

New Splashes of Color at the Spiegel Children's Center

There are new splashes of color at the Spiegel Children's Center thanks to Splashes of Hope, a non-profit public charity dedicated to transforming the environments of hospitals, healthcare centers and social service facilities with custom-designed, hand-painted murals. The three new spectacular murals were unveiled this October and were part of a project sponsored by the Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Foundation that began this spring in the after-school recreation room.

"We are very grateful to the Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Foundation and the talented artists at Splashes of Hope for their generosity and creativity," said Noreen Clemens, Principal of ACLD Children's Services. 🌟

Sarah Baecher, Creative Director at Splashes of Hope, Splashes of Hope Board President, Mel Weinzimer and Spiegel Children's Center student, (center) Delaney Conlon,



Smile, It's Good For You

Did you know that a smile helps boost your immune system? A smile relieves stress. And it's easier to smile than it is to frown. Partnering with Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (FREE), ACLD held a press conference this spring to launch the new social media campaign #Moments4Smiles. #Moments4Smiles is a movement to bring global awareness to the fact that all humans are very much alike. And another fact about smiles, differently-abled or not, a SMILE is universal.

"We all share similar life experiences, both big and small, that bring us enjoyment and make us smile," said Donna Celardo, Director of Day and Community Services. "A smile is a universal expression of contentment!"

The campaign announcement was made at FREE's annual Advocacy and Disability Awareness Conference. The goal of the conference was to help the community that both ACLD and FREE serve to learn about themselves, be able to express their own opinions, and obtain information and

resources necessary to make choices that lead to positive change in their own lives and on behalf of those who are unable to speak for themselves.

The event was attended by over 100 members of the special needs community, including Meryl Jackelow, member of ACLD's Board of Trustees, who shared a simple take away message from the day, "Treat others how you would like to be treated yourself."

To share your own moments that make you smile, post a picture on ACLD's Facebook page and use #Moments4Smiles. 🌟



Meryl Jackelow, member of ACLD's Board of Trustees, is all #Moments4Smiles.