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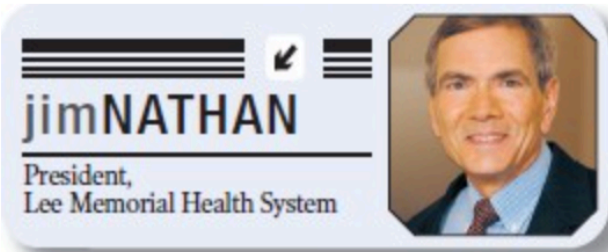
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Music and art aid in recovery

jimNATHAN

President, Lee Memorial Health System



Music and art soothe the soul, add color, dimension and a plethora of feelings and emotions to our lives. The value of art in health care has been widely studied. There is significant evidence that visual and musical art, literature and other creative elements impact patients' experiences, caregivers' outlooks and the hospital and/or medical office environments. Through the Lee Memorial Health System Arts in Healthcare program, our team of more than 75 volunteer caregivers enhances our environment and experiences with art, music, storytelling, puppets, clowns, arts and crafts and more.

We recently received sincere praise and appreciation for one of our special volunteers: [Noah Waddell](#), an awardwinning pianist, who is 14 years old and not yet old enough to drive, but performs every Friday afternoon. A piano prodigy, Noah started sharing his talent at [HealthPark Medical Center](#) when he was only 10 years old. Kim Hibbert, housekeeping

services secretary, was visiting with a patient when she learned about the impact Noah made on a patient and her family.

"With tears in her eyes and a quiver in her voice, she shared with me that her husband heard Noah play for the first time when he was visiting her during a recent hospitalization," Kim shares. "She said he was so touched and blessed by the performance that he went right back to her room to share the experience with her. He told her that Noah played beautifully and she needed to get up and hear him play. She wasn't able to do that at the time, but her son later recorded Noah and shared it with her.

"About a day or so after she was discharged from the hospital, her husband was rushed to the hospital and unexpectedly passed away. She shared that her husband wasn't the type to 'get too excited' about things, but Noah's playing really excited him and he mentioned it several times. She says she takes great comfort in knowing that before he passed away, her husband found something to be excited about; and she wants Noah and others to know that something as simple as playing the piano can have a huge impact on a person's life."

If you have never heard Noah play, stop by HealthPark Medical Center at 4 p.m. on a Friday.

At [Lee Memorial Health System](#), we know that creating a healing environment and caring for our patients extends far beyond the exam room or hospital bed. We are proud to be one of the only health systems in the state of [Florida](#) to offer a comprehensive healing arts program that inspires and uplifts our patients, families, staff and community. We are blessed to have Noah and the other creative artists on our team of caring people, caring for people. |