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Implementation of Arts and Healing Project for Hospitalized Children

DESCRIPTION: Working with children in hospital who are following a long healing process to provide stimulation and distraction promotes healing and also raises social awareness in the community of people who are isolate from society bringing cultural awareness to the hospital can contribute to improvement in the quality of life of patients and their families and also that of health professionals

AIM: Program developed to support the wellbeing of children, their families and staff to overcome challenging and stressful experiences related to hospitalization and to promote effective coping through play, distraction and self-expression activities and a therapeutic healing inpatient environment. To give the Patients and their Families a reason to smile, be happy, and enjoy themselves enabling them to look beyond their Illness.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Concept submitted end 2012
- Task Force Formed

Formed partnerships with

- University College of London Qatar Outreach Program – 3 way partnership between Qatar Foundation and Qatar Museums Authority
- Disney International
- Marriott Renaissance Hotels Group Doha



ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Visit by Dr Patch Adams - April 2013
- Mickey Mouse Visit – May 2013
- Disney on Ice - June 2013
- Visit by Magician and Actor/ Ventriloquist/ Puppeteer for Children – July 2013
- Painting of walls in Pediatric Unit – Oct 2013
- Storytelling in Arabic - Dec 2013
- Outing to Islamic Museum of Arts – Jan 2014
- Mickey and Minnie Mouse Visit – Feb 2014
- Disney Live Music Show - Feb 2014
- Magic Show for Children – Feb 2014
- Basic Magic Lessons provided for all Pediatric Staff and Volunteers – Feb 2014



CONCLUSIONS:

- 80 children taken to Disney Events
- 1 Pediatric Unit Painted
- 60 Staff and Volunteers trained in Basic Magic Skills
- Approx. 200 Pediatric Nursing Staff and many Pediatricians and Allied Health Professionals involved in Arts and Healing activities
- 1,000s OF PATIENT SMILES AND LOTS AND LOTS OF LAUGHTER!!!

Future Plans for 2014

- Disney on Ice Show July 2014
- Painting of walls in Pediatric Units
- Drumming Classes for Patients
- Extend this program to other HMC Sites
- and more.....