



Rendering of *Para los Niños*. The mural inscription will read "Like piñatas, the donors who make the life-saving care at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago possible are full of goodness. When they open their hearts to give of themselves, we all benefit from the wonderful things that their philanthropy makes possible. We celebrate them through this display."

Teens create colorful mural for Lurie Children's

Para los Niños, which translates to "For the Kids," is a vibrant mosaic mural created by local young artists that will bring wonder and delight to children, families and staff in Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

Participants in the National Museum of Mexican Art's Yollocalli Arts Reach program handcrafted the mural, which measures 27.5 feet wide by 9.5 feet tall, in two phases beginning last fall. First, a group of children created initial drawings of the piñata motif. Teaching artist Salvador Jiménez Flores then combined these sketches and worked closely with teenagers and young adults to bring the ideas to life.

Gabriel Villa, director of Yollocalli, says participants were hand selected for their creativity, talent and enthusiasm. The mural is especially meaningful to them because of its contribution to the hospital's healing environment. They are proud of their accomplishment and look forward to the opening of Lurie Children's on June 9, 2012.

"We've been working on the mural for so long," says Alyssa Maestre. "I'm excited to see it when it's all done."

Established in 1997, Yollocalli is an arts education and career-training program that offers youth the opportunity to partner with Chicago-area artists to further develop their artistic skills. The artists who collaborated on the mural are Sherman Au, Samantha Avalos, Ruben Barba, Paula Bolander, Karla De la Rosa, Esther Garcia, Yanni Garcia, Antonio Guerrero, Gilberto Gutierrez, Christine Lara, Jasmine Lopez, Alyssa Maestre, Isamar Martinez, Jasmine Resendez Montelongo, Jose Sanchez and Marcos Zavala.

Salvador Jiménez Flores and Alyssa Maestre work on a section of the mural.

The mural will serve as the backdrop for donor displays recognizing members of the hospital's elite giving societies: Children's Visionary Circle, Children's Circle of Care and John P. Wilson Society. Read more at heroesforlife.org/givingsocieties.



The young mural artists at Yollocalli art studio in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood.