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Christmas Eve at West Suburban: Nursing supervisor's children spread musical joy at Oak Park hospital



Family band SM6, made up of the six children of West Suburban Hospital nurse Yvonne Jones, perform inside the lobby of their mother's hospital on Christmas Eve. (Steve Schering/Pioneer Press)

By [Steve Schering](#) . [Contact Reporter](#)

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While raising her six children, Yvonne Jones always told them to “pay it forward,” which they took to heart this holiday season.

With their mother, who works as a nursing supervisor at West Suburban Medical Center in Oak Park, due to work on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, her six children wanted not only to bring a little holiday cheer to her, but to the entire hospital.

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The six Jones children, George, 19, Isabel, 17, Adam, 16, Emily, 14, Eliana, 12 and Jack, 11, make up the band SM6. They brought their musical talents to the hospital lobby on Christmas Eve, where they serenaded hospital patients, staff and visiting families with a variety of holiday classics.

“Our mission is we want to inspire, but also give back,” said Adam, who plays lead guitar. “Since my mom has to work, we wanted to come by to see her.”

The origins of their band began when Adam and Emily participated at a school talent show. Each of the children had taken piano lessons growing up, but each eventually branched out to their own musical instruments.

“I wanted to play drums since I was 3 years old, and I got my first drum set at my eighth birthday,” Emily said. “After that talent show, people were saying we should start a band. It’s been fun, and I really enjoy playing in a band with my family.”



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The family band played two sets during the afternoon of Dec. 24, which included familiar hits “Jingle Bells,” “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” “Run Rudolph Run,” and “Oh, Holy Night.”

In addition to holiday classics, the SM6 band performed a few of their original hits, which were taken from their debut album “On Our Way.”

In keeping with their life lesson of “pay it forward,” the band donates 50 percent of the proceeds from its music downloads to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

“We thought it would be great to spend some time with our mom,” said George. “Being in a band has definitely brought us closer together. We all felt like St. Jude is a good opportunity to help give back.”

As they performed for hospital employees, patients and guests, Yvonne Jones said she couldn’t be more proud of her children and the reasons behind their music.

“I love watching them perform together, and around the holidays they’re always thinking of other people,” Yvonne said. “It was very sweet, and they took all of this upon themselves. I always told them to ‘pay it forward’ and it’s kind of ingrained in them.”

With their mother and other hard-working hospital staff caring for others this Christmas, the SM6 children hope they were able to provide a little bit of holiday joy to those who came by to hear some holiday music.

“We wanted to spend Christmas Eve with our mom and spread some cheer to people who can’t spend Christmas in their homes,” Emily said.

More information about the band and its music is available at www.sm6band.com.

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