



*Sutter Medical
Center, Sacramento*

A Sutter Health Affiliate

2800 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95816-5600
(916) 733-8800

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Sunshine Kids Foundation
2814 Virginia Street
Houston, TX 77098
(800) 594-5756

How do I find the words to describe seeing a soul ignite?

My name is Ann Kelly. I have been a pediatric oncology social worker for the last twelve years at Sutter Memorial Hospital in Sacramento, CA. I am aware of the specific challenges that our teenage population endures as they face the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. I recently returned from the Sunshine Kids Broadway Break held annually in New York City to support teenagers with cancer. It was remarkable.

Our teenagers struggle. They often lose their friends and peer interactions. They are isolated and withdrawn. They suffer from depression, anxiety, and dramatic loss of self-esteem and some of them are fortunate enough to be touched by the Sunshine Kids. The Sunshine Kids Foundation is a focused, experienced group of energetic and compassionate individuals who provide a much needed forum for these kids to regain their youthful passion, confidence, and peer support. After one week, a teen from my group announced that Sunshine Kids is her second family. Another individual stated she could feel her confidence returning.

The week in New York began quietly. The kids were introduced, they shared their stories. With time and attention, they smiled, laughed, and danced their way through New York. What is the best way to describe watching a soul ignite? Priceless!

Thank you Sunshine Kids. We hope this is the beginning of a long, fruitful relationship.

Sincerely,

Ann Kelly LCSW
Sutter Medical Center
(916) 733-1757
kellyab@sutterhealth.org