

September 2, 2016

Dances with Wood  
Mr. Woody Wilkins  
E-mail: [woody@danceswithwood.org](mailto:woody@danceswithwood.org)

Dear Mr. Wilkins,

We would like to express our appreciation and deepest thanks for your contributions to our Pediatric Department. As our facility does not provide funding to run the Child Life Program I am pleased to say that the Dancing with Wood program has great value to our children and their families during their hospital stays and aid both patients and families as they cope with hospitalization. Through this donation, you are helping us achieve our goal of making children's hospitalizations, illnesses and treatments as stress and anxiety free as possible.

We are so grateful for your generosity, and we thank you for including us in this great program. It is through the generosity of the Jim Jacob's Charitable Foundation that we are able to provide the Dances with Wood program here at Woodhull.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at [Ada.Villatoro@nychhc.org](mailto:Ada.Villatoro@nychhc.org) or at 718 - 630 3149.

Sincerely,



Ada Villatoro, MPA  
Associate Director  
Maternal Child Health

cc: L. Rodriguez, M

**Ada Villatoro-Bussa, MPA**  
**Associate Director of Maternal Child Health**  
Woodhull Medical Center • 760 Broadway • Brooklyn, NY 11206  
Office 718-630-3149 • Fax 718-630-3431  
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August 7, 2016

Woody Wilkins  
Dances With Wood  
80 Olde Orchard Road  
Clinton, CT 06413

Dear Mr. Wilkins,

The Dances with Wood program is of value to children with cancer and blood disorders who are treated at the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medicine. The kits are very popular among our teen patients when they are receiving lengthy treatments at the Clinic.

The Children's Cancer and Blood Foundation (CCBF) would be most grateful to continue receiving the donated kits in 2017, as funding for these kits is not included in the Division's budget.

We extend our appreciation to The Jim Jacob's Charitable Foundation for their ongoing support.

Best,

Diana Rosario  
Development Associate  
Children's Cancer and Blood Foundation  
525 East 68th Street, Payson 695  
New York, New York 10021  
Tel: 212.746.3400

Dances With Wood  
80 Olde Orchard Road  
Clinton, CT 06413

August 10, 2016

Dear Woody,

This past year has been a wonderful and exciting one with the Dances with Wood program here at NYU Langone Medical Center. We continue to enjoy this unique program and the many benefits it brings to our young patients. We have used many of the wood projects this year and have really enjoyed the addition of the smaller kits and treasure boxes as new offerings.

As you well know, hospital environments are driven largely by measurable goals. Not only are the wood projects great fun and a terrific opportunity for normalizing the hospital experience through art and creative expression, the Dances with Wood kits also have helped some of our patients work towards treatment goals. We are able to encourage use of fine and gross motor skills, build endurance, creativity and expression to name a few. In addition, when projects are offered in group settings, they are a wonderful way of encouraging socialization and normalization within the hospital environment.

We would like to send a very special thank you to the Jim Jacobs Charitable Foundation for their continued support of Dances with Wood programming here at NYU Langone Medical Center for the past several years. Through this program we have had the opportunity to offer the projects to children in many areas of the Medical Center. Without the generous funding of our program through the **Jim Jacobs Charitable Foundation**, we would otherwise not currently have dedicated resources to sustain the Dances with Wood program.

Many thanks to Dances with Wood and to **The Jim Jacobs Charitable Foundation** for their great work and support.

Best,

Stacey Schneider MA, ATR, CCLS, LCAT  
Senior Creative Arts Therapist, Tisch Pediatrics  
NYU Langone Medical Center  
545 First Avenue, NY, NY 10016

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August 3, 2016

Dear Woody,

I am writing this letter to express our gratitude for the Dances with Wood program and the wonderful value it has added to our work with the patients at Blythedale Children's Hospital. In our current program, we do not have an operating budget for program supplies and depend greatly on organizations such as yours that provide unique programming.

We remain, as always, extremely grateful to the The Jim Jacobs Charitable Foundation for their support that enables us to bring Dances with Wood to our patient population. It is our hope that we can continue to participate in 2017 and continue to be able to bring our patients this much needed programming.

Regards,

Stefani Tower,MS, CCLS  
Certified Child Life Specialist  
Blythedale Children's Hospital - Day Hospital  
95 Bradhurst Ave.  
Valhalla, NY 10595  
914-592-7555 x 71485



Ivana Man, MA, CCLS  
Child Life Specialist  
Harlem Hospital, Pediatrics  
Office 16-137  
NYC 10037  
212-939-3567

To Whom It May Concern:

Dances With Wood is one of the most valuable arts programs within our department. The Child Life program at NYC H+ H/Harlem Hospital is a 1 person program in a city public hospital. There is no funding to support program supplies, thus the Child Life program runs solely on donations. The Child Life program uses the DWW projects with school-aged and adolescent patients, with a great deal of success. We find that our patients are excited by the idea of building a truck or a box or a car, engaged by the actual building process, and once they've finished one project, are eager to start another one! Many of our patients reside in shelters or housing projects, struggle in low-performing schools, and live with one-parent families- they do not frequently have access to arts programs, camp, or wood shop classes where they might be exposed to this kind of building and crafting experience, so the DWW projects are always new, fun, educational, and engaging for them. These projects also give our patients a feeling of accomplishment when they complete them for patients, who typically feel anxious, stressed, bored, and overwhelmed, this feeling of accomplishment is very important.

Recently, I worked with a patient whose stay was longer than intended. He told me he loved to build and work with his hands, so of course Dances With Wood was the perfect project for him. He built a firetruck in the playroom with me and then asked me if he could build one with his twin brother! When his twin brother visited him the next day, we were again in the playroom building the rocketship! The Dances With Wood projects was a great bonding opportunity for the patient and his twin brother. The activity also normalized the hospital experience for the patient. He loved reading through the instructions to find the jokes to tell the doctors!

We're so grateful to Woody Wilkins and **The Jim Jacobs Charitable Foundation** for making Dances With Wood a part of our department. Thank you for bringing these fantastic projects to our patients!

Sincerely,

Ivana Man



Woody Wilkins  
Program Director  
Dances with Wood  
80 Olde Orchard Road  
Clinton, CT 06413

August 3, 2016

Dear Woody,

I'm writing to express our deep gratitude to the Jim Jacob's Charitable Foundation for supporting the Dances with Wood programming that we have been so fortunate to offer to our pediatric patients at The Kravis Children's Hospital at Mount Sinai here in New York City.

As you know from your recent site visit, some of our most seriously ill patients truly benefit from the healing activity of woodworking and construction in both their hospital rooms and in the playrooms. The Dances with Wood program has been significantly successful with patients of various ages who very much enjoy the hands-on aspect of woodworking. The choices of kits work really well, as some patients enjoy making the box while other prefer the race car. Many patients have stories to share of previous construction projects, helping family or working in school. This is what is so important, normalizing the hospital experience and giving patients an expressive outlet. The DWW program is of great value to our children and helps families cope using the arts. Our department is comprised of several clinicians who a variety of backgrounds including, music therapy, art therapy, meditation, creative writing, child life, and more; all of us have utilized Dances with Wood! From our outpatient Hematology/Oncology clinics, to our dialysis center, and the pediatric intensive care unit, our patients experience mastery, accomplishment, connectedness, control, problem solving, and decision making while engaged in a DWW project, in a time in their life where very little is in their control, or predictable. The jokes and positive sayings in the instructional manual are also well received and provide much needed humor!

We would very much like to continue this important program in our pediatric medical surgical environment. In the context of declining philanthropy in our Department, we do not have funding to support the program. We sincerely hope that through your own philanthropic efforts it might be possible to secure funding to continue this important work for our hospitalized children and adolescents here at Mount Sinai. We look forward to hearing from you!

Many thanks again for the essential work that Dances with Wood is doing in the effort to humanize healthcare through woodworking arts for the children that we serve.

Sincerely,

Diane Rode, MPS, CCLS, LCAT  
Director, Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department  
Kravis Children's Hospital at Mount Sinai  
One Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1153  
New York, New York 10029  
Tel 212-241-8024  
[diane.ode@mountsinai.org](mailto:diane.ode@mountsinai.org)

August 15, 2016

Woody Wilkins  
Program Director  
Dances with Wood  
80 Old Orchard Road  
Clinton, Conn. 06413

Dear Woody:

The Dances with Wood (DWW) has been a program that the children at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital for several years. We have been able to offer kits for patients in both outpatient clinic and inpatient units. During clinic and inpatient visits, children have enjoyed these projects. It has been wonderful to provide them with these beautiful wood projects. They give the children a feeling of great accomplishment and pride.

The DWW Program has been a wonderful addition to our child life program many reasons. It has provided activities for children of various ages. The children also socialize with one other another while they do the projects. Best of all the children leave having a beautiful finished project that they have put together. It has become a project that many of our patients look forward to creating during their time at the hospital.

We expanded the program to the inpatient units two years ago. Last year we started to utilize kits in the Pediatric Emergency Department which has proven to be a great success. The Dances with Wood program has extremely helpful to provide new activities for patients who are here for brief stay or long term admission. There are a variety of projects that the kids were able to choose from. It has also provided an opportunity for a child and parent to work on a project together.

The DWW Program has been a wonderful addition for the patients and families at our facility. The hospital provides a limited budget for arts and crafts. We appreciate the funding provided by the Jim Jacobs foundation to keep this wonderful program at our Hospital. If not for the generosity of the Jim Jacobs foundation we would not have this program for our patients. The DWW has been a most valuable tool in working with the children. This program is one that I know the patients and families would like to continue at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital.

Sincerely,

Rechelle D. Porter LSW, CCLS  
Child Life Manager  
New York - Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital



301 East 17<sup>th</sup> St.  
New York, NY 10003  
August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear Woody Wilkins,

I can't say enough about how The Dances with Wood program helps us with our work at NYU Langone's Hospital for Joint Diseases. We use Woody projects to serve pediatric patients in both the inpatient and outpatient units, during individual and group sessions. We find that not only are the projects fun for the kids, they are therapeutic as well. Kids often feel as if they are in a helpless situation in the hospital, so these projects give them something they can feel proud about. Every project results in a nice accomplishment for the child, an achievement they didn't know they were capable of. The Woody projects are great confidence builders!

Our Child Life funding provides for basic art and program supplies, but our budget is insufficient to support specialized programs such as Dances with Wood. We would like to continue the program in 2017. We also would like to extend our appreciation to The Jim Jacob's Charitable Foundation for their ongoing support.

Thank you so much for the great projects you provide for our pediatric patients.

Appreciatively,

Lauren Maxwell, MS, CCLS  
Certified Child Life Specialist





Mr. Woody Wilkins  
Dances With Wood  
80 Olde Orchard Road  
Clinton, CT 06413

August 26, 2016

Dear Woody,

Thank you so much for speaking with me. I am so honored to be able to work with the most fragile children, but it is people like you who allow me to bring them joy while they are here. In honor of Julia, the patient I spoke to you about, I am really excited about bringing your products to our children's hospital. Like I said, she was a tough kid to engage, and just knowing that your projects gave her joy on her sickest of days, is enough for me to want to give that opportunity to the other patients I treat on a daily basis.

Your generosity directly impacts the population in pediatric hematology/oncology, and helps to make hospitalization and treatment visits easier for the children in our care, which is one of our biggest goals as Child Life Specialists. The Child Life staff would like to thank you again for thinking of our patients and their families. Donations play an important role in maintaining the Child Life Program. We receive many compliments regarding events and gift donations provided for our children, but that is only the result of such thoughtful generosity as yours. Please know that the pediatric patients of Stony Brook Children's Hospital are enjoying your donation.

We're very grateful to **The Jim Jacobs Charitable Foundation** for making Dances with Wood a part of our department. Thank you for bringing these fantastic projects to our patients! Because our program has a very limited budget (provided by the hospital), we mainly rely on charitable foundations and generous donors like yourselves to help bring programming to our patients. We would not be able to do this without your help. What I love most about these are that they are easy to engage any age group, school age through young adult; as you can see in the photos. We truly appreciate your kind gesture.

Warmest Regards,

Lauren  
Lauren Sharaby, MS, CCLS  
Certified Child Life Specialist, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology  
Stony Brook Children's Hospital  
100 Nicolls Road  
Stony Brook, NY 11794



August 24, 2016

To whom it may concern,

Our children cannot be more excited about creating with the Dances with Woods kits. When they first lay eyes on a kit they seem confused and challenged by what's in front of them. Once they get working, even the most reserved and shyest of patients allows themselves to open up and share their thoughts. These shared thoughts allow us a glimpse of what is going on in their minds while in the hospital. The kits also allow the children to be creative with tools and supplies they may not be accustomed to being around, allowing our children to have various non-threatening opportunities of play and positive interactions with hospital staff. In the end they have something that they created to walk away with which will last a lifetime.

It is organizations like Dances with Wood that allow us the opportunity to share fresh and innovative projects with the patients of the Children's Hospital at Montefiore. The hospital does not have funding to support such programming. All of our programming is funded by donations and gifts in kind...including arts and crafts. Our hospital budgets are not inclusive of supplies for arts and crafts. We really depend on outside support for continuous programming for our families creative needs.

We thank the Jim Jacob's Charitable Foundation generosity in supporting the Dances with Wood program. Your continuous support allows us to provide diversity in their creativity while battling their illness in a hospital setting.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Ordóñez-Street, MEd./Sp.Ed, CCLS  
Cert. Child Life Specialist  
Children's Hospital at Montefiore



St. Mary's Hospital for Children

Extraordinary children, extraordinary care.

Dear Woody,

August 10, 2016

I would like to thank you for your donation of wood projects last year. The children really enjoy completing them. We now have "woodworking 101" as one of our weekly activities. The children beam with confidence and triumph when they complete them.

I hope that you will consider St. Mary's Hospital for Children in your future donations. We greatly appreciate the work that you do to bring joy to the lives of our residents and clients as well as their families. Every day we provide recreation therapy to over 200 children in our Bayside campus. We would not be able to run such an exciting program for our children if it was not for generous organizations such as yours as we operate on a limited supply budget.

The Dances with Wood Program is of great value to our children and we would love to be able to continue to use it for the rest of 2016 and into 2017.

Please express our appreciation to the Jim Jacobs Charitable Foundation for their support.

Respectfully,

**Jessica Carney O'Hagan, CTRS**

Manager, Inpatient Therapeutic Recreation

St. Mary's Hospital for Children

718-281-8859

[johagan@stmaryskids.org](mailto:johagan@stmaryskids.org)

[www.stmaryskids.org](http://www.stmaryskids.org)

August 3, 2016

Woody Wilkins  
Dances With Wood, Inc.  
24 West Main St., Suite 416  
Clinton, CT 06413

Dear Woody,

On behalf of the Infants & Children's Hospital at Maimonides Medical Center, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous donation of wood projects for our pediatric patients. Your wood projects are very important to our program. They help to normalize the hospital environment and engage children and families in an activity that not only helps them pass the time, it assists in distracting them from the reason why they are in hospital. Dances With Wood is a program our patients will treasure for a lifetime.

Regarding the question of having funds to support your program, we do not have the funding within the hospital to support your program. I wish I did. To provide transparency regarding our internal budgets, I have an annual budget of \$6,000 to cover materials for all areas where I have staff: 25 bed general pediatrics unit-(10 bed overflow unit-which is open in the winter months), 11 bed Intensive Care Unit, Emergency Room, Cancer Center, Ambulatory Surgery and Radiology. I primarily use my budget to purchase bulk art supplies (e.g. crayons, markers, model magic, paints, and art projects, etc.), Rewards (e.g. stickers, colorful Band-Aids, bubbles, and little items to be given out after procedures), recreational materials e.g. (portable dvd players, movies, video games and systems). Whatever I can get donated from the above I do but it is never enough or consistent to meet the demand.

We are so grateful for your donation of program materials and extend a heartfelt thank you to The Jim Jacob's Charitable Foundation for their ongoing support. We would very much like to continue this program in 2017.

Best wishes,



Lenia Batas, MPS, LCAT, CCLS  
Director, Child Life Services  
Phone (718) 283 6289



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

August 29, 2016

Mr. Woody Wilkins  
Dances with Wood  
woody@danceswithwood.org

Dear Mr. Wilkins,

On behalf of the staff, patients and families of the Department of Pediatrics, I extend our gratitude for your generous donation of wooden craft projects for our patients. They are very popular among the patients and provide hours of entertainment during long hospital stays. It is so thoughtful of you to think of the children going through treatment and to find a special way to brighten their days. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Jim Jacobs Charitable Foundation for their continued support and funding of your wonderful program.

We thank you for taking the time to remember the children and their families at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and for being a part of bringing joy to our youngest patients.

Sincerely,

Jill Ackerman  
Administrative Manager

Department of Pediatrics

1275 York Avenue, New York, NY 10065  
www.mskcc.org

NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center