

## DONOR PROFILE

From making puppets to drumming circles, children and families at The Inn have a wide array of exciting arts activities, thanks to years of support from the Mead Family Foundation.

Murals and other artwork hang in kitchens and hallways of The Inn, the mark of Arts INNPlace -- a vital arts program that offers families therapeutic arts and crafts after a long day of treatment

at the NIH clinical center. The program has been sustained through the generous and longtime contributions of the Mead Family Foundation.



The Mead Family Foundation was one of The Inn's earliest contributors, helping to refurbish bedrooms for families. In 2004, the Foundation became a loyal donor for The Inn's therapeutic arts program. Since then, the Foundation has contributed \$70,000 for professional artists and musicians in the community to offer evening arts programs to families.

The sessions include drumming circles, building teepees, making puppets and painting murals. The programs offer a welcome distraction for families participating in medical research studies at the National Institutes of Health. "After a long day of tests and treatments, families are able to have fun together and creatively express themselves," says Jennie Lucca, The Inn's Director of Facilities and Resident Services.

"The joy that comes from painting or making murals together is something families remember," she says. "Arts INNPlace allows The Inn to support the whole family and enrich their lives during the most difficult times." In the words of one Inn resident, "When I come to art class, it makes me forget that I will get needles put in."

Betsy Mead, president and treasurer of the family's foundation, said she was eager to support a program that helps caregivers as well as children. "Their child may not feel up to going to a theater production or a movie, but they're able to be right there...at The Children's Inn, and have a nice program where they can maybe get a few laughs and be a little creative and have some family bonding," she said.