

Pediatric unit goes “Under the Sea”

Sea creatures and an underwater landscape have taken over the walls inside the QVC Pediatrics unit.

They are the result of a three-day mural project spearheaded by the nonprofit Room to Heal Foundation. Volunteers painted the hallway walls of the 18-bed unit, hoping the colorful pictures would create a warm, healing environment for the young patients and their families. They previously redecorated a waiting room for the hospital’s NICU.

President Maria Foulke said she started the Orange County-based Room to Heal Foundation in order to benefit seriously ill children by creating “healing spaces” where they and their families can rest and recover. The organization is 100 percent volunteer-run and projects are funded solely through charitable contributions. Maria and her volunteers usually save their talents for the at-home bedrooms of very sick kids, but when a relative suggested the NICU and Pediatrics unit project, she jumped at the chance to make a difference. Maria just happens to be the daughter-in-law of CVHP Executive Vice President & COO Elvia Foulke.

Kathy Van Allen, director of Pediatrics and MBCU at QVC, said the transformation of the unit has had a tremendous impact on not only the patients and their families, but on the staff as well.



“The Room to Heal volunteers took a dull, boring space and made it come to life,” she said. “Our patients were also able to help with the painting. The volunteers turned a baby’s footprints into a school of fish and another patient’s handprints into jellyfish. So much attention was paid to detail – each time you look around the unit, you see something you didn’t notice before.”

For more information about the Room to Heal Foundation, visit its website at www.room2heal.org.