

Young cancer survivors take part in designing fundraising T-shirt



AMY BETH BENNETT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zuyani Bernal, 6, paints a pink hibiscus flower as Florida-based performance artist Perego paints the space above her at Ron Jon Surf Shop at Sawgrass Mills on Friday. The mural will become the design for a new T-shirt for sale at Ron Jon.

By Amy Beth Bennett

STAFF WRITER

At just 18 months old, Zuyani Bernal was diagnosed with three tumors, called hepatoblastomas, in her liver. She has since endured kidney and liver transplants, and will spend the rest of her life caring for those new organs, which she calls her "babies."

But Friday morning, she didn't have to worry about hospital visits and treatments. Instead, Zuyani, now 6, thought about what color flower she should paint on a mural at the Ron Jon Surf Shop at Sawgrass Mills mall.

Performance artist Perego helped

See it

Performance artist Perego helps cancer survivors with mural.

SunSentinel.com/survivors mural

about 10 young cancer survivors, ranging from ages 4 to 12, design and paint the mural that will become the design for a new T-shirt for sale at Ron Jon. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation, which provides emergency financial assistance to children fighting cancer and their family members.

The shirts will be available in about a month.

Perego says he got involved to make an impact and help create a "ripple effect."

"These kids are going through some hard times, but hopefully we can

create some memories that are unforgettable," he said.

C.J. George, 12, of Miami Lakes, has been in remission for six months. "Being able to design something they're going to sell is probably the coolest thing," he said.

Zuyani's mom, Aida Bernal, said the event was a good chance to let the kids just be kids.

And what color did Zuyani choose for her flower?

Pink.

For information about the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation, go to JJCCF.org.