



For Immediate Release

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### **The Art of Ability: Second Annual Pediatric Art Show and Auction**

In recognition of National Rehabilitation Awareness Week

#### **Art Show Celebrates Creativity and Healing by Children during Rehabilitation**

#### **Special Exhibit Features Artwork by Children, Proceeds to Benefit Rusk Rehabilitation at NYU Langone Medical Center**

On **Thursday, September 13th**, Rusk Rehabilitation at NYU Langone Medical Center will join with Bear Givers to produce **The Art of Ability: Second Annual Pediatric Art Show and Auction**, an exhibition and sale of the stunning artwork created by children who received rehabilitation therapy at Rusk, as well as art done and donated by celebrity supporters. The event takes place at **Taglialatella Galleries, 231 Tenth Avenue at 24th Street, New York City, 6:00pm - 9:00pm**. Admission is free.

Recreation Therapy plays an important role in rehabilitation programs at Rusk, particularly for children dealing with chronic neurological or musculoskeletal injury or illness. Therapeutic Recreation, Child Life and Creative Arts Therapies tap into the creative process to improve and enhance the physical, mental, and emotional well being of individuals of all ages. With the encouragement and guidance of their Recreation Therapist and Child Life specialist, the children of Rusk often produce astounding artwork that visually expresses their hopes, fears, and dreams.

**The Art of Ability** is part of the EmpowerArt 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 EmpowerArt program enables children with illnesses or special needs to express their creativity in art shows that benefit their schools, hospitals, and programs.

During the event, guests can view the artwork while enjoying food and refreshments. Some of the young artists will also be on hand to interact with attendees and enjoy the celebration in their honor.

As part of the evening's festivities, a selection of artwork by celebrities and guest artists produced specifically for the exhibition will be on display, with 100% of the sale proceeds going to benefit the pediatric programs at Rusk. Some of the paintings hanging alongside the children's artwork will be from well-known personalities such as Mary J. Blige, Steven Seagal, Jamie Lee Curtis, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Al Roker and Sara Haines. Last year, several celebrities provided art for the show, including Whoopi Goldberg, Matt Lauer, Yoko Ono and Martha Stewart.

“We are very proud to host this empowering event for Rusk and we are extremely grateful to Richard and Mary Fink and family, and Koch Industries, Inc., for making this event possible,” says Joseph Sprung, founder of Bear Givers.

“We are proud to help Rusk and Bear Givers to make **The Art of Ability** exhibit happen,” says Richard Fink, the event sponsor. “Rusk has a long history of providing world-class rehabilitation care to children and adults. This exhibition will give the children an exceptional sense of accomplishment and confidence.”

**What: [The Art of Ability: Second Annual Pediatric Art Show and Auction](#)**

In recognition of National Rehabilitation Awareness Week

Sponsored by Richard & Mary Fink Family Foundation and Koch Industries, Inc.

100% of the proceeds will benefit Rusk Rehabilitation at NYU Langone Medical Center

**When:** September 13th, 2012, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

**Where:** Taglialatella Galleries, 231 Tenth Avenue at 24th Street, New York City

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**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 The Rusk Institute, to feel the satisfaction of being able to give back to others. [www.beargivers.org](http://www.beargivers.org).

**Rusk Rehabilitation at NYU Langone Medical Center** has been ranked the best rehabilitation hospital in New York and among the top ten in the country by *U.S. News & World Report* for 23 consecutive years. Rusk offers a wide range of specialized therapy programs for newborns, children and young adults, from physical and occupational therapy to therapeutic recreation. Rusk is among the most renowned centers of its kind for the treatment of adults and children with disabilities—home to innovations and advances that have set the standard in rehabilitation care for every stage of life and every phase of recovery. [www.rusk.med.nyu.edu](http://www.rusk.med.nyu.edu)