

BROADCAST- Cancer survivor builds toy simulator to help kids prepare for MRIs

An MRI can be overwhelming for a child — lying still in a tight space, surrounded by loud, unfamiliar sounds. At OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois, child life specialists work to prepare young patients and now there's a **new** option that offers kids a role-playing experience to help them be prepared.

VO or RADIO PACKAGE

Child life specialist Allison West prepares kids for an MRI, but she says traditional tools don't always work.

That's where Savannah Jost stepped in. A cancer survivor, Jost was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma in 2022 and treated at OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois.

After becoming cancer-free, she joined an OSF high school co-op program and worked with engineers at the Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center to design a small MRI simulator — made for kids to use with a stuffed animal or doll. Jost enjoyed working with engineers.

SOT – SAVANNAH JOST

"When I came in, they just answered all of my questions. They would help me, but they also let me try and fail and they would be like, 'How would you do this?,' and I would go and do it and most likely fail and then they let me ask them and pick their brains about it. I just loved working with them." (:18)

For Jost, the project is personal — a way to give back to the hospital that helped save her life.