

United Steelworkers,

I want to thank each and every one of you for participating in the team building event at the Steelworkers Convention here in Las Vegas. I was grateful to get the privilege of picking the art kits up and getting to personally thank some of your incredible team. Putting faces with the organization makes it more personal and heartfelt. I wear many hats at the hospital, but the best part of my job by far is being able to meet all of the amazing people that feel compelled to give back. On behalf of our staff, our pediatric patients and their family members, I want to say "thank you".

Some of our littlest patients are hospitalized for weeks or even months. With that can come boredom, loneliness and even depression. Sometimes all that is needed to get through the day is a little something that lets them know that someone is thinking about them. This gives them the strength and motivation to keep pushing on. This team building effort gave our staff the opportunity to put a smile on almost 300 of our littlest patient's faces. Several times we not only got smiles but looks of shock in the realization that they get to keep these items for themselves. They were pleasantly surprised and couldn't wait to open up the bag and get started on the fun activities.

Our main goal is to keep our patients distracted and busy with activities to keep their mind off what they are going through. The pain they may be dealing with. We have a playroom in our pediatric department which we like to use for many different activities, but specifically for arts & crafts. These bags filled with art supplies are great in that they allow the kids to be creative, imaginative and to fully immerse in their coloring, journaling or creating a masterpiece. The next best thing would be for some of your staff to be in the playroom with them to fully enjoy the experience with our precious little ones.

University Medical Center (UMC) has been providing excellent care in the Las Vegas area since 1931. As the only Level I Trauma and Burn Care Center in Nevada, UMC is often called upon by neighboring hospitals to accept patients who need a higher level of care in order to survive. We have a 97% survival rate including those patients that come in with a less than 1% chance to survive. There are miracles happening in our Trauma Center on a daily basis. It's pretty incredible to be a part of such an outstanding team. We treat the worst motor vehicle accidents, gunshot wounds, stabbings and the list goes on and on.

The same holds true for our Children's Hospital. We have the only Designated Pediatric Trauma Center in Nevada and the ONLY hospital in Nevada to offer Pediatric Burn Care and Organ Transplant Services. We see over 31,000 pediatric patients in our emergency department annually and about 3,000 of those patients get admitted. I could go on and on but we have a lot of one-and-onlys which really sets us apart from other hospitals in Southern Nevada.

Once again, thank you for seeing the importance in giving back to those in need. You give us the opportunity to make our youngest patients smile which is well worth it. Keep making a difference!

Sincerely,

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