

# THE RED & BLACK

FALL  
ISSUE



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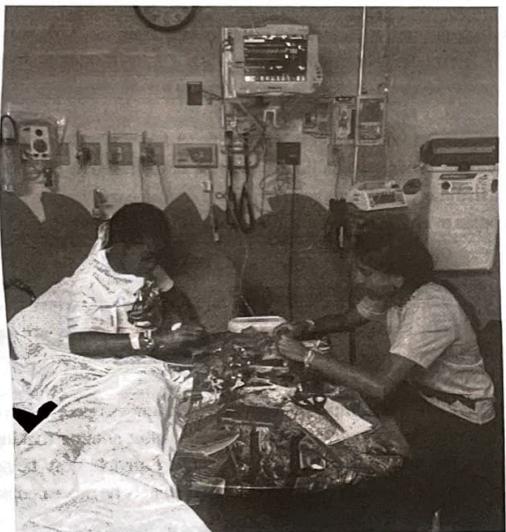
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# THE ART OF HEALING

## BRINGING SMILES AND SUPPORT TO HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN AROUND THE GLOBE

Suma Gadde, a Hillsborough High School junior, has always been interested in art. She believes art helps people promote their artistic and creative abilities and that it's a very expressive and important part of life.

"Create for Kids" is a non-profit organization created by Gadde. This organization promotes artistic creativity for hospitalized children and aims to get their minds off their current situation. One way Gadde aims to do this is by getting students from around the world to make baskets composed of art materials and supportive cards. For many kids, these kits become a cherished part of their healing journey. She hopes to increase artistic accessibility for these children, helping to shift the focus from only the negative part of this experience into greater and more positive opportunities. This initiative not only brings smiles, but it also builds a community of hope and support for each family. Very raw and emotional reactions by the patient's parents are also common when receiving kits.



STORY BY: MARIA MOREIRA MIGUEL

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: @CREATEFORKIDSORG

"I love art, it's very fun and I feel like kids also love to do it too, so it's upsetting to see that it's not something they have access to, especially since they're just sitting in their rooms, bored," Gadde said. Giving back to the community is a huge goal that Gadde has. Hospitals do so much for children every day and there are still many things that aren't as accessible as they should be for kids.



Gadde believes that art is an important aspect of childhood. As an artistic person, she hopes to be able to help soften the hardship these families are going through by making the experience as enjoyable as possible, by showing we care and that they have the world's support.

Create for Kids has distributed roughly 3,000 art kits, making significant progress in encouraging young artists' creativity. It has even become an international matter, with active chapters in countries such as Panama, United Arab Emirates, Mongolia, Turkey, Australia and more. Every kit is thoughtfully crafted to encourage children's creativity and includes everything they need to explore their artistic abilities. The large amount of kits the organization provides demonstrates its dedication to encouraging children's creativity. Numerous children's hospital experiences have been greatly improved by this organization.



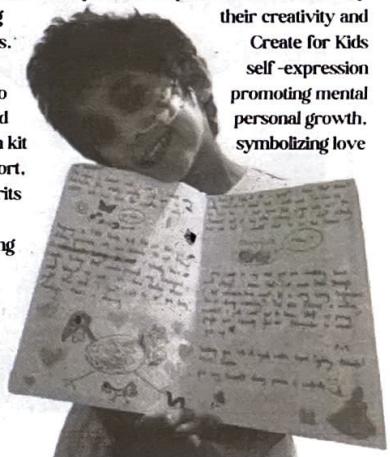
"It really touched me when I first saw one of the kids opening their packages. It was a very special moment to me. It's always so heartwarming to see the smile on their faces," Gadde said.

The heartfelt messages and drawings created by the public are important in showing that people truly care about these patients going through such horrible times.

Create for Kids' growing influence around the world helps students become more aware of the impact they can make if they participate in such events and volunteering opportunities. The organization's initiatives go beyond helping specific patients—they also encourage the larger community to help.

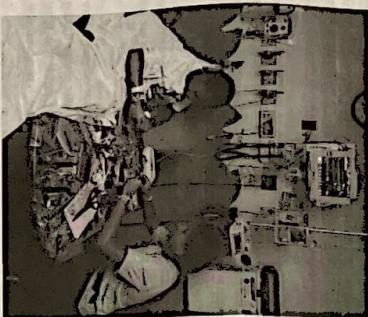
During difficult periods, these kits bring much joy and comfort to these young patients. They also offer much-needed emotional support and distraction, reducing stress while encouraging a sense of normalcy, which was Gadde's main goal when creating this organization. In the end, Create for Kids makes a significant difference in the lives of several young patients and their families by assisting in the transformation of the hospital experience into one that incorporates creativity, hope, and fun. By providing children with individualized art kits, the organization has a significant and positive impact on the world by nurturing their creativity and happiness.

Create for Kids self-expression supports while also health and with each kit and support, lifting spirits during challenging times.



## THE ART OF HEALING

### BRINGING SMILES AND SUPPORT TO HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN AROUND THE GLOBE



Sara Gade, a Illovershaw High School junior, has always been interested in art. She believes art helps people pronounce their artistic and creative abilities, and that it's very expressive and important part of life. "Create for Kids" is a non-profit organization created by Gade. The organization promotes artistic creativity for hospitalized children and aims to get their minds off their current situation. One way Gade aims to do this is by getting students to around the world to make baskets composed of art materials and supportive cards. For many kids, these become a cherished part of their healing journey. She hopes to increase artistic accessibility for these children, helping to shift the focus from only the negative part of this experience to greater and more positive opportunities. This initiative not only brings smiles, but also builds a community of hope and support for each family. Very few earn emotional rewards, but the patients' parents are also common when receiving this.



Gade believes that art is an important aspect of childhood. As an artistic person, she hopes to be able to help softer the families are going through by making the world also health and well with art.

Create for Kids has designated roughly 3,000 art kits, making life easier for children with cancer. The organization has

encouraged children's creativity. Nurses at children's hospital

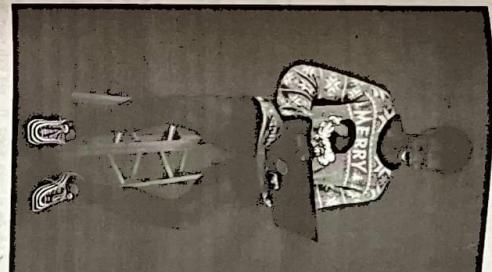
patients are also common when receiving this.

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## A FAITHFUL JOURNEY



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Hayden Michael Avery Carr, a senior at Illovershaw High School, is a young man whose journey has been shaped by challenges, resilience, and an unshakable faith in God. From his early dreams of playing in the NFL to discovering a passion for graphic design, Avery's story is one of personal growth and overcoming adversity. Born in New York, and moving to Tampa at the age of seven, Avery's childhood was filled with a love for sports and creativity; always loved football, started playing when was seven, and was NFL or nothing for me," Carr recalls. Along with his athletic ambitions, Avery nurtured a talent for art, drawing, sketches, and sculptures, during his elementary school years. However, Avery's path took a difficult turn when he enrolled at Cambridge Christian, a private school where he faced an unexpected challenge: being black. Avery had to face the color of his skin and the way it looked, Carr says. "I was made fun of being blacked out and not having black enough, but also being too white. It created an imbalance in me. This experience left Avery feeling isolated and struggled throughout his freshman year. "My actions didn't fit the stereotype of how black people were supposed to act. I wasn't even the white kids bullying me... it was people who looked like me," Avery's internal battle led to a period of anger and confusion. "I was really angry at myself, my skin color, and even at God. I kept asking why I allowed me to do through this. I was a Christian school, wasn't God supposed to be there?" Despite this dark turn, Avery found his turning point through his faith. He remembers studying a worship service in church, where a song moved him to tears. "I took it to heart, and let God in. I let everything go that was going to be alright. That was when I started to heal, I realized I was created in God's image, and he doesn't make mistakes." Avery's actions didn't fit the stereotype of how black people were supposed to act. Avery's relationship with God, Avery's journey led him to transfer to Illovershaw High School, where he found a new environment and a fresh start. "When I came to Illovershaw, that's when I really started to grow," Avery says. "I joined First Priority, a Christian student organization, and became more involved in leadership." It was through this club that Avery discovered his love for graphic design. He started by doing social media for the new student mission quickly turned into more than just a hobby. Avery began creating sports graphics and logos, eventually taking on a major project with his church, designing an entire campaign for their Child's Encouragement Initiative. "That was my first big project, and it really launched my graphic design career. I was able to use my skills to represent my community, and that meant a lot to me." Avery's transition from private to public school was just about a change in academics, or social circles. It was also a shift in his personal growth.

"At Cambridge, I was struggling to fit in and find my identity. At Illovershaw, I was able to come into my own. I stopped caring about what people thought of me, being too white or not black enough. I realized that God created me exactly how I am supposed to be. One of the most significant decisions in Avery's life came during his sophomore year when he had to choose between his faith and track. He prayed about it, talked to his parents, and just felt like track was the right path. When he chose it, it was a tough decision, but he knew it was what he was meant to do. Avery's decision to track, combined with his graphic design, allowed him to focus on both the athletic and creative talents. Through all the challenges, Avery credits his family, faith, and community for helping him stay grounded. "My dad taught me about margin, creating space between you and a deadline so you can think clearly. He's always been a huge influence on me, especially seeing how he grew up without a father and self-preserved for our family." Avery's parents have supported an instructional role in his life, not only by teaching him the value of hard work, but also by supporting his passions. "My parents invested in me. They got me a computer so I could pursue graphic design. They've always been there for me, even when things got tough. Despite the demands of soccer, Avery allowed him to focus on both the athletic and creative talents. Avery's parents invested in him, and he remains focused on his goals. "It's not easy. There are a lot of ups and downs, but I've learned to delegate and manage my time. Graphic design has been a great outlet for me when things get overwhelming. Looking ahead, Avery remains humble and open to whatever the future holds. "I can't put a cap on what's going to happen in five years. A lot has already happened to me over the last four that I didn't expect, just want to keep pursuing my passions, whether it's track, graphic design, or whatever God leads me to next." Avery's story is one of resilience and self-discovery. He's a young man who has faced adversity head-on, found strength in his faith, and continues to navigate with purpose. Two feet, but now in front. With Jesus, I can walk through any hardship and know that I'm on the right path."



STORY BY: ZAKITA DAWKINS

PHOTO BY: MADELYN PERBONE

GRAPHIC BY: ADEEN CARR

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