

# SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS

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## Art draws out best in cancer patients

**T**hank you to the News-Press for last week's inspiring article about Olivia Lafferty's use of art in the face of cancer.

Like Olivia, when faced with my own cancer diagnosis, I found healing and hope through art. I always say that if you're going to get cancer, Santa Barbara is the place to be. Not only does the beauty of the surrounding ocean and mountains uplift our spirits, but we have a truly unique resource — the Cancer Center of Santa Barbara.

It was through the Cancer Center's wellness programs that I was able to rekindle my love for art and learned the strength it can provide in the face of something as scary as cancer.

Many participants are first-time artists, often starting quite shy and unsure of their potential, but many of us have grown more confident in our creative abilities — and in our ability to fight this difficult disease.

And like Olivia, had it not been for our illnesses, we might have never uncovered our hidden artistic talents that now serve as a driving force in our fight against cancer.

Kudos to Make-a-Wish Foundation for providing Olivia the opportunity to explore her talents, and thanks to News-Press reporter Sonia Fernandez for sharing Olivia's experience with our community. Congratulations to Olivia for her accomplishments and all the best in her future art endeavors.

**Lisa Tomlin**

*Brain cancer survivor  
Santa Barbara*