

Because of You I Can...

The *Because of You* collection seeks to tell the stories of patients and their families who have been touched by the research, education and care at Cincinnati Children's. Each is a reminder of how our work can have a tremendous impact on the lives of children and their families from around the world.

A collaborative project between Cincinnati Children's, Kolar Design and ArtWorks with artists, Michelle Heimann, Joyce Kaufman, Eunshin Khang, Isela Leal, Cynthia Lockhart, and Stacie Seuberling and apprentices Dylan Graves, Misa Mkwayaya, Lavel Mathews, Christine Tweddell and Charles Winston.



kolar

**ArtWorks
ArtRx**

Beni, age 8

Because of you I can connect.

Doctors from Cincinnati Children's met Beni while on a trip to Romania. He was small and frail and in constant pain. They soon determined that Beni had Hirschprung's disease—a life-threatening gastrointestinal disorder. Our doctors performed surgery and he quickly began to gain weight. Today, Beni is an active boy with a sparkle in his eyes. He is very communicative, energetic and enjoys school.



Mikayla, age 11

Because of you I can escape into my favorite stories.

Mikayla was having a difficult time in school and was unable to complete her first grade homework. After enrolling in a Cincinnati Children's research study focused on reading intervention, Mikayla's reading abilities improved. Now reading is her favorite pastime and she is excelling in school. Mikayla hopes to attend medical school when she grows up.



Hobbs, age 4

Because of you I can be full of wonder.

Prior to his autism diagnosis, Hobbs' parents could not understand the non-verbal messages he was trying to send them. After working with the doctors and staff at Cincinnati Children's, Hobbs' parents now have a greater sensitivity to the meanings behind his actions and his non-verbal cues. The family is grateful to better understand how Hobbs sees the world. His wonder and excitement is energizing.



Sophia, age 5

Because of you I can imagine the possibilities.

Sophia was diagnosed with HLH, a life-threatening immune deficiency disorder, when she was only 10 weeks old. She had complications from a bone marrow transplant which brought her family to Cincinnati Children's. Sophia's family relocated temporarily to Cincinnati and are grateful for the services she has received. She is a bright, energetic little girl who enjoys seeing her doctors and often dresses up in scrubs after her visits to the hospital.



"Because of You, I can imagine the possibilities"

Sydney, age 16

Because of you I can be self-assured.

Sydney had a brachial plexus injury at birth, damaging nerves that control movement in her arm. She was involved in a study at Cincinnati Children's that showed brachial plexus patients' brains develop similarly to those of stroke patients. This helped her better understand her condition. Since her surgery, Sydney has regained some motion in her arm. Her outgoing personality and zest for life is apparent in her poetry, music and everything she does.



Max, age 14

Because of you I can be creative.

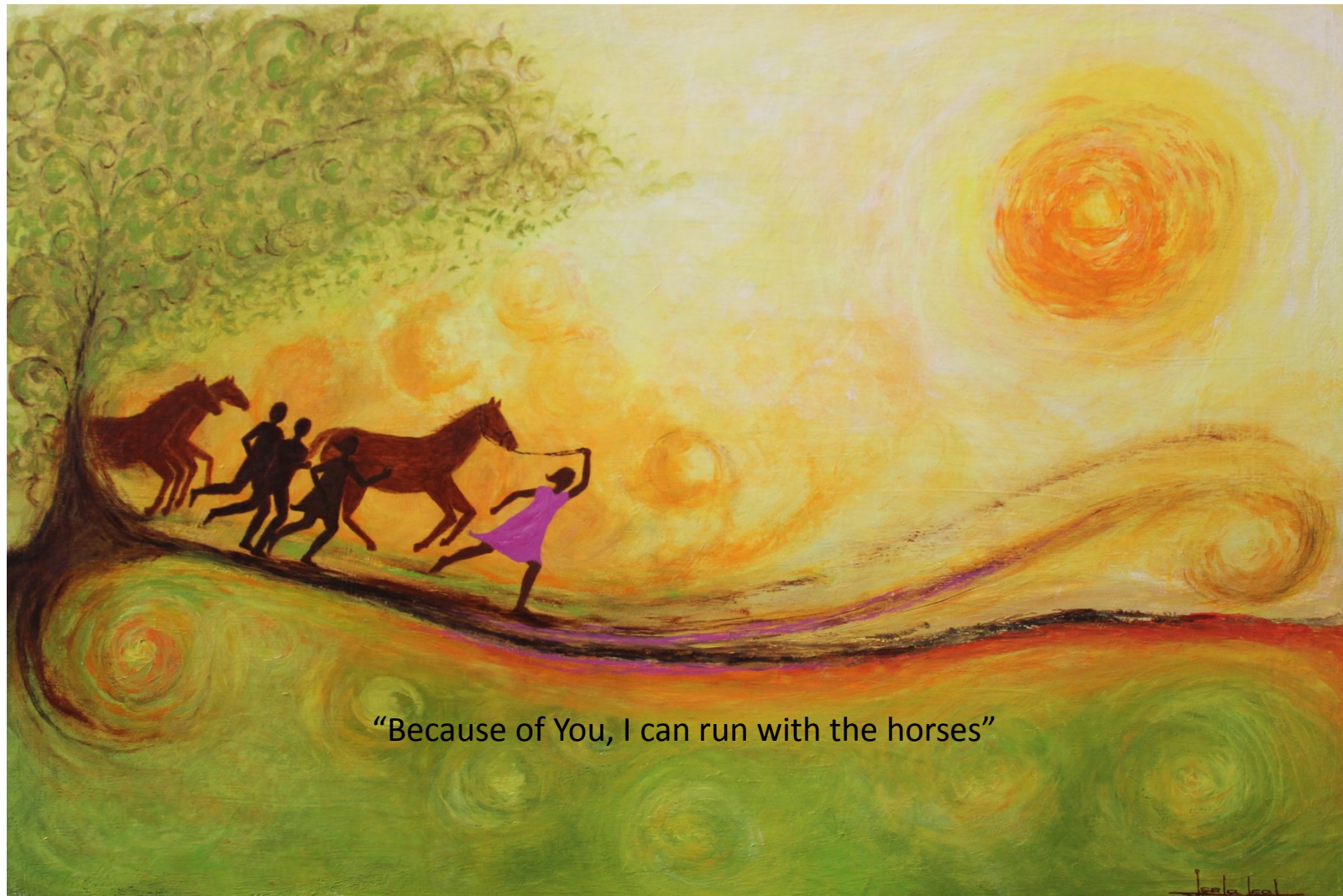
Max is a creative, artistic boy who enjoys doing art projects. He loves cars and hopes to be an industrial designer one day. Fishing and traveling are high on his list of fun things and he is very kind and interested in others. The staff at Cincinnati Children's were instrumental in diagnosing a brain disorder marked by extreme changes in mood, energy and behavior. They continue to offer care, support and education to Max and his entire family.



Abby, age 9

Because of you I can run with the horses.

Abby lives in rural Kentucky and loves horses and the outdoors. She has a zest for life and doesn't let her tuberous sclerosis, which often causes seizures, to get in her way. She loves "everything" about Cincinnati Children's and participates in research studies as a way to give back. Abby wants to be a doctor when she grows up.



"Because of You, I can run with the horses"

Lucas, age 2

Because of you I can be curious and learn new things.

Lucas is an energetic, curious two-year-old who loves spending time outdoors, despite his diagnosis of cystic fibrosis. His family is grateful for his happy and enthusiastic disposition. They place no limits on what Lucas can do and live their lives without hesitation. They are thankful for the staff at Cincinnati Children's, as well as family and friends who have supported them. The family is involved in a research study here and are encouraged that these combined efforts will result in a cure.



Zhania and Zion, ages 10 and 13

Because of you we can play all day.

Zhania and Zion are siblings who have sickle cell disease and have both had heart transplants. Before their surgeries, neither of them could even walk through the store with their mom without needing to take a break, let alone play with their friends. Now, spirited, young and healthy, they have many friends and enjoy living life to the fullest.



Justus, age 5

Because of you I am healthy and happy.

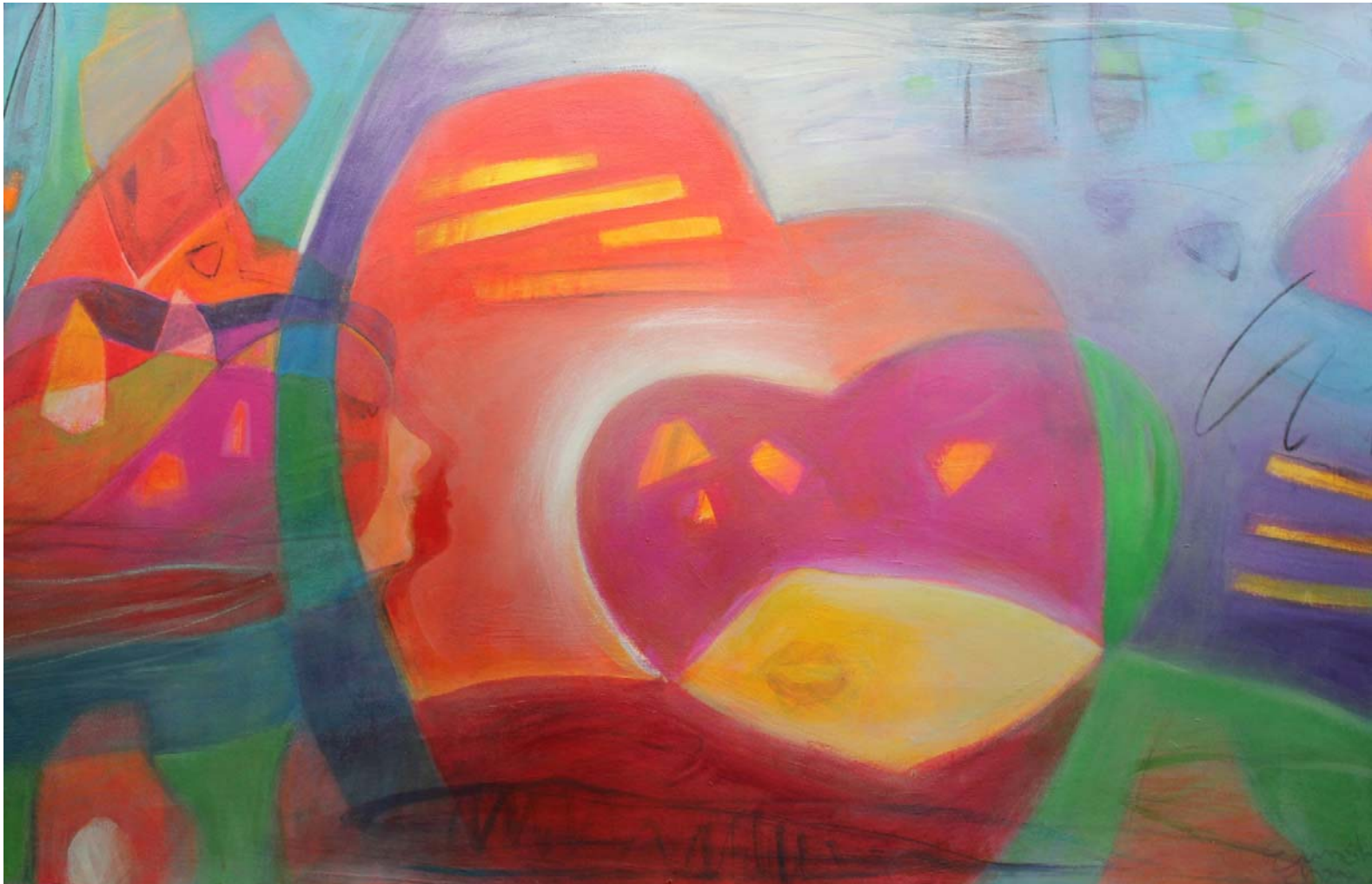
Justus was born prematurely and was immediately admitted to our Newborn Intensive Care Unit. He was hospitalized for 100 days—a very scary and difficult time for his parents, who had other young children at home. They are grateful for the care, expertise and kindness that helped them through their stay at Cincinnati Children's. Today, Justus is a happy and healthy boy with more energy and potential than one can imagine.



Tiernee, age 22

Because of you I can make the world better for others.

Tiernee survived kidney cancer as a young child and needed a heart transplant due to complications from chemotherapy. Her first heart transplant was at age 12. While waiting for a second transplant, she carried her artificial heart in a backpack and was never able to go anywhere alone. Tiernee now hopes to go to college someday and wants to be a civil rights activist so that she can help others.



Luke, age 9

Because of you I feel understood.

Luke, who lives in Texas, enjoys spending time with his best friend—his dog Brody—and loves sports. When Luke is playing sports, he feels as if he is like everyone else. Because of his medical conditions, he can only eat four types of food and has a feeding tube to nourish him. We live in a world full of food, and this is a daily stressor and challenge to him, especially when attending celebrations with family and friends. Cincinnati Children's is a place that helps Luke feel safe, secure, and most importantly, understood.



Isaac, age 3

Because of you I can roll through life on my wheels.

Although Isaac uses a wheelchair, he is very active and virtually unstoppable. His bubbly personality brings joy and laughter to his family. The experts at Cincinnati Children's gave hope to Isaac's parents when no one else could. After he was born with a rare birth defect, his family traveled to Cincinnati to provide him with the best care possible. Today, he is an energetic 3-year-old who loves to play ice hockey and who lights up the room everywhere he goes.



Hadi, age 8

Because of you I have many paths to choose.

Hadi, who lives in Saudi Arabia with his parents and older brother, suffers from a blood disorder and came to Cincinnati Children's for treatment. Hadi is a very quiet, sensitive boy who is very close to his family. His intelligence, precision and attention to detail will open a variety of paths from which he can choose as he lives a full and healthy life.



Spencer, age 8

Because of you I can play in the woods with my brothers.

Spencer spent time in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit and needed jaw surgery as an infant, resulting in a tracheostomy. The second youngest of four boys, *Super Spencer*, as he is often called, does not let his condition get in his way. Today, Spencer's outgoing and effervescent personality is infectious. He loves to run outside in his superhero cape and play hide-and-seek in the woods with his brothers.



Shane, age 17

Because of you I can dream of exploring Mars.

Shane was born with a rare skin condition known as epidermolysis bullosa and has never gone a day in his life without bandages. His skin is so fragile that just touching it can cause it to blister or tear. Shane was also born deaf and has bilateral cochlear implants. His family moved back to Cincinnati to be near his physicians at Cincinnati Children's. Shane is passionate about space and intends to work for NASA and help mankind explore and colonize Mars.



Katherine, age 4

Because of you we can have fun together.

At four months, Katherine was diagnosed with biliary atresia, a rare disease of the liver. Shortly thereafter she needed a liver transplant. Katherine's mom, Jessica, was a match and was able to successfully donate part of her liver to her daughter. Katherine and her twin brother, Kevin, are very close to their older brothers and now enjoy spending time playing together.



Gabriel, age 11

Because of you I can be on a team.

When Gabriel was six and began having seizures, his family took him to hospitals near their home in Puerto Rico, but doctors were unable to find what was wrong. Once they found specialists at Cincinnati Children's, they learned Gabriel had a rare inflammatory neurological disease and needed surgery. The family moved to Cincinnati for his care. Gabriel is now walking and running and playing soccer, and dreams of being a doctor someday.



Anna Grace, age 3

Because of you I can play in the sun.

Adopted from China with assistance from the International Adoption Center at Cincinnati Children's at age 27 months, Anna Grace did not speak, and because of a deformity of her left leg, needed orthopedic surgery. Anna Grace—who is described affectionately as sassy and strong-willed by her mother—is now full of life, walking and talking, and never stops singing and dancing.

