

TRANSCRIPT OF MEDIA CLIPS-Cancer survivor builds toy simulator to help kids prepare for MRI

Child Life Specialist Allison West of OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois

West says many young children are hands-on learners and needed something to help them understand the MRI process.

"They need to be able to see, touch and manipulate. We had prep books and pictures and sounds that we would play for them, but we were missing something concrete," says Child Life Specialist Allison West. "So, this was a huge need that Savannah was able to deliver for us." (:21)

Education might help avoid having to sedate children before an MRI.

"We think with additional education and preparation, that they (kids) would be able to do it successfully without that sedation," West shares. "So, then we start prepping them. That's where this beautiful machine comes in because we can use this to make them comfortable, to reduce that fear and really to prepare them for what to expect and kind of set them up for more success." (:25)

Sister M. Pieta Keller, an engineer at Jump Simulation *referenced as Sister Pieta (PEE-AY-tuh)

Savannah and engineers speculated that they could create something to simulate the MRI experience for kids, using their favorite toy.

"That could kind of show the child what happens and could we do it with a stuffed animal or doll or something that's theirs – that their object that's special to them that could go through this, and they could see that everything was just fine and what would happen in that experience." (:18)

Creating the MRI model for kids meant balancing realism with durability for young users Sister Pieta explains while discussing the creative process.

"As Savannah came to me with plans and ideas of what she wanted to do, we kind of went back through it. We let her do a first prototype of what she was thinking but then I was like we actually need to rebuild it and rebuild the inside so that it can withstand a small child climbing on top of it because," Sister Pieta points out, "It is big enough to be a little gymnasium as well, so we wanted it to have that strength and robustness." (:23)

Savannah Jost, former cancer patient turned OSF Innovation intern

The biggest lesson Jost learned from engineers at Jump – you will most likely fail before you're successful.

"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)

The project represents a way for Jost to pay it forward.

“It’s knowing that I get to give back to the community that helped me, that saved my life when I was 14 years old ... just knowing that little kids here are using it and that I have the same cancer journey as some of them – It makes my 14-year-old self proud.” (:18)