

# New Hope News!

New Hope for Kids • Center for Grieving Children & Wishes for Kids • 407-331-3059 • www.newhopeforkids.org

## 2011 Food and Toy Drives... Can You Help?



Can you believe how quickly 2011 is flying by?! The holidays will be here before we know it! Our annual food drive is already underway and our toy drive will begin the first week of December. Each year we gather food and toys from the Central Florida community and distribute them to the children and families of *New Hope for Kids*. Last year we provided Thanksgiving meals for over 200 New Hope families! Our 2010 toy drive brought holiday joy to 569 children in our grief and wish programs combined. The numbers of families receiving services through *New Hope for Kids* has grown, so we expect the need to be even greater this year.

Families in our programs are affected financially in ways many of us can't imagine. The death of the main wage earner can quickly send a family into serious financial distress. The medical care associated with the life-threatening illness of a child is a constant and ever-increasing expense. Add unemployment and the high cost of living and you have a recipe for hardship we often see in the families we serve.

It may be hard for us to comprehend these struggles, but we can still take action! Collect

items from the food list found on our website and bring your donation to the Center for Grieving Children in Maitland M-F 10am-5pm now through November 18th (Wednesdays until 3pm). We'll package donations into complete meals and distribute them to *New Hope for Kids* families who need a little extra help with their Thanksgiving meal this year.

Our toy drive puts smiles on the faces of hundreds of New Hope kids each year! Several local Panera stores will have trees with tags from which you may choose gifts for children in our programs. Locations of *New Hope for Kids* trees may be found on our website. Donations may be taken, unwrapped, back to the location from which you got your tag, or may be brought to our Center for Grieving Children M-F 10am-5pm December 12-19. We prefer to let parents and caregivers wrap their children's gifts, so please bring your donations unwrapped!

We invite you (and your co-workers, friends and family!) to be a part of these wonderful opportunities to bring new hope into the lives of the families we serve!



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## Jose Meets LeBron James

Jose knew exactly what to wish for. He's only 8, but his mind was made up. He wanted to meet his favorite basketball star—Lebron James of the Miami Heat! With the help of some wonderful staff at RDV Sportsplex and our own volunteers, Michele and Steve Chamberland, his wish came true. Jose stood in awe as Lebron approached. In a soft voice of admiration Jose exclaimed, "My Lebron James!" He could barely believe his eyes.

In keeping with this wave of joy, UCF Cornerstone Team, aptly named "King Jose's Court," raised enough funds to provide box seats for another Magic Game. They also planned a party and co-hosted it with O'Charley's Restaurant who generously donated delicious dinners for Jose and his guests. Other donors included Ernst and Young, Kohl's and other kind members of our community. It offered Jose an opportunity to forget about his illnesses and just enjoy being a kid having fun.



## What is New Hope for Kids?

*New Hope for Kids* is the largest independent grief center in the State of 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 loss of loved ones due to death.

### How many children does *New Hope for Kids* help?

We assisted 327 children in 2010 through grief facilitation and granted 50 wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. Since inception, *New Hope for Kids* has helped over 4,600 children -- over 3,300 through grief facilitation and over 1,350 children who had their wishes granted.

### What programs does *New Hope for Kids* provide?

*New Hope for Kids* helps children and families cope with significant grief and loss related to a death through our **Grief Program** at the **Center for Grieving Children**. We have parent support groups, community awareness projects, information and referral services, as well as family events and summer camps for children and families.

Our **Wish Program** grants wishes to children who are not yet 19, and are diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. The two programs work together to provide a total family support program.

## Sheena Gives Back



*I was only three when it happened. That is, when I was three my father died. We never really imagine that our parents can die. It seems as if they will always be there, indestructible and permanent. Yes, everyone dies eventually, but when you're a child, all of it appears far away sometime in the future. The worst part was the shock and unexpectedness of it all. He was not sick, injured, or all that old either. He was a healthy fifty-seven year old man.*

*What I remember most is his love of the water. It was his favorite place on earth, especially the ocean. That is where he was the day he died, in the ocean scuba-diving. An air bubble from his tank somehow made its way to his brain and stopped the blood flow. I cannot express the loss I and my mother, along with the rest of our family felt. If you have ever had a loved one die, you can understand the emptiness and sorrow.*

*Soon after, my mother found New Hope for Kids. A friend recommended we go. New Hope became my home away from home. Everyone at New Hope makes you feel welcomed and the grief facilitators are amazing. The people there understand the journey you are on, and they are there to help. I remember the art room the best because it was my favorite room. I loved to paint pictures and express myself through art. New Hope for Kids helped me to work through my anger, grief, sorrow and rage, and helped me to understand that it was ok to feel happy again.*

*That's why I came back. I want to help kids that are grieving, the way New Hope and the grief facilitators helped me. I know, personally, when someone says they want to give back, I roll my eyes and think, "yeah sure you do", but I truly want to. I feel like New Hope has helped me so much, that I want to be able to help others and continue New Hope's mission. So I have come back to New Hope, after ten years, to help the new generation of children who just want someone to listen to them and tell them, "Yes, I do understand how you feel and I'm here to help you."*

## New Hope Camps and Summer Fun!

**Camp Ray of Hope** was held April 29 to May 1 at Camp Wewa in Apopka. Fifty two children from our grief program enjoyed canoeing, a drum circle, climbing a rock wall, making Memory Tiles courtesy of "The Pottery Gypsy" and pet therapy with COCO the dog. Local musicians led opening and closing ceremonies and special grief activities provided time for reflection and healing.

Children from our wish and grief programs attended **Kids Kamp** on June 9-11. Each day nearly 40-50 "kampers" (and plenty of volunteers!) enjoyed delicious food, arts and crafts and swimming at Christmas RV Park. On Saturday, Family Fun Day included food, entertainment and a chance for families to get to know each other.

★ The 19th annual **Celebrity Mascot Games** were held at Stetson University on July 28th and at the new Amway Center on July 29th and 30th. This year's events drew record crowds and featured the crazy antics of the mascots we've all grown to love. Families from our grief and wish programs were treated to dinner and one-on-one time with the mascots at a special event held just for them. ★

## New Hope for Kids Capital Campaign

As *New Hope for Kids* continues to serve more children and families, our need for a new facility becomes more evident. Our administrative and program offices are currently working from two separate locations and our Center for Grieving Children in Maitland is often packed with kids! In 2001 New Hope served 152 children in the grief program. We more than doubled that number in 2010, serving 327 children. We've added more groups to our schedule over the years to accommodate this increase, but our numbers are growing faster than our options.

After attempts to purchase land to build on fell through after five years of rezoning issues, we are now facing an even more pressing need for more space. Our hope is to find a structure that can be easily and affordably transformed into a home-like environment very similar to our current grief center. Our greatest hope is that we will have moved into a "new home" within one year.

In order to be financially prepared for this expense, we have begun a Capital Campaign. We need to raise over \$1,000,000. Perhaps the most exciting aspect of this campaign is the matching money that has been pledged that will double the first \$300,000 in donations providing \$600,000 for our Capital Campaign! You can donate online or call in or mail your donation. (see back page "NHFK Needs Your Help") In order to qualify for matching funds, please designate your gift "Capital Campaign"!

To help us through volunteering, individual and corporate donations, or to refer a child, please call us at:

**(407) 331-3059**

## New Board and Staff Members

### New Board Member, Geo Morales

*New Hope for Kids* is proud to welcome Geo Morales to our Board of Directors. Geo is Manager of Media Relations and Public Affairs at Orlando Health. A graduate of the University of Central Florida, he brings a strong background in public relations to our board. Geo looks forward to helping spread the word about *New Hope for Kids'* unique mission in the Central Florida community. He and his wife, Gwendolyn, live in Longwood with their 2 daughters.



### New Staff Members, Gloria Capozzi and Ellen de Matos



Gloria Capozzi joined *New Hope for Kids* in August 2011 as our Volunteer and Marketing Manager. She graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelors degree in Finance and a minor in Marketing. Prior to joining the *New Hope for Kids* family, Gloria was the Director of Program Marketing for Art & History Museums, Maitland. She lives in Maitland with her husband, where she enjoys renovating their new home and collecting art.



Our new Group Coordinator, Ellen de Matos, also joined the staff in August 2011. She comes to *New Hope for Kids* from Palm Beach County where she had a private practice serving children and young adults with disabilities and mental health issues. She possesses a Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education from Wheelock College in Boston and a Masters Degree in Clinical Social Work from Barry University in Miami. Ellen is the mother of a special needs child and has been an advocate for him and countless others.

**Welcome to the *New Hope for Kids* family Geo, Gloria and Ellen!**

## Volunteer Video Wins New Hope \$5k!

The MetLife Foundation recently held a special contest for their employees called the *MetLife Volunteer Video Challenge*. They asked associates around the country to create short, homemade videos that portrayed the spirit of volunteerism in a way that was meaningful, informative and engaging.

Christine Stewart, one of our outstanding volunteers, went above and beyond for *New Hope for Kids* by making a short video of her experience as a grief facilitator at our Center for Grieving Children and entering it in MetLife's contest. MetLife associates from across the United States voted and Christine's 2-minute entry was among the top five finalists. Amazingly, her video won the second place Silver Grant of \$5,000 for *New Hope for Kids*!

Christine, a long-time volunteer at *New Hope for Kids* said: "I am ecstatic that I was able to help raise both awareness and funding for *New Hope for Kids* and I am so grateful to MetLife Foundation for providing me the opportunity to create the video. I love that I work for a company that cares so much about the local communities it serves. MetLife puts such an emphasis on volunteering and matches my volunteer hours and donations as well as providing this exceptional opportunity for me to do more for *New Hope for Kids*."

Thanks so much, Christine, for making this fantastic video of our Center for Grieving Children. Your dedication to our mission is inspiring!

## Give the Gift of Chance

Everyone's favorite fundraiser has started again! Be one of the first to secure a chance at being the winner of the newly introduced 2012 BMW 128i. How about considering a ticket (or two!) as a stocking stuffer for that hard-to-buy-for person on your shopping list? Tickets are \$100 each or sets of two for \$150. The drawing takes place on April 13th 2012 at our annual Art of the Vine event. (Admission not included. Need not be present to win)



For tickets and rules, please visit [www.newhopeforkids.org](http://www.newhopeforkids.org) or call 407-331-3059 x10.



## 9th Annual Holiday Bicycle Ride

Looking for a new, festive way to celebrate the holiday season with your family? Join us as we light up the night with a truly unique bike ride! On Saturday, December 10th, grab your bikes and cruise through 10 miles of neighborhoods full of holiday lights and decorations. During a special "pit" stop halfway along the route, riders get a chance to get off their bikes and grab a snack. Come start a new family tradition at the *New Hope for Kids* Holiday Bicycle Ride!



Check-in and pre-ride activities begin at 4pm with the ride starting at 6pm at the Casselberry Square Shopping Center (next to Dunkin Donuts) on 436 near Red Bug Lake Road. Donations are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the event. For more information visit [www.newhopeforkids.org](http://www.newhopeforkids.org) or call 407-331-3059 x10.

## \$20k Grant Awarded to NHFK!

We love our neighbors! DPR Construction in Maitland recently made a \$20,000 donation to *New Hope for Kids* to be used to provide services for children attending the Center for Grieving Children.

It all started when Jill Mitchell, Maritza Mojica and other local DPR staff members started scouting for a non-profit in their community that they could support. They soon discovered *New Hope for Kids* and began volunteering at our family events and gathering donations for our food and toy drives.

The Maitland DPR staff also helped with the process of submitting a grant request to the DPR Foundation. When the request was approved, everyone was thrilled. This very generous grant will allow *New Hope* to expand our children's camps and program activities. It will also help us increase our volunteer training program and create a short film that can be used to teach people about our mission.

Because integrity has always been a part of DPR Construction's core ideology, they have long played a role in the communities they serve by working closely with a children's charity. "In typical DPR fashion, we want to be involved," said Jeff Vertucci, who serves on the DPR Foundation Board of Directors. "If our employees are truly connected to the organization, we can make the biggest difference. This also allows us to see firsthand how we are able to benefit the communities we serve."



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[www.newhopeforkids.org](http://www.newhopeforkids.org)

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**NEW HOPE FOR KIDS  
NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Our programs are successful because of generous people like you! Please consider making a monetary donation or donating items from the list below. As a non-profit organization, we depend on the kindness of others who donate supplies, gifts, funding and time.

To make a monetary donation, make your check payable to:  
*New Hope for Kids* - 900 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland, FL 32751  
To make a donation by credit card, call 407-331-3059 x10  
or visit our website [www.newhopeforkids.org](http://www.newhopeforkids.org).

### Our Wish List:

- Silent Auction items and baskets
- Cookies, salty snacks & Capri Suns
- Gifts for teens: Video games, DVD movies, CD/DVD/MP3 players, etc.
- Low-odor dry erase markers, scissors (ages 4 & up), white paint paper (9"x12") & Tempera paint
- Assorted greeting cards, scrapbooks, paper & supplies
- Gas station gift cards
- Store gift cards for food & toy drives

### Upcoming Events... Save the Date!

- December 10: 9th Annual Holiday Bicycle Ride
- February 1 - April 11: Wine on Wednesday at Brio Tuscan Grille in Winter Park
- April 13: 11th Annual Art of the Vine
- April 13: 22nd Drawing of Chance for a New 2012 BMW 128i!

Stay up to date with our events by signing up online for our e-newsletter.

### Ongoing Volunteer Needs:

**Grief Facilitators:** Do you want to work directly with our children? *New Hope for Kids* is always looking for special people to become Grief Facilitators. We are looking for individuals who are able to commit to one night, every two weeks, from 5:00-8:00pm. On these nights you will help facilitate activities for kids who have experienced the death of a loved one. Volunteers are asked to make a one year commitment after training. Bilingual facilitators are always needed.

**Marketing:** Represent *New Hope* at our booth at various events throughout Central Florida. Speak to people about our mission and hand out materials. Research new events in the community that allow non-profits to participate.

**Grief Center:** Organize playrooms; assist with gardening; cleaning or maintenance; office assistance.

**Family Events:** Be a part of the planning committee, help decorate for children's events, be a friend to the kids during the events.

**Wish Program:** Visit a wish child, do Internet research, help grant or celebrate a wish.

We need your help! If you would like to volunteer for any of our fun and exciting events, would like to become a grief facilitator or contribute to our wish program, please call Gloria Capozzi at: 407-331-3059 x15.