Resounding Joy
Music Therapy

Resounding Joy Inc., is a public-benefit California 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, incorporated in August 2005 by Barbara Reuer, PhD, the current executive director. Since its inception, Resounding Joy has provided music therapy and recreational music services to more than 85,000 children and adults in the greater San Diego region. Resounding Joy board-certified staff music therapists and volunteers deliver services through four major programs that target four distinct underserved populations. This presentation will cover the Healing Notes program for medically fragile children and their families.

Children in palliative care suffer from serious, complex, life-limiting, or life-threatening conditions. Palliative care is more than pain management; it encompasses the emotional, social, and spiritual aspects of wellbeing. Former MusicWorx intern and now current staff member, Lindsay Zehren, piloted a music therapy program for children in palliative care in 2015. The presence of music therapy for patients like these has proven to make a significantly positive contribution to a wide variety of challenges these children, their families, and their caregivers face on a daily basis. The pilot was so successful and the demand so high, that Rady’s Children’s Hospital Auxiliary Unit generously funded 140 hours of music therapy for these patients. Due to the severity of the children’s conditions and the constant battles they must endure, we provide at-home therapy and group sessions. Music therapy aims to enhance the quality of life for the child and their family through support, symptom management, and family bonding. Oftentimes music therapy is able to comfort when words seem inadequate and provide a means of positive interaction and expression of feelings. This program also provides sensory stimulation, encourages self-soothing, teaches parents how to use music to help their child, and encourages movement and participation.
I guess that a quick bio would be that my other half, my soul mate, Nancy Bradbury, and I have been together for almost 19 years. We have lived in Lakeside the entire and love working on our home, especially outside. I have two sons, Nancy has 2 daughters, and between our kids, we are blessed to have 7 grandkids. I have a general contracting business and am semi-retired from it primarily doing the behind the scenes work such as estimating, customer relations, and accounting.

Prior to joining City Hope last year, I volunteered with the Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) for four and one half years as part of their emergency response team and dispatcher, and with City Hope, I serve in the same capacity. I receive a great feeling of satisfaction in providing immediate emotional first aid to our community when they experience tragedies such as a death in the family, witness something horrific such as a car accident with fatalities, or any other form of emotional trauma. I am certified as a domestic violence victims advocate and also as a volunteer counselor for domestic violence offenders. During the past 18 months, I have also volunteered with two pet therapy groups, Love On A Leash and Scripps Hospital, where my wonderful little terrier-poodle dog, Misty, and I get to visit hospitals, schools, retirement facilities, jails, and just about any place where Misty can give anyone unconditional love.

Outside of the home, my hobby is being an active student in Brazilian Ju Jitsu and assisting as an instructor in a local studio helping teach children the discipline of martial arts. In December of last year, I achieved a life time goal by receiving a degree as an Ordained Minister and Certified Chaplin. My daily goal is to be part of making at least one total stranger, smile, each and every day.
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