

## Banishing boredom

Associate finds way to ease the hospital experience for children

**Y**oung patients and visitors are able to have some playtime thanks to donors' gifts to the St.Vincent Foundation.

Starting late last year, coloring books and crayons have been given out to children at St.Vincent Women's Hospital and Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St.Vincent. This was made possible by a grant from the St.Vincent Foundation to the St.Vincent Women's/Children's Coloring Book and Crayon project.

The grant was made possible by Jacque Thomas, patient relations manager at St.Vincent Women's Hospital, who noticed that children visiting their hospitalized mothers often would sit around with nothing to do. So Thomas applied to the St.Vincent Foundation for a grant.

She's done this several times before, most notably for a proposal requesting welcome baskets for new moms in the St.Vincent Women's Hospital high-risk unit. The grant process is an internal program that the St.Vincent Foundation created to benefit patients and the hospital.

Thomas was in luck with her latest proposal: The foundation bestowed \$7,000—enough for 10,000 coloring books and packages of crayons.

Thomas opted for coloring books over story-books because she saw them as an affordable way to make children happy. "Any age can color, but you have to be older to be able to read, and the idea was to give them something they could do on



**COLOR ME HAPPY:** Young hospital patients and visitors are receiving these coloring books, along with crayons, thanks to a grant from the St.Vincent Foundation.

their own while they were waiting for tests," she said. "It's designed to soothe and entertain the children."

Every child capable of using a crayon will be offered the books. The books that Thomas chose are relevant to the hospital experience. Children visiting their moms are given "Mom's Having a Baby," while pediatric patients (or their siblings) may receive "Everyone is Someone Special." Each book has an abbreviated storyline, as well as 15 pages for coloring. When they leave, the children can take the books and crayons with them.

Thomas expects the batch of books to last for about six months. She hopes to have the books and crayons included in annual budgets in the future.



### Want to help?

This grant was made possible by an unrestricted financial gift. For information about supporting St.Vincent, call the St.Vincent Foundation at **(317) 338-GIVE (4483)**.