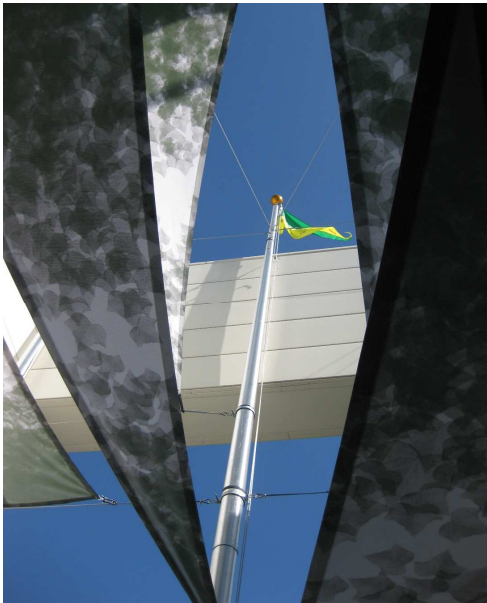




Flying the Flags of Hope

Sometimes the best medicine for a child stuck in the hospital is just a breath of fresh air. For many of the kids on the pediatric oncology unit, however, a short trip outside is risky at best, and often impossible because of the weakened state of their immune system. On June 18th, however, it will never again be a problem for the patients at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital. Thanks to the Rypien Foundation, the Zak!Charity Open, and several other individuals and organizations, the vision for the Open Air Terrace on the 3rd floor pediatric oncology unit has now become a reality.



What was once an empty space is now a fun and healing play area complete with an official Hoopfest basketball hoop and sport court flooring. Colorful and artistic sails in the shape of tree limbs float from flagpoles and form the skyline of the terrace and create the magical feeling of being in a private treehouse high above the world. But the real power of the poles will not be the sails they hold, but the flags that they'll fly – flags the children will make and raise into the sky telling all of their friends and family that they're still there. And their hope is still flying high.