

archive.today

webpage capture

Saved from <http://act.mtv.com/posts/jen-rubino-cards-for-hospitalized-kids/>

search

29 Jan 2013 04:56:05 UTC

All snapshots from host [act.mtv.com](http://act.mtv.com)

no other snapshots from this url

Linked from [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org) » [Cards for Hospitalized Kids](#)  
[en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org) » [Jen Rubino](#)

Webpage

Screenshot

share

download .zip

report bug or abuse

Buy me a coffee

music videos full episodes schedule artists.mtv online games apps shop kaya

Sign In

music shows news movies

search

go web



act every action counts

Go

## [INTERVIEW] MEET 17-YEAR-OLD JEN RUBINO, FOUNDER OF CARDS FOR HOSPITALIZED KIDS

Posted 2/23/12 2:33 pm EST by Caroline Walker in Art, Celebs, Health



Photo: Jen Rubino, Founder and Executive Director of Cards for Hospitalized Kids (Jen Rubino)

Diagnosed with a serious, chronic illness at 11, Jen Rubino, now 17, has been in and out of hospitals for much of her life. This is where she realized that kindness, construction paper and glitter from a stranger can make all the difference in the world.

She founded [Cards for Hospitalized Kids](#) to bring joy young people who need a colorful boost by way of greeting cards ranging from students to celebrities like Lauren Conrad and Cody Simpson. [Jen recently wrote](#), "The journey I have been on for the last six years because of my illness has opened my eyes to what is important in life and has inspired me to do something meaningful with my life." Read what she had to say about the tough stuff, the glittery stuff and the really important stuff.

### Could a card from a stranger really make that big of a difference?

I know it seems like a card is so simple that it wouldn't really impact a child, but it does! I see it time and time again. [I remember] when I was in the ICU recovering from my 13th surgery for my medical condition. I was missing out on many of the joys of being a kid and was away from everything outside of the walls of the hospital, which was very hard to deal with. While in the hospital, I received a card from a volunteer. The card was dropped off while I was sleeping and I never met the card-maker, but the card still had a huge impact on me. Just knowing that someone was thinking about me and that I wasn't forgotten despite the fact that I was away from everything and everyone meant the world to me! It's been almost a year and I still think about that act of kindness on a weekly basis.



### MOST ACTIVE

Coachella Musicians Who Give Back

248

Jennifer Lawrence's SAG Acceptance Speech

196

Life Lessons From Pretty Little Liars

185

Dakota Fanning On The Pressure To Be Perfect

180

Why I Loved Jennifer Hudson + Alicia Keys' Film

175

### ABOUT THIS BLOG

MTV Act is where fist-pumping and lending a helping hand collide. We raise a glass to the risk-takers and change-makers, and make it easy for everyone to take action - right now - on issues they care about.

Know of someone or something that belongs on Act? Hit us up on Twitter: [@MTVact](#) or email us: [act\(at\)mtv.com](mailto:act(at)mtv.com).

Meet our team!

### What sorts of emotional challenges do young patients face that we might not think about?

They have to deal with feeling forgotten, feeling like you're not in control of your life, feeling isolated and feeling different. Even kids that are very strong emotionally still face these emotional challenges whether or not they show it. Kids in this situation suddenly have their lives plagued with fear, uncertainty and pain, both physically and emotionally, and this is very difficult to deal with. For me, I was kind of numb to feeling these things for my first few years after being diagnosed and then it hit me all at once when I was in the ICU after my 13th surgery. That is part of the reason why the card had such a huge impact on me.

### What sorts of things helped you push through tough stretches at the hospital?

As mentioned above, getting a card really helped me through what was probably my hardest stretch in the hospital. Listening to music has always been as escape for me and has helped me a lot, as well. Demi Lovato's songs helped get me through some of my hardest times and that's why I decided that my Make-A-Wish is going to be to meet her, which I'm very excited about!

### What if we're not Martha Stewarts or Picassos? Is it even worth the glitter if the cards are kinda amateurish?

Honestly, just knowing that someone is thinking about them and that someone took the time to make a card for them means the world to the kids that receive our cards! I know that not just from my own experience receiving a card but from the feedback I've received from hospitals, kids and families. I always say that people with any level of artistic talent should make cards because it is truly the thought that counts!

### Hallmark or homemade: Which is better?

I always say homemade cards are better! Homemade cards are personal and allow for a connection between the card-maker and the card-receiver. I've talked to Child Life specialists, hospital volunteer coordinators, parents, kids, siblings and others to see whether a homemade card or a store-bought card is better and I've never had a single person tell me that store-bought is better.



### You have some serious celebrity support. Any stories from working with them?

All of the celebrities and athletes I've worked with have been so generous and so willing to help that I sometimes forget how famous they are. A lot of people perceive celebrities as being self-centered, but the celebrities and athletes involved with us are helping us bring so much joy to kids and they have helped us get hundreds of people involved who otherwise may never have even heard of CFHK. The kids feel so special when they get a card or

Meet our team:

## FOLLOW US



Facebook



Twitter

## CATEGORIES

Animals!!!

Art

Best of 2012

Bullying Sucks

Celebs

Contests

Eco-Friendly

Election 2012

Events

Green

More...

## FEATURED



It Gets Better



Take Action



Action Briefs



Substance Abuse Resources



autograph from their favorite celebrity.

... and any insider info on two famous fans in particular: Lauren Conrad and Stephanie Pratt?

Recently, I received an email from the mom of a little girl named Ariel, a cancer patient, who received a card and autographed picture of LC from us. Ariel had been in the pediatric ICU and had been unresponsive. When Ariel's mom told her that she had an autograph from LC and a card from us, she smiled after having been unresponsive in the ICU! I forwarded the email to LC's publicist and Lauren personally sent something to Ariel and her her best friend Emma, who is also hospitalized. Both Stephanie and Lauren have also helped us spread the word via social media and have helped get hundreds of people involved. They are both so generous and didn't even hesitate about getting involved.

TAKE ACTION!

13  
ACTIONS  
TAKEN



MAKE CARDS  
Bust out the glitter and get started!

07  
ACTIONS  
TAKEN

HOST A  
CARD-  
MAKING  
EVENT  
Turn your next soiree into a crafting night out. Here's how.

Tags [Cards for Hospitalized Kids](#) | [Jen Rubino](#) | [Lauren Conad](#) | [LC](#) | [stephanie pratt](#)

1 1 0 More » Comments 0 Rating 50% Rate Post

[Sign Up](#) | [Log In](#) |  to comment.

Enter your comment here.

Submit

[music](#) [shows](#) [news](#) [movies](#) [full episodes](#) [tv schedule](#) [music videos](#) [movie trailers](#)  
[browse artists a-z](#) [radio](#) [online games](#) [mobile](#) [download mtv direct](#)

SEARCH

GO WEB

MTV BLOGS

[Buzzworthy](#)  
[Guy Code](#)  
[Hollywood Crush](#)  
[Movies](#)  
[MTV Style](#)  
[Multiplayer](#)  
[Newsroom](#)  
[Remote Control](#)  
[Splash Page](#)

MORE MTV

[Power Of 12](#)  
[MTV Geek!](#)  
[MTV Act](#)  
[MTV Shop](#)  
[MTV Iggy](#)  
[Liquid TV](#)  
[Get Schooled](#)  
[Directory of MTV Sites](#)  
[Casting](#)  
[Sweepstakes and Contests](#)

STAY CONNECTED

[MTV On Facebook](#)  
[MTV On Twitter](#)  
[MTV On Tumblr](#)  
[Newsletters](#)  
[RSS](#)

FEEDBACK / HELP

[Site Feedback](#)  
[Suggestion Box](#)  
[Community Feedback](#)  
[Technical Support](#)  
[Dealing With An Issue? Get Help Now](#)  
[Closed Captioning Contact](#)

TERMS / POLICY

[Terms of Use](#)  
[Privacy Policy / Your CA Privacy Rights](#)  
[Copyright Compliance Policy](#)  
[Community Guidelines](#)  
[User Content Submission Agreement](#)  
[Social Project Privacy Policy](#)  
[Social Project Terms Of Use](#)

CORPORATE

[MTV Jobs](#)  
[Advertising Opportunities](#)  
[Rhapsody](#)  
[Eventful](#)  
[Partners](#)

SPONSORS

AD: Find cool stuff for all your favorite shows at the MTV Shop

Scale fast with  
tech talent

Get Started

up