



October 12, 2010

Message from Dr. Robert Marcus and Dr. Danny Indelicato

Dear Friends:

At the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute, we are always striving to improve our services to meet pediatric patients' needs more effectively – not only with the best medical care, but also the support and resources that give children the courage to keep fighting.

Today, you can help us in our efforts.

We've applied for funding from LIVESTRONG to implement a program proven to support those fighting cancer. And we're excited to let you know that our application has been selected to advance to the final stage—a vote by the broader community. Applicants that receive the most online votes will receive funding.

Please vote for our program and share it with your family and friends:

<http://vote.livestrong.org/applicants/81-university-of-florida-proton-therapy-institute/>

We have specifically proposed a program based on the integration of healthcare and the arts. We would establish an artist-in-residence to work with our children undergoing proton therapy. Jacksonville's UF Proton Therapy Institute is the only proton therapy facility in the southeastern US. Through national and international relationships with collaborators like St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the United Kingdom National Health Service, approximately 80% of UF Proton Therapy Institute patients must relocate for their 2-3 month treatment. During this period, children and families are simultaneously dealing with the stress of their diagnosis, the physical toll of treatment, and separation from their extended network of caregivers and loved ones. An Artist in Residence Program would foster communication, provide avenues for expression, and strengthen the patient's and family's sense of control within their new environment.

The deadline to vote is October 29 and we hope you can help us show the support we have for this program.

Sincerely,

Robert Marcus, MD, and Danny Indelicato, MD

P.S. Please make sure to forward this message to help spread the word.