

For Immediate Release

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“Through the Eyes of Our Children” Focuses Light on Art of Young Cancer Patients

One-Night-Only Exhibit Takes Place on May 21 at The Mark

Children with cancer and other serious illnesses who have difficulty verbalizing their emotions often produce astounding artwork that visually expresses their hopes, fears, and dreams. On **Monday, May 21**, Chai Lifeline West Coast, the children’s health support network, will join with Bear Givers to produce **Through the Eyes of Our Children**, a glorious exhibition and sale of artwork created through the organization’s *Color My World* program. The event takes place at **The Mark, 9320 West Pico Boulevard** in Los Angeles from **6:00 – 9:00 PM**. Admission is free.

Through the Eyes of Our Children is part of the Empower Art program created by Bear Givers, a New York-based organization that provides children in need with opportunities to feel the pride and joy of engaging in acts of kindness and generosity. The Empower Art program enables children with illnesses or special needs to express their creativity in art shows that benefit the organizations with which they interface regularly.

The exhibit is the natural extension of Chai Lifeline West Coast’s *Color My World* initiative. “*Color My World* gives very sick children the opportunity to express themselves in a welcoming, warm environment,” explained Randi Grossman, Chai Lifeline West Coast’s director. “The program matches them with young volunteers who work side-by-side to create beautiful and meaningful works of art in a variety of media.”

“**Through the Eyes of our Children** will give so many people an opportunity to see what these talented children are capable of and how they are encouraged and nurtured by such a worthy organization. Bear Givers is happy to partner with Chai Lifeline and to support an event that will allow these young artists to showcase their creativity and empower their spirits,” says Diane Lempert, president of Bear Givers.

The show is a special opportunity for Chai Lifeline West Coast, the regional branch of the international organization that provides emotional, social, and financial support to families fighting pediatric illness. “For many of our children, having their artwork showcased like this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Seeing their artwork framed, displayed, admired, and bought by patrons gives children an exceptional sense of accomplishment and confidence,” said Ms. Grossman.

Celebrity Auction to Benefit Chai Lifeline

As part of the evening's festivities, a selection of celebrity artwork produced specifically for the exhibition will be auctioned, with 100% of the proceeds going to benefit the children and programs of Chai Lifeline West Coast. Among the stars whose artwork will headline the celebrity auction are soccer superstar David Beckham and actors Julia Louis-Dreyfuss and John O-Hurley (The Seinfeld Show), Jamie Lee Curtis, Jennifer Grey, and Clark Gregg (Ironman and Avengers). The evening will also include artwork from over 20 internationally and nationally acclaimed artists include Kim Abeles, Lita Albuquerque, Doni Silver Simons, and Ruth Weisberg.

"Additional stars of today's hottest TV shows are using the art kit graciously provided by Bear Givers to produce wonderful creations for the auction," said Ms. Grossman. "We hope to have a very large and lively auction throughout the night."

What: Through the Eyes of Our Children, an exhibit and sale of artwork produced by children with cancer and other illnesses through Chai Lifeline West Coast's Color My World program. 100% of the proceeds will benefit Chai Lifeline West Coast.

When: Monday, May 21, 2012

Where: The Mark
9320 West Pico Boulevard
Los Angeles

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Chai Lifeline West Coast, Sohacheski Family Center, the regional branch of the international children's health support network, provides crucial emotional, social and financial assistance that enables families to cope with the diagnosis, treatment and long-term challenges of life-threatening or debilitating chronic medical conditions. From insurance advocacy, financial assistance, tutoring and counseling services to respite assistance, recreational events and two medically supervised overnight summer camps for seriously ill children and teens, Chai Lifeline's overriding mission is to help alleviate the many stresses parents endure and bring joy and hope to children. All programs are provided to families free of charge and delivered with discretion, sensitivity and compassion.

www.chailifeline.org/westcoast.

Bear Givers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing joy to the lives of children and adults with the symbolic gift of a loveable Teddy Bear. Bear Givers believes that the altruism of some can exponentially affect the lives of many. Its programs facilitate an environment where "givers" are empowered by bringing joy to others and enabling young people with special needs, like the children of Chai Lifeline West Coast, to feel the satisfaction of being able to give back to others.

www.beargivers.org.