Art students from University School in Davie have spent months creating a Mosaic of Hope for Gilda's Club South Florida to honor those who have battled cancer.

The labor of love portrays a peacock, commonly associated with endless love and eternal life. To illustrate this message, the 6-by-3.5-foot mosaic is filled with various colors, including blue, green, yellow, red and black. Volunteers were inspired by the 15 to 20 wild peacocks that roam the nonprofit's property in Fort Lauderdale. Elizabeth Wynter, director of development for Gilda's Club, approached the school with the idea.

"The kids at University School are so talented," she said. "Gilda's Club is a historic home with gorgeous gardens, but this place has a soul to it. There is an energy that is very special. It's really not just about the facility and how it looks. It's really about the people that come here. I was touched and thought there had to be a way to make it special."

Gilda's Club is a free support community for those with cancer and their loved ones.

University School teacher Judie Jackowitz assembled a team including her daughter Hayley, Gina Grosso, Rori Kotch and Haley Gross to take on the endeavor. The group racked up more than 100 hours on the project, and Kotch's family in Weston opened up their garage for the crew to work.

"The students learned teamwork and feel great about working hard for a great cause," Jackowitz said.

The group contacted Gina Hubler, owner of the Miami Mosaic Academy, for help. Hubler taught the girls how to use the glass for their mosaic. The glass, thin-set, tools and other supplies were purchased from the academy. The Kotch and Gross families purchased and donated the materials to the school.

"Working on this peacock has been so much fun," Hayley Jackowitz said. "... I realize that helping others and being a part of a caring team is an important part of my life. I hope we can do another project in the future."

Gilda's Club is accepting personal tokens of remembrance from people with a loved one affected by cancer. The mementos will be part of the mosaic, and the required $100 donation will go toward the facility's programs. They have received an angel charm from a man who lost his wife to lung cancer, and Wynter donated a sunshine charm in honor of her sister-in-law Sunny, who is battling the disease. "These are really just special things," Wynter said. "So when people pass, they will know they are being remembered."

Those interested in contributing can call 954-763-6776 or e-mail elizabeth@gildasclubsouthflorida.org. The Mosaic of Hope was presented on March 30.