# New Hope News!

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



## Ilse Sees Dream Come True in NYC!



**UCF Cornerstone Team "Wishing Wand" Wins Top Honors** 

Thousands of people gather at the edge of the Hudson River in New York City each year to see the Macy's Fourth of July fireworks light up the sky. For 10-year-old llse, a Central Florida girl with cerebral palsy and a seizure disorder, experiencing those fireworks was a dream out of reach. This summer, as part of a class assignment, seven UCF students set out to make that dream come true.

Ilse's mother, Limaris, said it had been her daughter's wish for over 3 years. "We tried [to go] before but every time we tried, she got too sick and we had to spend the money on doctors and hospitals. When I heard about *New Hope for Kids*, I called and in a few weeks, we had the wish."

Jessica Peters, Iris Mora, Cara Stagliano, Shaun Doerrfeld, Lukas Sanner, Oscar Ospina and John Zaloum worked together as UCF Cornerstone Team Wishing Wand. "At first you are working on it because it's for a grade," Peters said. "But the purpose isn't to complete the class; the purpose is to get into the organization and make this [wish] happen."

Team Wishing Wand worked tirelessly to raise the funds necessary for Ilse's trip. "What made this team stand out so much is that they could have quit. They raised all the money they needed after their first event, but they just kept going and going and going," said Rosie Wilder, Director of Wishes for Kids. The original goal of \$1,500 was raised within the first two weeks, and by the end of the semester, the team had raised a total of \$6,243.37!

Once the semester was complete, the students participated in a Cornerstone Social Entrepreneurship Competition in which the teams presented their projects, goals and successes to a panel of judges. Team Wishing Wand won first place out of six finalists in the competition. "It's not just about the dollar

amount," cornerstone lab instructor Phyllis Harris said. "It's about how well they apply the concepts they've learned. ... All UCF students should be proud of how these teams represented UCF in the community."

Sanner stated, "It is definitely the most rewarding opportunity at UCF." He said that for Team Wishing Wand,

it was more than just a class project. "We were really doing this for Ilse and not for just a grade in the class."

Ilse was able to travel to New York for six days with her family and had the opportunity to visit many of the tourist attractions including the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building. "We even got to go to the wax museum where she [Ilse] kissed Justin Bieber; he's her favorite singer," Ilse's sister Damaris said.

Although the semester is now over, the students plan to stay in touch with Ilse and her family. "They have impacted our lives, and I hope we have done as much for them as they have done for us," Mora said. "We couldn't have asked for a better wish family."

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#### Come Play With Us at Our 5th Annual Casino Night!

Join us on Friday, October 12th for a stylish and fun night that features your favorite casino games, Texas Hold'em and blackjack tournaments all rolled into one.

You can gamble to your heart's content and win fantastic prizes, knowing that it's all for a great cause: helping support children at *New Hope for Kids*!

Tickets are \$65 per person (2 for \$100) and include fine food, martinis, wine and beer.

This event is hosted by Orlando MINI \* Friday, October 12th, 2012 at 007 pm

Orlando MINI | 350 S. Lake Destiny Rd., Orlando, FL 32810



#### 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 lifethreatening illnesses and/or the loss of loved ones due to death.

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

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 over 5,000 children -- over 3,600 through grief facilitation and over 1,450 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.

Do you know a child that could benefit from one of our programs?

407-331-3059 x10

For more information please visit: www.newhopeforkids.org

## **A Young Family Finds Hope**

One of our "grief moms" wanted to share her thoughts after she and her 2 kids attended *New Hope for Kids*' Center for Grieving Children in Maitland. We're so glad Joshua and Nicole benefited from our grief program, and that Melisa found hope for herself and her children.



After the unexpected death of my husband in January of 2010, my whole world came crashing down. I found myself alone and with two little kids, struggling to make sense of what was now, "our reality". How do you explain to a 3 year old that their "dada" is not coming back? From the initial call to the center, I knew we were in "good hands". For my kids, knowing that they were not alone, that they could talk and play with other kids "like them", was their first step in their grieving process. Because of New Hope, my kids are now able to sleep through the night without constant nightmares, they understand that what THEY are going through is "normal", but most importantly, they are happy again! In fact, my 5 year old daughter said it simply, "When my dada went to Heaven, I was sad. When I went to New Hope, they helped me be happy!"

We have made relationships that we will cherish forever. After attending the Center for Grieving Children, my 10 year old son, Joshua, shared, "After my dada passed away, I felt really sad. At New Hope, the counselors and rooms helped me with my grief. My favorite counselor was Lou – he was funny and always made me laugh. I was glad that I met other kids that were going through the same thing I was going through. New Hope made me feel happier. New Hope is now our family!"

For two years, I drove 1 ½ hours in I-4, 5 o'clock traffic to come to New Hope. We had our dinner in the car and completed homework on our drive back home and you know what? Just to see my kids smiling again – it was all worth it!!!

~Melisa Wojteczko

## **Summer Fun**

#### New Hope for Kids Kamp:

Children from our wish and grief programs attended Kids Kamp on June 14-16, 2012. Each day 40 "kampers" (and volunteers!) enjoyed delicious food, crafts and swimming at Christmas RV Park. Ventriloquist and puppeteer Jacki Manna surprised the kids



with a show. A hayride provided by Stormy Burn took the kids to Fort Christmas Historical Park. Kamp ended on Saturday with a Family BBQ, entertainment provided by DJ Matt Zohler and a chance for families to get to know each other.

#### 20th Anniversary Celebrity Mascot Games:

The 20th annual Celebrity Mascot Games were held at Stetson University on July 19th and at the Amway Center on July 20th and 21st. 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 attended the Mascot Meet & Greet (a special event held just for them) where they were treated to dinner and autograph and photo opportunities with the mascots. The mascots have said that they look forward to this event every year!





## **Maitland Girl Scout Troups Add Sparkle**

The Girl Scout community is blowing out 100 candles this year! More than 3 million Girl Scouts of the USA—and 50 million Girl Scout alumnae—are celebrating this monumental 100th anniversary in their own special ways.

Locally, Maitland Troop 4513 is helping to decorate the Birthday Closet at *New Hope for Kids* as part of their volunteer service and community involvement. The Girl Scouts added birthday excitement to the blank space with sparkling hand-made signs and shimmering decorations to create an atmosphere of fun and celebration.

Lisa Tauscher, dedicated mom and Troop Leader, had the girls visit and tour the Center for Grieving Children as a way for the troop to learn more about those organizations who are helping children in their own community. In addition to the decorations, they also collected donations at the Maitland Public Library which overflowed with items including back to school supplies, art materials, bedding and gifts for the birthday closet. High Fives to Troop 4513 for their amazing gifts and hard work!

## National Alliance for Grieving Children Symposium Hosted by New Hope for Kids

Over 270 people attended the 16th Annual NAGC Symposium held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel on June 21-23, 2012. *New Hope for Kids* received wonderful accolades from organizers and attendees, including... *It was such a great pleasure to meet your staff and fantastic volunteers... Your work, presence and support were integral to making the symposium a success.* 



Our volunteers were OUTSTANDING! Over 46 volunteers participated as bag stuffers, knowledgeable session proctors and friendly registration helpers. We also had another 17 volunteers participate in a re-fresh of the Center for Grieving Children in Maitland which included new paint, new artwork displays, and decorative elements to perk up the place. Kudos to Tamara Gonzalez, who volunteered her Interior Design talents to make the Center for Grieving Children a true showcase!

An evening of friendship, food and conversation was enjoyed by over 60 Symposium guests who braved Friday afternoon rain on I-4 to attend an Open House at our Center for Grieving Children. Grief Facilitators Cathy Cordner, Jamie Verbraeken-Donnelly, Erin Huntley, Karen Sams and Jaclyn Sullivan were on hand to answer questions and provide a brief tour of the Center. Cheryl Anderson, singer/songwriter provided perfect entertainment, and Carolyn Moor and Elizabeth Peele graciously represented our Board of Directors. They all deserve to share the compliments that followed the Open House... The tour of the New Hope for Kids Center for Grieving Children was a WONDERFUL evening... We were made to feel like we were "royalty"... A very intimate gathering to meet/share with others... What a great facility/program. EVERYONE was so welcoming!

We'd like to express our enormous thanks to all who helped make the Symposium and Open House so successful!

## **Raising Money Through Sports**

Local philanthropy is important in that we can all personally experience giving in our community and see the impact that it makes. This is true with an involved group from St. Andrews Tavern in Altamonte Springs. The dedicated group of patrons and pub supporters organized two events that raised over \$20,000 for *New Hope for Kids*!

The first event, **The Memorial Cup** took place over Memorial Day weekend and was hosted by St. Andrews Football Club ("soccer" to those in the USA). In its sixth year, this annual event was originally established in honor of Eric Palmisanto for the ultimate sacrifice for his country and

the contributions he made to the football club. Eric died while serving with the Marine Corps in Operation Iraqi Freedom on April 2, 2006.



"When we found out Eric had died in the line of duty, we immediately felt it was important and necessary to honor his memory" Keith Hayter, president of St. Andrews FC. "Eric was close to children's charities through his entire life," Hayter said, "so it was natural for us to pursue that course when honoring him and what his life meant. He brought that belief to the club and it is something we hold onto today."

The second series of events were two attempts at the **Guinness Book** of **World Records** for continuous dart play. At St. Andrews Tavern,

Gaz McGill and Nick Walker attempted to break the record for the longest doubles match for darts (42 hours) while at the Copper Rocket in Maitland, Aris Kolacksy, Robbo Reaves, Keith Phaneuf, Chris Brown went after the singles record of 36 hours. The team at Copper Rocket was successful in making it into the record books!

"The spirit with which this group operated was professional and significant," states *New Hope for Kids* Exec. Director Dave Joswick. He was impressed with the level of community effort. "We would hold meetings at the tavern with over 30 people in attendance...all willing to help. From securing corporate sponsors to selling t-shirts, there was a wonderful team effort."

Special thanks to St. Andrews Owners Jackie and Nick Walker, Gaz Magill and Keith Hayter for their enormous contributions and to all who supported this successful cause!

## **Brevard Princess Fights and Wins!**

Five-year-old wish child, Jasmine, loves the color purple, thinks school is fun (sometimes!), and sleeps with a very special teddy bear. She also has a rare, tenacious spirit. Jasmine was born with a double ventricular septal heart defect and her trachea is abnormally connected to her esophagus. She underwent four open heart surgeries plus another procedure to remove half of her right lung. After the fourth surgery on April 6, this brave little girl began the three month long journey to full recovery before she could receive her wish from *New Hope for Kids*. The day finally arrived and Jasmine, her grandparents and brothers headed out for a week's stay at Give Kids the World Village where they received theme park tickets and lots of other surprises. During their adventure, Grandmom Rhonda shared, "I just wanted to let you know we are all having a royal blast." The happy pictures below tell the rest of the story.



"When I first heard of New Hope for Kids, I must admit I really didn't hold out a lot of hope in it. We have been trying in so many ways to get support for Jasmine," Jasmine's grandmother expressed. Following a visit from the wish director, she said, "I had so much hope and excitement I began telling everyone! This was truly a dream come true for our whole family...an opportunity for the kids to have fun, smile, laugh, giggle out loud and just be silly, something I hadn't experienced for months. They have had such sadness, fear of losing their sister...it was the greatest blessing we could have ever received for them."



### From Our Executive Director...

The Central Florida community continues to demonstrate its respect for our mission and its confidence in our ability to change the lives of children who are grieving or dealing with serious illness. We see expressions of this trust as individual

and corporate donations continue to come in, volunteers continue to give their time and energy and families continue to come to us for help during some of the most vulnerable times in their lives.

Our Wishes for Kids program is on target to grant 50 wishes this year. Support for this program is greatly enhanced by the involvement of UCF's Cornerstone teams. Students from the Business College at UCF work together to learn more about the business world while helping a local non-profit. *New Hope for Kids* has been fortunate to have some of the most successful and productive teams dedicated to the granting of wishes for our organization. This past semester Team Wishing Wand won first place in UCF's Cornerstone Entrepreneurial Competition. They raised over \$3,000 in cash and \$3,000 worth of in-kind donations that helped us celebrate and grant the wish of a very special child.

Our Center for Grieving Children in Maitland began the year with a waiting list of 71 children. In order to serve them, we recruited more volunteers and added 2 more groups to our schedule. And the families keep coming. Growth of this kind is a sure sign that we're doing something right, and we expect our census to continue to grow. In our current facility, we are working at maximum capacity. Unfortunately, we are still unable to accommodate families with children in all 3 age groups due to a lack of space, but we hope to remedy that in the near future.

We're pleased to announce that our board of directors is currently working on the purchase of a larger facility in the Maitland area which has the potential of being transformed into a home-like environment similar to our current grief center. In order to be financially prepared for this expense, we have begun a Capital Campaign. Perhaps the most exciting aspect of this campaign is the matching money that has been pledged that will double your donation! This means that the first \$300,000 in donations will be matched for a total of \$600,000 for our Capital Campaign! Tax-deductible donations can be made online or by check and should be designated "Capital Campaign" to qualify for matching funds.

I encourage you to visit our website to sign up for our e-news so you can be kept up to date on the progress of this exciting and important news. Your support in the growth of *New Hope for Kids* is sure to impact the children of Central Florida for generations to come.

Dave Joswick

## **Get Acquainted With NHFK**

Our monthly Get Acquainted Lunch hosted at *New Hope for Kids*' Center for Grieving Children in Maitland is a wonderful opportunity to educate the public about the grief and wish programs we offer to Central Florida families.

The lunch and learn format provides an informal opportunity for community leaders, local government officials, law enforcement, companies and corporations, medical and wellness personnel, teachers and donors to see, first hand, what we do at *New Hope for Kids*. Starting with brief video and tour of the Center, this forum provides guests great insight to our needs and services... all over a nice, friendly lunch!

"I love the personal connectivity this program offers," states Gloria Capozzi, Volunteer & Marketing Manager at *New Hope for Kids*. "Guests learn from each other and are eager to get involved."

Space is limited to 16 people once a month. Please email Gloria@newhopeforkids.org to learn more about this program.

#### We Love Our Volunteers!



Each year, Concord Management Limited of Maitland encourages team members to 'give back' to the community. Bravo and much appreciation to **Tanesha Brown, Wayne Fricker, Sheryl Hector, Amy LaBelle, and Joy McPherson** for their dedicated service to *New Hope for Kids*. They have helped on a variety of projects including family mailings, special events, cleaning, organizing and cookie baking at the Center for Grieving Children. On behalf of these caring individuals, Concord Management Ltd donated \$2500 to provide some additional assistance for the wonderful work *New Hope for Kids* is doing in the community. We thank them for their friendship, service and generosity.

## **Welcome New Board Members**



**Board Member, Chandra Waters:** Chandra joined *New Hope for Kids*' Board of Directors in January, 2012. She has a strong desire to make a difference in the community in which she was raised, and brings enthusiastic energy to her involvement with our organization. Chandra also brings her talents in marketing and event

planning, and is currently the Director of Advertising and Public Relations with MetroPCS in Orlando. Her strong roots in Central Florida are sure to benefit our efforts to raise funds as well as to create a stronger presence in the community. Chandra lives in Orlando and enjoys spending time with family and friends, and caring for her much-loved dogs.

**Board Member, Rabbi Steven Engel:** We're pleased to introduce Rabbi Steven Engel as our newest member of the *New Hope for Kids* Board of Directors. Rabbi Engel currently serves as the Senior Rabbi of Congregation of Reform Judaism in Orlando. His strong background in social concerns has been evident throughout his career. In the current public radio program, "Friends Talking Faith", the Rabbi discusses current affairs with



his friends, a Reverend and an Imam. (the trio known as "Three Wise Guys") Rabbi Engel feels he will be very helpful in connecting local clergy with *New Hope for Kids*, thereby increasing awareness of our mission and the services we provide. He and his wife, Beverly, have three children, and live in Longwood, FL.

Visit www.newhopeforkids.org/board for a complete list of our volunteer board members.



## 2012 Food and Toy Drives

Each year seems to fly by faster than the last. Can you believe it's time to begin preparing for the holidays?! In fact, our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive is already underway! In order to simplify the distribution process, we're collecting gift cards instead of canned goods this year. Gift cards may be purchased from any major supermarket in increments of \$5 to \$50. Monetary donations can be made on our website, or you can bring gift cards to the Center for Grieving Children in Maitland M-F 10am-5pm now through November 18th (Wednesdays until 3pm). We'll distribute gift cards to New Hope for Kids families who need a little extra help with their Thanksgiving meal this year. Last year we provided Thanksgiving meals to 300 families and expect to help even more this year. We're thankful for the opportunity to partner with our community to provide this helpful service for our grief and wish families.

As soon as we catch our breath from the food drive we will begin our annual Toy Drive! The day after Thanksgiving (November 23, 2012) will be the official start of our efforts to gather toys and gifts for hundreds of kids in our grief and wish programs. Each year we see and hear the effects of our families' challenges and know the children are often dealing with difficult issues at very young ages. So often we hear from parents that their holidays wouldn't be the same without our help. Your donations will bring smiles to these very special children as they feel the joy of the season made possible by your kindness and generosity. This year we will be providing gifts to over 600 children, so your help is needed more than ever!

Have you ever thought about having a toy drive for *New Hope for Kids* with a group of friends or at your place of work? It can be a fun way to celebrate the season and help bring joy to the kids in our grief and wish programs!

How can you help? Visit designated local Panera stores (locations can be found on our website) where you will find trees with *New Hope for Kids* tags from which you may choose gifts for children in our grief and wish programs. 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 10th-20th. We prefer to let parents and caregivers wrap their children's gifts, so please bring your donations unwrapped!

We invite you to be a part of these wonderful opportunities to bring new hope into the lives of the families we serve!

#### Holiday shopping made easier this year!

Shop online at Amazon, Walmart and Target from the comfort of your own computer chair. You can even have items shipped directly to us!



Visit our website for direct links to our lists.

## 10th 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 8th, 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 or call 407-331-3059 x10.

## Everyone's Favorite Fundraiser is Back!

Be one of the first to secure a chance at being the winner of the newly introduced 2013 BMW 128i. How about considering a ticket (or two!) as a stocking stuffer for that hard-to-buy-for person on your shopping list? Or buy one for yourself! Either way it's a perfect year-end tax deduction. Tickets are \$100 each or sets of two for \$150. The drawing takes place on April 12th 2013 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/bmw or call 407-331-3059 x10.



## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteers are the heart of New Hope for Kids! Would you like to be part of our caring and dynamic team of volunteers? We have opportunities to fit every commitment and skill level, and for every area of interest you can imagine! Here are just a few:



**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.

**Center for Grieving Children**: We need help organizing playrooms, assisting with gardening, cleaning or maintenance, and general office assistance.

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

**Family Events**: Be a part of the planning committee, help create a fun atmosphere by decorating for one of our children's events, or be a friend to the kids during our events.

**Wish Program**: Our wish kids win the hearts of all who meet them. Would you like to help grant or celebrate a wish, visit a wish child, or perhaps do Internet research?

These are just a few of the many ways you can help! Please contact Gloria Capozzi at 407-331-3059 ext. 15 or Gloria@newhopeforkids.org to learn more!

Please visit our website www.newhopeforkids.org for up-to-date events, stories, volunteer opportunities, and to sign up for our e-newsletters!



## www.newhopeforkids.org

#### **ADDRESS UPDATE**

- □ Please remove my name from your mailing list
- ☐ Please change my address as noted on the right
- □ I am receiving duplicates

This information will help reduce our mailing cost. Cut your address label and mail to address above or email information@newhopeforkids.org.

**Connect With Us:** 









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.

## **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!

Non-profit Org U.S. Postage PAID Permit 114 Bellingham, WA

- · October 12: Shaken & Stirred: 5th Annual Casino Night
- October 13: 8th Annual Greater Maitland 5k
- Through November 18: Annual Food Drive
- TBA: Candle Lighting Central Florida
- November 23 December 20: Annual Toy Drive
- December 8: 10th Annual Holiday Bicycle Ride

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

#### "Our Kids" Thank You!

Children from our Grief and Wish programs feel special at *New Hope for Kids*, even during difficult times. Smiles are evident in these expressions of thanks.

"Painting in the art room helped me put my feelings into pictures." ~Amy, age 11

"My wish party was so much fun! It felt good to see so many people care about me!" ~Jose, age 8

"New Hope for Kids helped me understand that it was ok to feel happy again." ~David, age 17

"When I was in the hospital getting chemo, I dreamed about my wish to go on a Disney Cruise. *New Hope for Kids* made it come true!" ~Brittany, age 13

New Hope for Kids is an approved 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. 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.