



Face Painting

FOR A

CAUSE



ALOPECIA AWARENESS

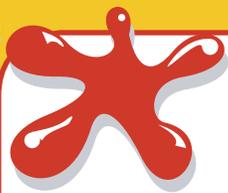
If your first thought was that this beautiful little 2 year old girl is a cancer patient, you would be incorrect. Little Violet is in fact quite healthy, yet faces a widely misunderstood condition called Alopecia Areata, which causes a loss of hair on the scalp and elsewhere on the body. Alopecia affects both men and women, and there currently

is no cure. Because it is not life threatening, it is especially difficult to raise funding.

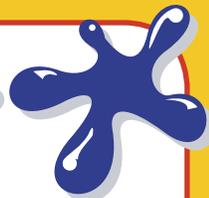
Working closely with the support group the Alopecia Areata Foundation in Australia, artist Helen Beasley and photographer Lina Hayes are helping to raise awareness and sensitivity for this condition

through *The Turning Heads Art Crown Project*. Lina beautifully captures Helen's gorgeous works of art atop the heads of those with Alopecia, raising the profile of this condition.

Helen says, "painting these women and girls has been a fantastic liberating experience for them, many



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ALOPECIA CONTINUED

hide their heads - even from their own husbands - under wigs. They are not used to people looking at pictures of them and telling them they look beautiful! Without the wigs, every day they are used to being stared at with sadness and sympathy (people assume they have cancer) and they said it was amazing what a overwhelmingly

positive response from the public they got when they went out in public with their painting or henna. And for a painter, it is an amazing experience to meet these women and hear about their stories - how their lives have been affected and how they have come to terms with their hair loss. It's been an inspirational journey!"



Helen painting Stacy Richardson of Sydney, New South Wales
Photo courtesy of Lina Hayes Photography

LEARN MORE!

- For more information on the Australian Alopecia Areata Foundation, [Click Here to visit their website.](#)
- For more information on the Turning Heads Art Crown Project, [Click Here to visit their Facebook page.](#)
- For more information on Lina Hayes Photography, [Click Here to visit her Facebook Page.](#)

THE POWER OF PAINT

Recently I came across a post on the Face Paint Forum I frequent, that really moved me. It was just so well written and inspiring, that I had to ask permission to share it with you. **Lisa Leyes**, a professional face and body painter from Toronto, Canada, has been volunteering her services at SickKids hospital since 1998. As professional painters, we all get requests from a wide range of charities, and of course can only afford to do so many. But if you can find the right one, you just might find that it pays you back ten fold...not necessarily in cash but in experiences that will change your life and the lives of others. Here is Lisa's story...I hope that it inspires you as much as it did me!

debrief at the end and explain why I could not come back in to SickKids, ever again.

As usual, I was taken up to Hematology/Oncology. When the elevator doors opened up, there was a little girl running back and forth. I had painted this girl three weeks earlier, and I thought I was the last face painter who would ever paint this little one's face. Now, she was being discharged and she was running around next to the elevators. I thought,

grabbed me by the back of the jacket and pulled on me and said, "LOOK!". The boy was standing up looking at himself in the mirror in the bathroom. The mom told me that he had gotten up by himself! I almost started to cry. The boy turned toward me and said in a whispered voice, "Thank you." I started to cry.

There are times in my life, where I know I was a changed person from one instant to another. This was one of those times. I was a different person who walked out of that hospital that day. I thought that my brushes were useless in the face of these serious diseases. I thought what I did didn't matter. "It's only a little paint.

"I thought that my brushes were useless in the face of these serious diseases. I thought what I did didn't matter."

After six months of painting at the hospital, I had to quit. I would come home, shower off the face paint and cry in the shower. One day, I got out of the shower and realized I still could not stop crying. I got back in the shower. I could not stop. Over the next few weeks, I thought, "I cannot go back to that place."

"WOW! This is a place of HOPE!"

Then, I was taken into the chemotherapy room. There was a boy who could have been 11-15 years old. You cannot tell sometimes how old a child on chemotherapy is. His mom told me he had not spoken, or gotten out of bed on his own, in the last six weeks, since his last round of chemotherapy. We figured out he wanted to be a tiger. I painted his whole head, because he had no hair. I painted into his ears. When I was leaving the chemotherapy room, the mom

It doesn't make a difference." I think I told the Universe, "I can't do this I can't do this I can't do this." The Universe told me, "Yes you can yes you can yes you can."

I get a lot more than I give. I now go to Sick-Kids and walk out feeling filled up. I did not intend for this to happen.

I was face painting in Hematology/Oncology. I put off calling the hospital to quit, until it was the day before my shift. I could not quit the DAY BEFORE my shift. I told myself I was going to go in and do my shift, and then

Huge thanks to Lisa for sharing her experience so candidly with us on the forum and for allowing me to share her post! Find out more about Lisa and her face painting services by clicking here to visit: www.lisalyses.com.

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Back to School!

by **Gretchen Fleener**

School is starting soon...be sure to double check your apples for worms before you give them to your teachers! Got any back to school events coming up? If so, try some fun school related designs, like a big pencil with shiny metallic paint for the metal band, a yellow school bus, a little red school house, or this apple with a friendly bookworm peeking out! This one was done using Kryolan Aquacolor paints for the red, brown, and green, finished off with some Wolfe black and white.

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