



Photo by Janna Netland Lover

Karolyn Stirewalt stands next to her mural, which will move around the hospital during construction.

MMA Counsel Paints Mural for Gillette

The walls of Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare in St. Paul are a lot more colorful thanks to the work of Karolyn Stirewalt, MMA policy counsel.

Stirewalt painted and donated a 16-foot-long mural to the facility, which is currently undergoing a multi-year expansion.

The mural, which is made out of four 4-by-7-foot wooden boards, is currently located at the entrance from the parking garage and will move to various sites within the building as construction continues.

“The mural is a vibrant celebration of our growth,” says Amy-Ann Mayberg, a project manager for the expansion at Gillette.

The acrylic painting, which took 12 weeks to complete, features a parade of people on a path from the existing Gillette building to the new facility. The characters depicted are actual hospital staff members, volunteers, and even service dogs that Gillette pa-

tients would recognize. In the mural, the hospital is surrounded by local attractions as well as the buildings of corporate contributors. Stirewalt says she included lots of details in hope that “patients will see the patients in the mural and be able to identify with them ... to see themselves.”

The mural also includes kid-friendly embellishments. The adults depicted have name tags, the water in the fountain was done with glitter paint, and the hospital windows and the moon and stars in the sky glow in the dark.

“I did this to give young patients the impression that the lights are always on at Gillette, and that it is a safe place for them to be—even at nighttime,” Stirewalt says.

Stirewalt is also painting tables for the hospital’s new coffee shop. The tables, too, will be kid-friendly, with a “find the hidden objects” theme.—Ashley Cassidy

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