



NEW HOPE FOR KIDS INFORMATION PACKET

It's difficult enough for an adult to deal with the grief and pain associated with illness and death. Imagine how it would be to cope as a child. Since 1996, New Hope for Kids has helped these children in need throughout Central Florida. Our purpose is to bring hope, healing and happiness to children and families suffering from grief, loss or life-threatening illnesses.



FACT SHEET

DESCRIPTION

New Hope for Kids is the largest independent grief support center in Florida. We are also one of the oldest wish-granting organizations in Central Florida. We concentrate on children, ages 3-18, and families coping with life-threatening illnesses and/or the death of loved ones.

MISSION

Our mission is to support children and families grieving the death of a loved one and to grant wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses in Central Florida.

PROGRAM SERVICES

New Hope for Kids Grief Program helps children and families cope with the feelings of grief and loss after the death of a loved one. New Hope for Kids also grants wishes to children up to age 19 diagnosed with a life-threatening illness.

Our Grief and Wish Programs work together to provide total family support. We offer parent support groups, community awareness projects, information and referral services, as well as summer camps for children and family events throughout the year.

FUNDING

We are funded primarily through charitable donations by individuals, corporations, foundations and community service organizations in Central Florida. No funding is received from government agencies or the United Way. New Hope for Kids is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

MANAGEMENT

New Hope for Kids is governed by a volunteer board of directors from the Central Florida community. David C. Joswick serves as the Executive Director.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers assist New Hope for Kids in fulfilling our mission to help Central Florida's children. We could not exist without our amazing family of volunteers who donate valuable time, energy and talent in a myriad of ways that reflect personal skills and gifts.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHAT IS NEW HOPE FOR KIDS?

New Hope for Kids is one of Central Florida's oldest wish-fulfillment organizations, granting approximately 50 wishes annually to children with terminal or life-threatening illnesses. We are also a specialized community resource for children and families coping with the death of a loved one. Our basic philosophy recognizes that illness and death are a part of life. We understand that acknowledging one's grief is essential for a person to move towards hope, healing and renewal.

WHAT ARE NEW HOPE FOR KIDS CREDENTIALS?

New Hope for Kids is a tax exempt, approved 501(c)(3) organization and is registered in the State of Florida. Our programs are guided by licensed, experienced staff.

HOW MANY CHILDREN HAS NEW HOPE FOR KIDS HELPED?

We assisted 334 children in 2011 through grief facilitation and granted 41 wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. Since inception, New Hope for Kids has helped more than 5,000 children -- over 3,600 through grief facilitation and over 1,350 children have had wishes granted.

HOW MUCH OF THE DONATED MONEY GOES TO PROGRAM SERVICES?

New Hope for Kids has one of the highest efficacy rates of non-profits in the area. Over 90% of our aggregate revenue goes directly to program services. In comparison, many major national non-profits only send 70-80% of their revenue to their programs, with the rest going to administrative costs. In other words, every dollar you donate to New Hope for Kids makes a real difference in the lives of Central Florida's children.



WHAT COSTS ARE INVOLVED TO RECEIVE NEW HOPE FOR KIDS SERVICES?

There is no charge for our services, so donations are necessary to fund our programs.



WHAT IS THE CRITERIA FOR HAVING A WISH GRANTED?

Children under 19 years of age suffering from a life-threatening illness. Candidates must fill out a wish application which includes a doctor's verification of illness and medical permission for the wish.

HOW IS NEW HOPE FOR KIDS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER GRIEF PROGRAMS?

We believe that each child has the potential to heal when provided with an accepting and supportive environment. New Hope for Kids does this through directed activities such as painting, discussion and journaling. We even have a "Hurricane Room" at our Grief Center for kids to vent extra energy. New Hope for Kids offers a place where mutual support is given and play, listening and sharing are used to foster acceptance. A key difference between our program and others is that our program focuses on attending support groups over a twelve month period in the home-like setting of the Center for Grieving Children. We believe the grief process cannot be adequately addressed through short-term or in-school programs.

HOW ARE THE GRIEF GROUPS ARRANGED?

Children are grouped by age to work through their grief using play activities, painting, drawing, journaling and discussion. At the same time, their caregivers learn how to support and parent their grieving children as well as to help themselves. Groups meet bi-weekly and are facilitated by trained volunteers and coordinated by New Hope for Kids staff.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT AFTER YOUR CHILD ATTENDS THE NEW HOPE FOR KIDS GRIEF PROGRAM?

Children who attend the Grief Program report feeling understood, supported and a decreased fear of death. They gain an enormous sense of relief from being able to discuss their experiences with peers who are going through the same range of feelings and emotions - something they cannot do at school or many times at home. The goal of our proven program is to help children help each other to face loss as a normal human experience while learning valuable life skills.



GRIEF FAMILY TESTIMONIALS

"Hello, my name is Marisa. My Father died in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I know all the adults around me are sad and I'm sad too, but I know that one of the things that helps me is when I get to do things that help me feel like a normal kid, like going to school and playing with my friends. I have a couple of friends at school whose dads died too. We don't talk about it much, but it helps me to be around them. We just understand each other. How I plan to get through the holidays is the same as what I do to help me all the time. I write notes to him. I pretend he is here with me and I have a book where I put all the notes I write to him. My mom bought me a photo frame and I put a special note he wrote to me in it. At night I read it to myself:

Marisa, to my dearest beautiful daughter, I love you more than anything in this world. No matter whatever happens, I will always be there for you and will always love you. Love, Dad"

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"It's taken two years for him to be able to talk about his feelings relating to his mother's death. Because of this place he can express his feelings, his grades are improving and our relationship has become very close."

--Grandmother now raising her grandson due to the death of his mother

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"I want my children to be able to talk about losing their mother. I know they miss her and they tend to get angry instead of talking about it"

--New Hope father of four who's wife died

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I see myself as a great example of the miracles that New Hope for Kids can create for families who come there. They gave me the courage and hope that someday I would feel happy again and not feel stigmatized by society. They understood what it was like to have your whole life pulled out from under you when a loved one dies.

I see New Hope for Kids as a seed that was planted within my soul. From there I needed to nourish that seed, move forward in my life, become productive and purposeful. I thank God I found New Hope for Kids. I really can't imagine what my life would be like now if I didn't take the time to truly feel all the emotions that come with death. I was able to truly feel them, process them, understand them and then put them in the past.

-- Current Board Member for New Hope for Kids who lost her husband

WISHES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MEET BEN

Ben is only 4 ½ years old and he's had a rough time due to M-CMTC, initials for a medical condition that causes blockages in the brain, seizures and asthma. Ben loves cars, planes and trucks, but especially trains. Since he read Chris Van Allsburg's *The Polar Express* he has longed to be a part of its great adventure. Ben's faith that dreams can come true was rewarded by a trip to ride on the real Polar Express—a journey he won't soon forget! In addition to riding the Polar Express train through the Smoky Mountains with family and friends, they enjoyed the Aquarium in Gatlinburg, Dollywood, and the train museum.



Ben's mom Ann shared, "The Polar Express was magical! We were treated like royalty. They sang the hot chocolate song while serving it and Ben danced in the aisle. Ben loved singing and dancing to songs from the movie and meeting Santa. His favorite part was when the engineer let him blow the train's whistle! Ben said, 'Can YOU believe it? It's the Polar Express!' His face was pure happiness. Sometimes we wonder, 'why us?' Others reach out to us and we begin to learn the lesson. Special people like Ben teach us so much about human kindness."

New Hope for Kids had help granting Ben's wish from UCF's Cornerstone Strictly Business Team. Comprised of 7 business majors, they raised \$2000 for Ben's wish. They also planned a memorable party at Ben's school. They've made a difference in Ben and his family's lives and New Hope for Kids.

MEET KACIE

At 7 years old, Kacie is confined to a wheelchair unable to run and play like other girls her age. She has cerebral palsy and every day is a challenge. One of Kacie's favorite things to do is to watch Disney movies. She likes to pretend she is a princess like Cinderella and Snow White; and she is a little princess. New Hope for Kids granted Kacie's wish to go on a Disney family cruise this summer. It was a big wish that could not be fulfilled without the help of our community. A UCF Cornerstone Knights for Hope team raised nearly \$3,000 to help make Kacie's wish come true. One of the best parts was celebrating Kacie's wish with her family and friends in her school classroom.





MEET TANNER

Nearly ten years old, Tanner is very quiet and cautious. He has learned to make lifelong adjustments while living with diabetes. Because a child's activity affects his sugar levels, juvenile diabetes can be dangerous and difficult to control. Despite these challenges, Tanner finds many ways to have fun. His favorite activity is camping. He longed to have a pop-top camper to share with his sister Savannah, who suffers from a chromosomal abnormality. Tanner knows this is a big wish, but New Hope for Kids and Teams Knight Club and L.O.V.E. made it happen. Wish celebrations—a picnic and birthday party were planned and provided entirely by the teams. Local businesses donated refreshments. Tanner and his family were overwhelmed by the table covered with trays of food, a Godzilla cake, decorations, and to top it off—ice cream! They even planned activities and games. It was an unforgettable Wish!

MEET JAYDEN

Although Jayden appears to be like every other 3-year-old boy, he is not. He can run, play, and shout; he's animated and charming, but he has already gone through 6 surgeries. He was only a year old when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Following the surgeries and 72 chemo treatments, Jayden is holding his own and in remission. He still has a shunt to relieve the pressure of spinal fluid that his body cannot release.



It doesn't take too much to bring a smile to Jayden's face. He loves anything that has to do with Spiderman! He hides behind his mom and peeks around when he hears Spiderman's name. Looking around the room, it's easy to spot Spiderman posters, bedspread, games, CD's and other signs of Jayden's hero. Hence, it wasn't surprising at all to hear that Jayden wanted to meet Spiderman and spend some time at his hero's favorite place—Universal Studios. The Helping Hands Team from UCF raised a whopping \$3,524 to purchase annual passes for Jayden. He can visit Disney, Universal and Sea World all year long!

In addition to Spiderman, Jayden loves rides, so Helping Hands and NHFK arranged a wish celebration at Fun Spot Thrill Park in Orlando. Fun Spot generously donated over \$300 in-kind to help make Jayden's day fun for him, his family and friends.

Through the diligence of UCF's "Helping Hands" Cornerstone Team and donors throughout Central Florida who help support New Hope for Kids' Wishes, Jayden's dream came true. Jayden's mom said, *"I appreciate all the hard work of Jayden's team and New Hope for Kids to give wishes to children who would probably never be able to afford a trip, cruise, park tickets or other wishes. I think it's wonderful what they are doing."*



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Over 200 volunteers and 40 grief facilitators currently help New Hope for Kids fulfill our mission to help Central Florida's children. We could not exist without our amazing family of volunteers who come from all walks of life. They donate valuable time, energy and talent in a myriad of ways that reflect their personal skills and gifts. Our needs exceed our supply of volunteers, though. **We need your helping hands.**

MAKE A WISH COME TRUE

Anyone can be a part of a New Hope for Kids wish through fundraising, donations or hosting a wish. Organizations, corporations and individuals are encouraged to sponsor a wish for a child.

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

- Volunteer at our fundraising events
- Become a Grief Facilitator
- Become a patron
- Become a member of our Board of Directors
- Provide clerical assistance
- Plan wish parties
- Help with fundraising
- Become one of our speakers
- Help at our family events



There are so many ways in which we welcome your help, so give us a call today to volunteer your time.

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"I am interested in donating my time to your organization. I am a teacher with Winter Park High School and have felt compelled to contact you since I watched the miraculous transformation that attending your group had on a student of mine (his father passed away last year). The transformation was amazing and inspiring. I would love the opportunity to support the healing and recovery of other families, if you have the room for me :)"

-- Email from Samantha, now a current volunteer at New Hope for Kids

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