



Local artists bring hope to BMC patients

By Tenley Woodman | October 16, 2006

Boston Medical Center's Moakley Building isn't your typical art gallery.

The new cancer diagnosis and treatment facility, which opens in November, has covered its walls with paintings by local artists to help comfort and inspire patients.

"We decided early on as an institution given the nature of our patient population that the art in this building should be a reflection of the community," said Norman Stein, vice president of development at Boston Medical Center.

Boston Medical Center, along with the Urban Art Institute at Massachusetts College of Art, held an open call for submissions from teens and adults which conveyed messages of hope.

"I think by and large we hit the mark," Stein said.

Twenty-two artists from the Urban Art Institute's registry contributed and 17 pieces from Artists for Humanity, the South Boston nonprofit which mentors and employs teenage artists, were chosen.

"You've heard of cloud nine?" said Michael Guadarrama, 17, an AFH artist as he describes the image in his painting - a child tugging on a cloud. "Instead of him going to cloud nine, cloud nine comes to him."

"I want them to see if you want something go and get it, even if you have to put a rope around it (and) pull it in. Don't be afraid," he said.

Jorge Drosten, a South End painter, had two works accepted for the project that depict children in dreamscapes.

People say when you see paintings they make you feel happy," Drosten said.

Boston Medical Center averages nearly 1 million in- and out-patient visits per year.