

The Healing Tree

The first weekend in December is special because my family would drive to Normandy Farms to cut down our Christmas tree. This year, we cut two trees. One beautiful Douglas Fir for our home, and a cute little one for my community service project; "The Healing Tree."

I got the project idea recovering from ankle surgery this past summer. It was my first time in a hospital, and for four days (it seemed like forever), I was depressed and bored because I had nothing much to do. All I could think about was recovering from my injury and what could I do to take my mind off the pain.

I knew there would be kids in the hospital around the holidays, feeling just like I did, waiting to be healed. So I decided to make up Christmas ornament kits for them to make, one to take home and hang on their own trees, and one to hang on the "Healing Tree" I displayed in my town's City Hall. The ornaments are made from common hospital items that help make you better, such as gauze poinsettias, tongue depressor Santas, band-aid snowflakes, syringe barrel icicles or Rudolfs, cotton ball snowmen and jingle bell medicine cups. I felt these ornaments would bring the children joy and a renewal of their confidence during their stay at the hospital by knowing that they will get back on their feet and continue what they normally do.

When I look now at "The Healing Tree," and see all the ornaments that the children made, I feel really good about being able to give back to the hospital and staff that gave me excellent care this past summer. I am fully healed from my injury and hope the children in the hospital are home and feeling better too.

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