

LAC+USC Medical Center Arts Program “Enhancing Healing through Art”



The Medical Center Arts Program partners with CARES to bring healing to the patients by installing donated art in public and patient areas and by seeking volunteer musicians to play for patients, visitors and staff.



Alan Albert
La Leyenda de
Los Soles

CARES' Awards

- Foster B. McGaw prize from the American Hospital Association
- Public Service Excellence Award for meeting the needs of the whole family when impacted by illness
- California Association of Public Hospitals Innovators Award
- Winner of the 17th Annual Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence (and other awards not listed here)

CARES Shops

CARES operates two Gift Shops with health-food sections, a “Treasure Trove” Thrift Shop, and a Coffee Bar. All profits from these shops are dedicated to programs that benefit patients at the LAC+USC Medical Center.



CARES Shops not only raise funds to support patient services, but they provide a welcoming and lovely respite for patients, visitors and staff to “get away” for a few moments.



Discover real fashion finds, “Boutique Room” name brand and new items, books, kids’ toys and clothing, jewelry and more at bargain prices and still benefit the patients! Receive a tax deduction for donating “gently” used items.

CARES Shops and Childcare Centers also offer work-site job training to high school/college students, to Cal-Works participants, and to the Senior Employment Training Program.

Los Angeles County/USC Medical Center Auxiliary



Also known as **CARES**, **C**enter **A**uxiliary for **R**ecruitment, **E**ducation, and **S**ervice, is the auxiliary of the LAC + USC Medical Center.

CARES, a California nonprofit corporation, provides financial support and volunteer services. Its primary mission is to benefit the patients by adding comfort to their hospital stay and providing services which help the patients and their families access quality healthcare.



General Hospital, an icon recognized around the world since 1932, moved to this state-of-the-art facility in 2008.

The LAC+USC Medical Center, a major metropolitan hospital, makes treatment available to every member of the community. The sheer number of patients strain all available resources. CARES is often called on to provide to the patients what the County cannot.

All donations to CARES are tax deductible and may be made by check, cash, PayPal or credit card. **Website: lacusccares.org**

CARES Office: 1200 N. State St., Rm. 1900
Los Angeles, CA 90033 (323) 409-6941

CARES Child & Family Program

A key focus of CARES is its Child & Family Program that operates two Childcare Centers offering a broad range of free services.



These drop-in childcare centers are a vital and necessary resource to the thousands of people from the community who come to the hospital to receive treatment or to visit family members who are acutely ill. Due to lack of financial and child care resources, many are forced to bring their children with them. Parents, who may be struggling with anxiety and fear, gain comfort and relief knowing that in the midst of a medical crisis, their children will receive quality care and support in the CARES Childcare Centers.

Pediatric Reading Program



Books are provided for the benefit of children who are both in-patients and outpatients at the hospital. Children are encouraged to enjoy the books by browsing, by having someone read aloud to them, or by reading themselves. The books instantly become a welcome distraction for the pediatric patients during their hospital stay or clinic visits.

Services to Patients

- CARES Patient Crises Fund temporarily assists patients with the bare necessities such as food, housing and utilities when, due to their illnesses, they do not have the resources to help them through these difficult times.
- CARES Patient Discharge Clothing Room assists patients in need of shoes and clothing so they may be discharged.
- The C.A.R.E. Channel streams images of nature and tranquil healing music to soothe patients during their stay.
- An "Angel Gown" is given to grieving families who have lost their babies.
- "Cough Bears" and "Heart Pillows" bring relief to recovering surgery patients.
- Volunteers sew, knit and crochet newborn baby items, breast-feeding capes, warm lap robes, and drawstring bags to hold toiletries and comfort items for patients.
- Special incentives (books/school supplies) help children learn to manage their asthma.
- Volunteer musicians delight patients with live music in the two hospital lobbies.
- Healthy foods given to the Pediatric Diabetic Clinic are used to teach children how to manage their illness.

Renovation of Patient Areas

- The Burn Pediatric Family Room provides a treatment free zone of refuge for children recovering from burns.
- The remodeled Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) Waiting Room dedicated to the memory of Aida Duarte Villela, CARES volunteer, is where families wait during their child's treatment or surgery.
- The Pediatric Orthopedic Clinic, as well as the cast room, is being redecorated to make it a child-friendly environment.
- Comfort suites are designed to provide a serene environment for end-of-life patients where their families may spend time with them in a setting as close to the comforts of home as possible.

Help CARES Make a Difference at LAC+USC Medical Center!

- Make a cash donation to CARES
- **Donate your vehicle through Melwood Charity Car Donation Center: call 1-855-527-2232** (see CARES website)
- Join the CARES team of volunteers:
 - Read to pediatric patients
 - Become a patient visitor (see below)
 - Help in CARES Childcare Centers
 - Assist in grant writing
 - Assist in CARES Gift and Thrift Shops
- Shop in CARES Gift and Thrift Shops
- Donate new/gently used items for Thrift Shop, Patient Clothing Room, Patient Visitor Program, or Pediatric Reading Program
- Provide public relations and computer expertise to CARES projects/website
- Plan and/or participate in special annual events:
 - Trauma Survivors' Reunion
 - "Kidz" Health Fair (to promote health, nutrition and safety)
 - Rose Ceremony to Honor Organ Donors
 - Holiday Gift Giving Program
- Spread the word that CARES has volunteer opportunities for teens needing service hours
- Make lap size quilts or crochet baby blankets
- Provide other personalized services to help patients access quality healthcare
- Encourage others to donate to CARES, the one program that specifically benefits the patients of LAC+USC Medical Center



Patient Visitor Program

Volunteers visit at the bedside of patients to provide them with complimentary personal hygiene items, reading or craft materials, and other gifts to boost morale.