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TORONTO, Ontario -- At some point in life, everyone spends time at a hospital.

For children, that experience can be particularly harrowing, as the unfamiliar surroundings -- where comfort often takes a back seat to urgent medical care -- are a constant reminder of their difficult and sometimes painful treatments.

For parents, seeing their children suffer, and constantly being reminded of it, is the same -- if not worse.

At Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, better known simply as SickKids, more than 300,000 children visit each year, including 50,000 emergency visits and nearly 12,000 operating room procedures.

But here, Susy Bleasby has made a difference.

To Bleasby, the color of the hospital walls -- peach, white and pale green -- are more like *blank canvases* than simply the upright structures that make up the shape and design of the building and its maze of examination rooms.

"I see a great big 80-foot hallway and I just think, 'What can I do here?'," said Bleasby.

And what she does is transform those hallways into completely different worlds: In one section, a barren, concrete brick wall will become a sea, alive with marine life.

Or a forest. Or even a jungle.

What began as a wall mural in the emergency ward five years ago has now spread like a virus to other wards where sick children spend much of their time.



"I didn't really understand the impact that it might have," said Bleasby. "And over the last five years I've been amazed at the reaction and the response. I really believe it certainly makes a difference."

From a beach scene to a winter landscape, any distraction is a welcome one, both for young patients like 8-year-old Devika Bauja -- and Raj, Devika's dad.

"As a parent, the worse thing you can do is see your kid suffering," said Raj. "You can be suffering, but (when it is) your kid, it's hard."

"You come off the elevator and you see everything painted, and colourful," he adds. "It's of so much help."

Painting the murals at SickKids has become an unexpected full-time job for Bleasby. After all, hospitals are big places with lots of surface area to fill.

And to make this possible, Toronto businessman Steven Wise directed his company's charitable foundation to ensure the wall murals kept growing, after seeing Bleasby hard at work one day.

"It's a giant comic book now," said Wise. "It's fun. Kids actually spend time wandering through hallways, looking at comics."

Among the artistic landscapes are many painted faces of happy children, gentle animals and even the occasional doctor and nurse for kids to find buried in the murals. Whatever the character, Bleasby insists they are smiling for kids who need a reasons to smile.

And like all the other *Heroes* we feature, Susy Bleasby gets as much out of her work as those she gives to.

"I think it's knowing I'm giving something to someone in a really tough time," said Bleasby. "I'm giving them a smile...a moment of cheer in a really difficult situation. Really that's what its all about."

And for that reason, Susy Bleasby is Global National's *Everyday Hero*.