAY 2009 CARD DESIGNERS
Children's Art Project
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

NOTE TO THE MEDIA: The artists are available for interviews and photos. Please call Gail Goodwin in the Communications Office, (713) 745-1946.

Mohammed Al-Ali (Joseph), 12, is from Dhahran-Saudi Arabia, but has spent much of his young life as an osteosarcoma patient in the Children's Hospital at M. D. Anderson. Joseph is an engaging young man who enjoys the math and science he learns in the in-hospital school at M. D. Anderson, but really likes magic tricks and computers. Joseph is a big part of the patient group and helps lead the way at summer camp, on the ski slopes during the annual ski trip, in art class and more. His "Lake" art is a holiday card and he was also part of the "Gingerbread House" team with art used as a greeting card, ornament and cookie jar.

Jameisha Brown, 20, from Rosharon, Texas, has completed treatment for Burkitt's lymphoma. With the help of a scholarship funded by the Children's Art Project, she attends the University of Houston and has plans to become a pediatric oncology nurse. When she's not studying, Jameisha is also interested in music and painting. This year, her "Santa Dog" is featured on a holiday card.

Astrid Camacho, 11, from Puerto Rico, has completed treatment for anaplastic large cell lymphoma. Currently, she lives in Houston, but her family has plans to return to their native country and make return trips to M. D. Anderson for follow-up checks. In school, she enjoys science, but out of school, Astrid loves to dance. She worked with several other patients to create the "Gingerbread House" with art used as a greeting card, ornament and cookie jar.

Vannessa Cochran, 26, was treated for rhabdomyosarcoma, but her treatment for the tumor, which was in her sinus cavity, left her blind in her right eye. Despite her diminished vision, this talented artist continues with her artwork. She enjoys anything related to arts and crafts and is currently an aspiring college student. Her beautifully detailed art includes "Chili Tree" and "Christmas Window," which are featured on greeting cards in the 2009 collection.

Stacy Duff, 20, is from Houston, Texas and was treated for large b-cell lymphoma. She is now a student at the University of Houston – Downtown and wants to pursue a career in fashion design. Stacy enjoys interior design, watching classic movies and spending time with her family and friends. She has two pieces of art in the current holiday collection, "Jingle Bells" and "Mother and Child," which are both greeting cards.

Luis Escamilla, 19, is a native of Monterrey Mexico, but now lives in Houston, Texas, and recently graduated from high school. He has completed treatment for fibrosarcoma, and he loves to play soccer. He also enjoys driving and fixing cars. Luis has participated in a number of CAP-sponsored activities, including the annual Siemens trip to the Houston Texans football game, and has five designs in this collection, "Peace," "Olive Branch," "Chapel," "White Candle" and "Golden Bell."

Fadila Farag, 10, is a native of Abudhabi – U.A.E., but has spent a great deal of time in Houston, TX while undergoing treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). Her mother has been an active part of the Children’s Cancer Hospital at M. D. Anderson and has served on the Family-Centered Care advisory committee here. Fadila herself has attended school in the in-hospital classrooms, gone to summer camp and has been part of many field trips and activities while she was in treatment. She was an enthusiastic part of the team that designed the “Gingerbread House,” which is a greeting card, ornament and cookie jar.

Moises Flores, 16, is from Houston, TX and has completed treatment for leukemia. He says that his great care at M. D. Anderson has inspired him to become a nurse. He enjoys sports and while undergoing treatment, Moises was part of the AYA program, attended Camp A.O.K. and was enrolled in the hospital school. A first time designer, he has three pieces of art in the 2009 collection: “White Dove,” “Treeline” and “Red Ornament.”

Chloe Fowlkes, 10, is from Brandon, MS, but stayed in Houston, TX while undergoing treatment for melanoma. She enjoys math in school, but Hannah Montana and playing with friends are favorites when she’s not in class. Although she “hates needles,” Chloe’s mother says that she was able to maintain a positive attitude even during the time when she was getting three shots a week. These days, Chloe is busy spreading the word that melanoma is not just a disease for adults, and is proud to have her “Angel” artwork in the 2009 Holiday collection.

Carrington Marzett, 19, from Midland, TX, is being treated at M. D. Anderson for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). She is a college sophomore at Baylor University, but returns to M. D. Anderson from time to time for monitoring. Carrington is majoring in medical humanities pre-med and hopes to become a pharmacist or oncologist. She also enjoys painting and playing the piano and oboe. Carrington, a talented artist, has her “Barn” art in the 2009 Holiday collection as a Thanksgiving card.

Krystal Mutters, 18, lives in Houston, Texas. She received treatment for medulablastoma. She enjoys science, arts and crafts and swimming. Krystal has attended school at M. D. Anderson and also participated in summer camp, numerous field trips – including a three-day trip to Austin and San Antonio and the Children’s Art Project-sponsored art classes. Krystal’s mother says that the art project has helped her enjoy life. Krystal created artwork for a greeting card, “Mosaic Poinsettia,” and also worked on the “Gingerbread House” that was used as a greeting card, ornament and cookie jar.

Nikolás Papademetriou, deceased, was a native of Nicosia, Cyprus. His brother says that Nikolas battled cancer for five years “like a real Greek hero” before passing away in 2008. While at M. D. Anderson, he participated in the in-hospital school program, summer camp, many field trips and, of course, art classes. Nik was a valuable member of the creative team that decorated the “Gingerbread House,” which was used as a greeting card, ornament and cookie jar. His “Turkey” art is the November page of the 2010 calendar.

Romika Smith, 13, is from Houston, Texas and is in treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). In school, she likes science and out of school, shopping and dance are favorites. Her mother credits the Children's Art Project with giving her goals and allowing her to know that many things are possible. Romika was part of the creative design team that worked on the "Gingerbread House," which was used as a greeting card, ornament and cookie jar.

Gatlin Stringer, 8, lives in Conroe, Texas, and was being treated at M. D. Anderson for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). He is in the 2nd grade and loves baseball and riding scooters. His mother says that most of Gatlin's memories of his time at M. D. Anderson are the positive ones that CAP provided – and states that she and her husband are so thankful for this blessing. Another interesting part of Gatlin's story is that his older brother was also treated for cancer at M. D. Anderson. His "Flower Power" art has been used as a greeting card, thank you card, drink coasters and as the May page in the 2010 calendar.

Jasmine Subia, 14, is from Madera, CA, but currently lives in Cedar Park, Texas. She has completed treatment for osteosarcoma although she relapsed twice. In school, Jasmine is a good math student, and photography is a favorite activity out of school. She attended Camp A.O.K. and hopes to return to make even more friends. Her "Blue Houses" art is a greeting card in the 2009 Holiday collection.

Zoe Tajonera, 15, was born in the Philippines, but now lives in Spring, Texas. She is currently under treatment for acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). She enjoys math, reading, painting and surfing the Internet. Her lively personality keeps everyone entertained. As a first time designer, Zoe has three pieces of art in this collection: "Bird and Tree," "Green Wreath" and "Gingerbread House."