

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

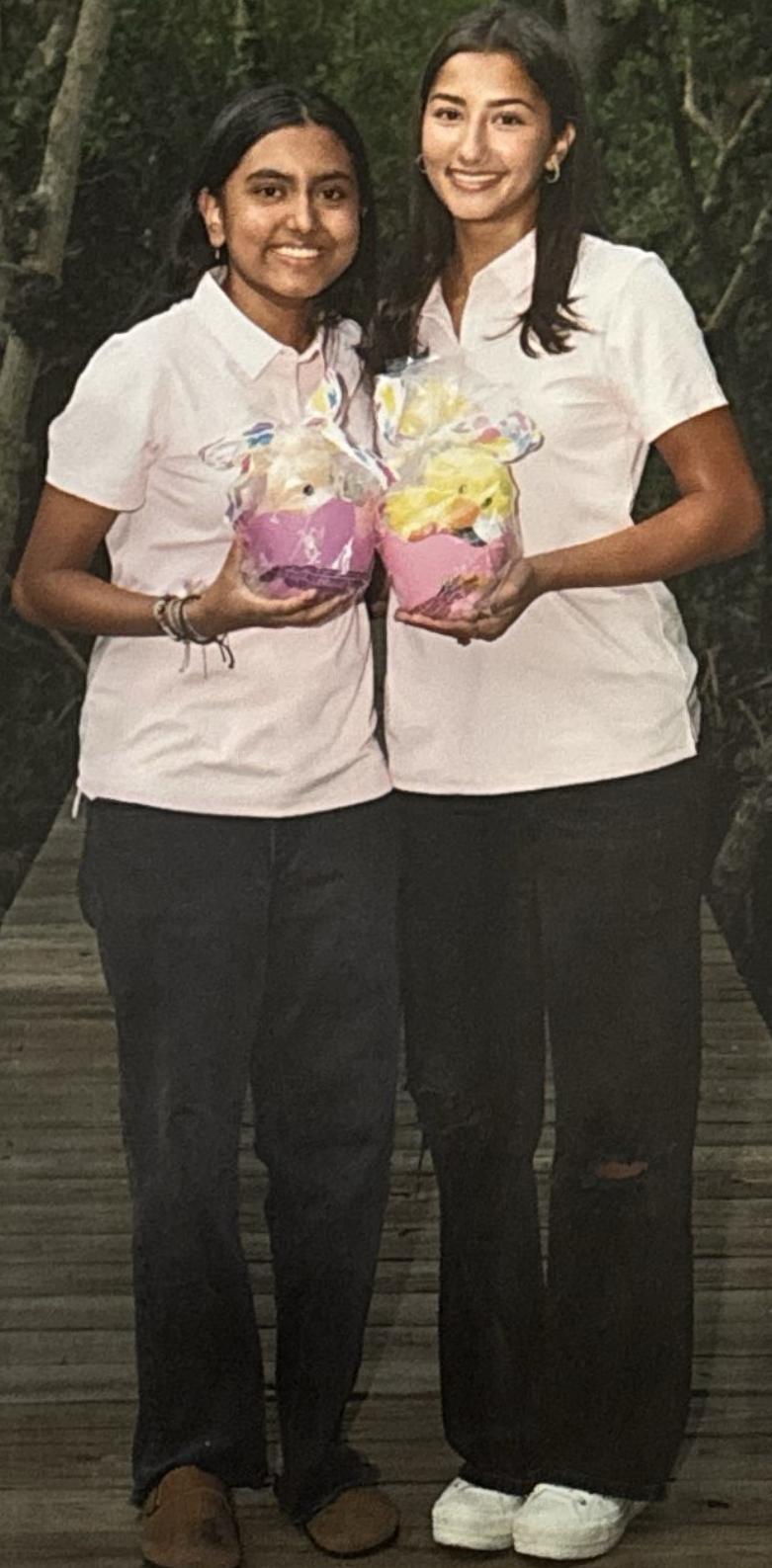


Photo by Moorman Photography

CREATE FOR KIDS BRINGS HOPE AND HEALING TO HURTING CHILDREN

WRITTEN BY ELIZABETH MCCABE

It's the small acts of kindness that can make a difference to those who need help and healing. Resident Suma Gadde likes making a difference through Create for Kids, which helps children in hospitals.

"We donate cards, art supplies, and books to read to children in hospitals," explains Suma. We also volunteer our time with them to show them support during a rough time. I wanted to start it because it's a good way to give back to my community and help people." When her childhood friend was diagnosed with cancer, Suma knew she wanted to make a difference for others. Starting a nonprofit was the answer.

FOUNDED IN 2023, CREATE FOR KIDS has a simple mission. Suma explains, "We believe that art is a vital component of the healing process, and we strive to create a nurturing environment that promotes creativity and smiles. Our volunteers are passionate about their work and are dedicated to making a lasting impact on children's lives."

The nonprofit started in Florida but has since expanded to Pennsylvania, Texas, New York, North Carolina, Hawaii, Arizona, and Panama.

How did the organization grow? "We started posting a lot on social media," explains Suma. Her Vice President Sarah Younes does a lot of the Instagram posts. "I post daily reminders to show that there are things that we can do for kids," explains Sarah. She has posts of children unboxing the kits they are given and the impact that they make in their lives.

HOW TO HELP

Interested individuals can visit Create For Kids' website, createforkids.org, where a volunteer tab lists all the activities available. The organization also maintains an active Instagram page, [@createforkidsorg](https://www.instagram.com/createforkidsorg), where updates from different chapters are posted.



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SAVE THE DATE FOR THEIR UPCOMING EVENT

Create For Kids is hosting a 5K Run/Walk at Al Lopez Park in Tampa on August 3, 2024. This event aims to raise funds for the Moffitt Cancer Center, supporting cancer treatments and research. This will be the first year for the run/walk, which seeks to aid both children and adults with cancer. If you are unable to join, consider donating to their fundraiser.

ABOUT SUMA AND SARAH

When Suma isn't making a difference, this 16-year-old is a student at Hillsborough High School. She aims to pursue a career in STEM. Sarah, 17, is a

student at The Academy of the Holy Names who aspires to be a pediatric orthodontist. Friends for over a year, Suma and Sarah have volunteered together at events such as those for St. Jude. They have a heart for others.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Suma believes that making a difference feels amazing and truly matters. “It makes you feel really good, even if it’s small,” she concludes.

We are honored to feature Create For Kids in this month's issue. For more information, visit createforkids.org to learn how to make a difference!