

GREAT ESCAPES

It's about connections.

(cont.)

Seriously ill children, their parents and siblings make lasting connections with other families through Great Escapes that endure through treatments, prolonged hospital stays, the hope and despair of medical set-backs, and even tragic loss.

"This organization has given our family the ability to have many special moments together and to get to know other families," explains one Starlight Starbright mother. "When we receive a Great Escapes invitation in the mail, everyone is excited and it is the first thing we open. Each invitation represents normalcy for my family and me. It reminds us of all the beautiful people we've come to know through Great Escapes — all the moms and dads and kids, including lots of brothers and sisters. We have a special bond."

Starlight Starbright is continuing every day to work with donors and sponsors to expand Great Escapes and bring laughter, hope and community to the millions of families of seriously ill children who so desperately need it.



THE POWER OF A TEXT MESSAGE

Starlight Starbright & PayPal

Starlight Starbright is proud to be one of a handful of charities selected by PayPal for its Text to Give program. With PayPal Mobile, users can donate to charities instantly using their mobile devices.



"With the overwhelming popularity of mobile phones, the time has never been better for the merging of ecommerce and wireless devices," said PayPal President Jeff Jordan. "Making payments is as easy as sending a text message anytime, from anywhere, for the millions of customers that prefer to use PayPal."



To use Text to Give, Starlight Starbright supporters can easily activate their mobile phones by logging into their PayPal accounts at www.paypal.com/mobile. After registering their mobile telephone numbers, users choose a secure Personal Identification Number (PIN) that protects every mobile payment.

You can donate \$10 to Starlight Starbright today by texting STAR10 to 78787.

For more information about PayPal Mobile, visit www.paypal.com/mobile

BECOME A FRIEND OF STARLIGHT STARBRIGHT

It's better to give than to receive

Do you have an upcoming birthday, wedding, bar or bat mitzvah, or do you simply want to become a more active Starlight Starbright supporter? Now you can create your own personal Starlight Starbright Web page and help spread the word about how you use your time, energy or financial resources to support Starlight Starbright.



Use our preset templates to email your friends and family to invite them to join you in improving the lives of sick children and their families by contributing money in your honor, or in honor of your special event. Set-up is fun and easy, and you can track all the donations you receive.

Get started today by visiting www.starlight.org/friends.

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starlight starbright connect

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GREAT ESCAPES It's about connections



When a child is seriously ill, a family's life as they know it comes to a screeching halt.

The child who is sick is fearful, traumatized and lonely and often feels guilty about being the cause of such awful change. Parents are worried, exhausted and conflicted as they strive to uphold their responsibilities to jobs, other family members and the sick child. Siblings often feel forgotten, or envious of the attention paid to their sick brother or sister, and then guilty about the envy. Disease moves into the house and everyone who lives there feels its presence.

Understandably, finding the time and energy to do things as a family seems impossible, and financial and emotional strain can make family recreation seem out of the question.

Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation understands what families go through when a child is sick, and how important it is to break the cycle of depression and loneliness. The Great Escapes Program was created to do just that — provide families with a chance to spend recreational time together to relax, regroup and return home with a renewed sense of strength and hope.

Movie screenings, trips to the circus, ball games, harbor cruises, mother-daughter makeovers, picnics and pajama parties are just some of the vital, community-based family programs that Great Escapes makes available to families in need.

One mother describes what a Great Escape means to a parent of a sick child this way: "It's not only a distraction from what serious illness does to a family. Attending the game was an experience that many of these kids, including mine, would never have if it wasn't for (Starlight Starbright's) outpouring of kindness in touching families who are facing the most important challenge in life — living."

A wide variety of in-kind donations and cash contributions make Great Escapes possible, giving both donors and families a tremendous reward. Each \$30 gift can bring a day of escape to one child or family member. Funds supplement the cost of tickets, meals, transportation and venues.

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**Each \$30 gives
a day of escape
to one child.**

STADIUM-SIZED FUN

Thanks to the generosity of SLSB volunteer and Notre Dame alumnus Mike Williams, 35 Starlight Starbright kids and families enjoyed an inspirational evening with the Notre Dame Lacrosse team at the Peter Barton Stadium on the University of Denver campus.

The evening kicked off with a lacrosse clinic, giving kids the rare opportunity to play under the bright stadium lights. Afterward, families had the opportunity to meet and mingle with the team.



To their delight, all of the children received their very own lacrosse stick and ball, which they were able to try out for the first time with the Notre Dame lacrosse team on the big field.

"I'm so excited to have my own jersey," said one young participant. "It is so cool! Every time I wear it, I'll think of meeting the players and playing in the stadium. It will definitely bring a smile to my face."

The following evening, Notre Dame played against Denver University and Mike arranged for a Starlight Starbright child to serve as the official Notre Dame water boy, complete with a uniform that included a brand new Notre Dame sweat suit!



Your gift of \$30 today will bring joy to a sick child.



STAR VOLUNTEER

Karen Filkowski

Karen began her volunteer work at Starlight Starbright in connection with its annual golf tournament. Her passion for helping sick children in need led her to next volunteer to lead the organization's efforts to bring toys to hospitalized children during the holiday season and throughout the year.

For the past four years, Karen has single-handedly organized and displayed thousands of toys donated by caring Coloradans through Starbucks stores as part of the Starbucks Joy Drive.



Weeks of hard work on the part of Karen and her team of volunteer elves transforms Starlight Starbright's toy room from a cluttered storage facility into a beautiful toy shop from which hospital personnel can select toys for pediatric patients. Karen is not only present every day to man the store, she also continues to merchandise and organize the store so it is just as appealing to the last hospital to arrive as it was for the first.

Starlight Starbright is grateful for Karen's dedication to the annual toy drive and store, and more importantly, her genuine compassion for seriously ill children and their families.

Anyone interested in learning more about how to volunteer should call 303.691.0700.



UPCOMING EVENTS

10th Anniversary Celebration Gala
June 29, 2006
Mile High Station

Golf Tournament Fundraiser
September 11, 2006
Cherry Creek Country Club

Mile High Hunt Fundraiser
September 30, 2006
Downtown Denver

To learn more about these events, including how you can purchase tickets or volunteer, please call Kimberly Schultz at 303-691-0700 or email Kimberly.starlightco@att.net

POKEMON JOURNEY ACROSS AMERICA BRINGS JOY

Celebrating Pokemon's 10th Anniversary, The Pokemon Journey Across America arrived in Denver in early May, and young patients at Denver Health Medical Center enjoyed a visit from Pikachu and members of the Pokemon team. More than a dozen hospitalized kids were the lucky recipients of Cinch Sacks, Pokemon figures, Cyber Poke Balls, 2006 Pokemon calendars, trading cards and 20th Anniversary pins.

Starlight Starbright families were then welcomed to a Pokemon Great Escapes event at the Southwest Plaza Mall in Denver. Families received VIP treatment, which meant never having to wait in line, having a Pokemon

Ambassador serve as a personal escort through each section of the event, and going home with a special Pokemon gift tote that included Pokemon plush toys.

The Pokemon Ambassador met one of our Starlight Starbright children, Kyler, and his Mom, and stayed with them as Kyler enjoyed the coloring table, demo sections, video game viewing areas and a photo opportunity with Pikachu.

"Starlight Starbright is so great for Kyler. He always has so much fun!" said Kyler's mom. "The Great Escape events truly raise his spirits — and those of our entire family."



Director's Corner

Gail Prostrullo
Executive Director
Starlight Starbright
Colorado Chapter



Dear Starlight Friends:

Summer is just around the corner.

You can almost hear the laughter and screams of delight as the children romp in the park, play ball and enjoy the fine weather. Summer is a time for families, outings and memories.

Unfortunately for many Starlight Starbright families, summer relaxation is replaced by frightening days spent in the hospital. Roms in the park are replaced by therapies or doctors visits. Laughter is replaced by questions about medical treatments and the future. And family vacations are often delayed as medical bills mount.

With your help, Starlight Starbright can provide a respite for sick children and their families through our Great Escapes program. Though not a substitute for a family vacation, Great Escapes events such as Colorado Rockies baseball games, visits to Elitch's or Boondocks, and Colorado Rapids soccer games can bring families much-needed summer fun and laughter.

Great Escapes are coordinated and funded entirely by Starlight Starbright staff, donors and volunteers so all families have to do is show up and enjoy the day together. Our goal is to ensure that, in between the doctors' appointments, families have the opportunity to create happy memories.

Thank you for helping us bring joy and laughter into the lives of the seriously ill children we serve.

Sincerely,
Gail Prostrullo