

# Banner helps kids drive away fear of surgery

By DARRELL JACKSON, Staff Writer | Posted: Thursday, November 2, 2017 12:00 am

Banner Thunderbird unveiled a new program for pediatric surgery patients to try and ease the stress of heading to the operating room, with the donation of two, battery-powered vehicles for kids to “drive” to the operating room.

“We were donated two battery-powered cars that the kids can get into to take them from their rooms to the operating room,” said Kimberly Hover, registered nurse in the perianesthesia services department. “I am very excited about this for those kids that are in that age that cannot understand what is going on.”

The vehicles, donated by Creepy Crawly Pest Control of Glendale and Tempe, will be used for kids ages 3 to 9 to try and ease the stress of surgery, after being checked in and prepared for their operation.

“My sister-in-law works here at (Banner Thunderbird) and we do a lot of donations and fundraising with the Phoenix Children’s Hospital and we wanted to do something here and this was an amazing opportunity to do that,” said Holly Parker, Owner of Creepy Crawly Pest Control. “When we were told about this idea, it was a perfect way to get involved and a way for us to help and we would love to expand, because we are always looking for ways to donate and help our community.”

A brief ceremony unveiling the cars was held Oct. 17, with three children riding in the cars down the hallway of the hospital. The two vehicles – a pink Jeep and a red sports car – were controlled by nurses as the kids felt like they were driving the cars.

“Kids are often terrified of going to surgery, so we wanted to offer something that would be a fun distraction for them,” said De Anne Jones, nursing manager of Banner Thunderbird perianesthesia services, which led the unique project.

Hover said this is the perfect distraction for children prepared for surgery and can help ease the stress of their procedures.

“After they get ready for surgery, and before they go back to the operating room, they feel like they are driving themselves there,” Hover said. “It is a nice transition from leaving their parents to the operating room and can help ease the stress a little.”

Banner Thunderbird is the first location in the West Valley to have the toy cars, having been used at Banner Thunderbird Tucson, but Hover added they hope to expand the program in the future.

“Hopefully, the kids enjoy this and makes everything a little easier, and this way, they won’t fear doctors or nurses,” said Hover. “I hope this expands the program in the future.”



## Driving the fears away

Children showcase the battery-powered vehicles that surgery patients can drive to the operating room.