

New Hope News!

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

What an Exciting Time in the History of New Hope for Kids!

Construction has started! After years of searching and planning, our new Center for Grieving Children is becoming a reality. Construction is underway on the entire first floor of our new facility located at 544 Mayo Avenue in Maitland. Approximately 1 mile from our current Grief Center, our new home is being transformed into a warm, welcoming environment with the touches of home that will help the families we serve find hope and healing within its walls.

In August 2015, demolition of the existing first floor interior began, preparing the space for the major changes to come. The large open "Great Hall", where some of you have attended functions such as the Mascot Meet & Greet and Children's Grief Awareness Day Candle Lighting Observance, is the scene of the biggest transformation. What started as one enormous space is being converted into 18 dedicated rooms and areas that will be our new grief center.

When construction is complete in early 2016, our current grief center will be moved into its new home. We have loved the old house on Maitland Avenue that has served us so well for so many years, and it will be a bittersweet goodbye when we leave. But we know that our new home will allow us to serve many more families, and offer more services than could ever have been possible in our current location. Here's looking to an exciting future for *New Hope for Kids!*



Phase II: What Happens Next
Walls, doors, floors, windows... they're the necessities of a structure. But in the case of *New Hope for Kids*, the details are nearly as important. (Some would say equally so.) Anyone who has visited our current Grief Center will tell you there is a sense of comfort, of being able to take a deep breath, to let go of some of our stress, all of which are possible because of the home-like environment we so carefully created.

When we open the doors to our new Grief Center in early 2016, there will still be work to do, finishes to add, that sense of comfort that is so important. These finishes, the details that will make our building like a home and create an atmosphere that invites healing, will be funded by continuing donations to our Capital Campaign.

You can be a part of the future of *New Hope for Kids* by helping us reach our financial goals! While funding exists for Phase I, we must continue to raise funds to continue making our house a home. You may be able to contribute, or you may know someone who can. We invite you to share the mission and needs of *New Hope for Kids* with your circle of friends and associates, with your synagogues, civic and church groups. Together we can create a healthy financial future for *New Hope for Kids!*

What's Inside

Our New Facility

Page 1

Lily's Legacy
Annual Toy Drive

Page 2

Mascot Games
Cookie Baking

Wish Story

Letter from Exec Dir

Page 3

New Hope Volunteers
NHFK Kamp

Kids & Family Expo
Community Support

Page 4

Building New Hope
Lemon-aid Stands
Cut-a-thon

UCF Cornerstone

Page 5

Our Wish List
Upcoming Events

Page 6

New Center for Grieving Children Becomes a Reality

It has long been the dream of *New Hope for Kids* to help as many families as possible. With our new facility comes the realization of this dream. More space means so many things to the families who need our help.

It means families participating in our grief program who have children in all 3 age groups can attend on one night instead of coming back to attend a second night. Limited space in our current grief center only allows 2 age groups to meet at once; now we can serve all 3. Families with children in wheelchairs will be able to access all grief program areas. And the frustration of waiting lists will no longer be a factor, as there will be plenty of room for everyone.

More space also means we can add more elements to our grief program services. New spaces are being built for the kids to express themselves creatively, to share their thoughts and feelings with fellow group members, to gather together before group in the kitchen area. Adults will find spaces created especially for them as they meet with their group counselor and other adults to support and learn from each other on their grief journeys. A Community Room will allow *New Hope for Kids* to offer special learning opportunities to like-minded organizations, as well as providing space for special gatherings of civic groups who wish to learn more about our mission.





Lily's Legacy

On April 9th of 2014, my daughter Lily was killed when a car drove through her preschool classroom. I can't possibly describe the devastation that this caused my family. My husband Brian, our 7 year-old son Ethan and I were barely functional. This wasn't a lingering illness. There was no time to come to grips with the possibility of death. One minute, our family was whole. The next, it was broken. Our beautiful, headstrong 4 year-old was gone. We were lost.



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 357 children in 2014 through grief facilitation and granted 44 wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. Since inception, *New Hope for Kids* has helped over 6,300 children -- over 4,700 through grief facilitation and over 1,600 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.

Though Brian and I were in a thick, dark fog immediately following Lily's accident, we were at least coherent enough to know that we needed to do whatever was necessary to get Ethan through this. After about two weeks had passed, we did some research into grief groups for children and found *New Hope for Kids*. When I called their Grief Program Director, Tamari Miller, to get more information, I couldn't even get through a sentence without crying. She wasn't just patient (which would have been enough), she was empathetic and truly compassionate, far beyond my expectations.

Ethan liked going to group from the very beginning. He felt a little better knowing that he wasn't alone in his experience or the feelings that go along with such a devastating loss. Brian and I benefit from the group, though it is in a much different way. We don't take any comfort in knowing that other people are living through their own nightmare of loss. However, we appreciate having a safe place to talk about what we are going through. It is also extremely helpful to be in a diverse group whose members are all in different stages of their grief. The *New Hope* experience has given us perspectives that we wouldn't have gotten on our own.



Over the past year, I've tried to make a positive change from something as horrific as the crash at my daughter's school. With the hard work and support of Chief Drozd of the Orange County Fire Department, I have been advocating what we call "Lily's Law." It is an ordinance that would require day care centers in high risk locations to install barricades to protect the kids and teachers inside. This advocacy requires me to share my family's pain with strangers (and in front of cameras and microphones) which is very challenging. However, I will continue to do it as long as there is even the slightest chance that it will help other kids in the future.

I can't ever thank *New Hope for Kids* enough for providing help to families like mine. It has provided us with a place where we can open up to people who understand loss, and it has given Ethan a way to channel his emotions through art and play. For this, I am eternally grateful.
~ Nicole Quintus

Annual TOY DRIVE - Help fill Santa's "BAG OF HOPE"

As the holidays approach, so does the important task of filling Santa's "BAG OF HOPE" with gifts for the kids in our grief and wish programs.

Due to the death of their main wage earner or medical expenses due to the life-threatening illness of a child, many of our *New Hope for Kids* families do not have extra funds for holiday gifts. This year *New Hope for Kids* will provide gifts to over 500 children. We need your help to make kids smile and give parents the joy of knowing they have gifts for their children.

There are a number of ways you can help!

- Sponsor a gift (\$25 or more), or a child (\$150) by visiting www.newhopeforkids.org/donate
- Donate gift cards to Walmart, Target or a local mall
- Visit a Central Florida Panera Café to select a tree tag
- Host a gift collection box at your business



Donations and unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at Panera or our Center for Grieving Children by December 17th. Visit www.newhopeforkids.org/toydrive for schedule of NHFK holiday hours. For pickup or other info, please call Rhonda at 407-928-4719.

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

Mascot Games Fan-tastic Fun for All

New Hope for Kids is so happy when these big-hearted Mascots come to town. This past June was another phenomenal three day extravaganza of entertainment with 24 Mascots representing MLB, NFL, NBA, NHL, MLS and NCAA battling against each other on four separate teams. Buddy Dyer, the Mayor of Orlando, said he thinks the Mascot Games is perhaps the loudest event held at the Amway Center Arena!

"Mascot Games is a wonderful, unique asset of *New Hope for Kids* and our community," states Ron Kaplan, who assists with the Mascot Games sponsorships. "Our Mascot Games corporate partnerships not only allow sponsors to market themselves, they also help increase awareness of *New Hope for Kids* in the corporate community, building stronger corporate ties and additional support for the organization throughout the year. Our sponsorships can also be customized which helps integrate our mission and their message."

On Thursday, a private Meet and Greet dinner offered a fun and memorable experience for *New Hope for Kids* grief and wish families who energetically gathered autographs of their favorite mascots. Our children got very special attention from the Mascots, and it was exciting for the families to get close to these fun-loving, furry friends.

Our appreciation goes out to Orlando Magic STUFF who serves as the Mascot Games Ambassador, and the exceptional volunteer Special Ops Committee who dedicate themselves so tirelessly to this magical event.



Mark your calendars!
Next year's event is set for
June 17th and 18th, 2016!
www.mascotgames.org



Cookie Baking Warms the Hearts of Our Kids!

Cookie baking at the Center for Grieving Children has grown into a beautiful volunteer activity and one that has flourished thanks to the good hearts of a local service sorority. Orlando Area Council of Beta Sigma Phi has selected *New Hope for Kids* as their Service Committee charity for the 2015-2016 season. Members will not only continue baking cookies for the kids attending our Center for Grieving Children and for Children's Grief Awareness Day, but will also support the Toy Drive and help fill Santa's Bag of Hope. Plus, their Silent Auction and proceeds for their upcoming Queen of Hearts Sweetheart Ball will benefit *New Hope for Kids*. Special thanks to Carol Jonda for leading this extraordinary effort on our behalf!



California Dream Comes True

Danielle was diagnosed with an aggressive bone disease causing severe and chronic pain, but she didn't let that stop her from enjoying the wish granted to her by New Hope for Kids.

My trip to California was an adventure that I will always remember. For years I have wanted to visit there, and finally getting my chance to go really was a wish come true. What made it even better was that I was able to share the trip with my best friend, Rachel. I loved being able to experience those moments with her. Every day was amazing. Some days were a bit difficult, but I wasn't about to let my disease stop me.



Danielle (r) and best friend, Rachel enjoying the California sun

I have so many great memories of California: seeing the Hollywood sign, visiting the Santa Monica Pier, driving through Beverly Hills, visiting the Grammy Museum, going on the TMZ bus tour, walking down the Hollywood Walk of Fame, standing in front of the TCL Chinese Theater, and taking pictures with the waxes at Madame Tussauds. I often think about my time in California and the exciting things I experienced with my best friend.

Even though the five hour flight there and six hour flight back was physically difficult, it was all worth it and I would love to go back some day. I will never be able to thank *New Hope for Kids* for everything they have done for me over the years. I will always be so grateful to them for providing me with one of the most amazing weeks of my life.

Greetings from our Executive Director

There's a lot happening at *New Hope for Kids*! We have moved our business offices to the second floor of our 544 Mayo Avenue facility, where renovations are underway on the ground floor. Phase I of construction is expected to be completed in February 2016, creating our new Grief Program spaces. We have raised approximately \$1.5 MM of our \$2.5 MM goal that will allow us to complete the work of Phases I and II.

We still need your help! Support from our community to help us reach this goal is more important than ever. You may know of an individual, or a corporation, foundation or trust that may be willing to help with a cash or in-kind donation. There are opportunities to give on many levels, from a personalized brick in our "Path to Hope", to sponsoring an activity room, all the way up to naming rights of the building itself! We have a \$100,000 dollar-for-dollar matching grant that doubles your donation, and if your employer has matching funds available, you could triple your donation!

Thanks to everyone that supported this year's Art of the Vine and BMW Drawing of Chance, we raised a record \$247,000 to help fund our grief and wish programs. On June 19th and 20th we held our 22nd annual Mascot Games, which was the most successful in the history of the event, raising an incredible \$77,000 to support *New Hope for Kids*.

All of our accomplishments could not have happened without the help of hundreds of very dedicated volunteers. Last year 25,094 volunteer hours were donated. That's equivalent to 12 full time people, or a total employment cost of over \$500,000! Volunteers really are the heart of our organization, and we couldn't function without them.



As we move forward, I want to encourage each of you to share our mission with others, to get involved if you can, and to help us get our new home finished.

With sincere thanks,
Dave Joswick



Volunteer Myra, 99 Years Young

Dedicated volunteer, Myra Venable, has given more than one thousand days of her life to Maitland's *New Hope for Kids* over the past twenty years. She began volunteering for NHFK in 1995 when she met (then) Volunteer Manager, Rosie Wilder. The two women hit it off, and have shared a friendship ever since. For the past two decades Myra has assisted Rosie, who is now NHFK Wish Program Director, and Myra's behind the scenes office work has helped expedite wishes for thousands of kids. Rosie shared that Myra has saved her hundreds of hours of time, so that she can concentrate on the details of fulfilling a wish.

Myra is often asked about the secret to her longevity. She gives credit to her healthy lifestyle and her sense of humor. She also credits her work with *New Hope for Kids* as a reason she continues to live a meaningful life. "If I didn't do my volunteering I would go crazy. It gets me out of the house and into the social world. I always like to do something for others. I basically like to help children and their families."

Staff members at *New Hope for Kids* think of Myra as family. They enjoy working alongside her each Wednesday and chatting over lunch together.



"Be happy. Be friends and enjoy people and the camaraderie of giving back to the community. That's my secret to a long life."

From Grief to Service, a Family Gives Back



In 2007, a family friend suggested to Danielle Bailey that she take her daughter to *New Hope for Kids* to help her deal with the death of her step-father. This caring mom also learned that she would receive much-needed help for herself. About a year into the program, Danielle began helping at functions and speaking to the community, then became a volunteer grief facilitator in 2009. During their time in the grief program, Danielle appreciated knowing that her daughter was getting the help she needed, and that she felt *New Hope for Kids* was her "safe place" to grieve. They both felt comforted knowing they were not alone in the grief process.

Her daughter, Sabrine, is now a grief facilitator as well, and has this to say about her experience, "As a volunteer grief facilitator I help children from ages 4-6, or "The Littles" as we call them. I reflect what they say as if they were looking in a mirror and talking to themselves. So in reality, they are helping with their own grief and I'm just like a little stepping stool. I also volunteer at *New Hope for Kids* events like Grief Awareness Day and grief camp. I continue to volunteer because I love it. *New Hope for Kids* is like my second home, so in reality I'm helping my family."

This mother and daughter begin their grief journey feeling lost and vulnerable, and walked forward with support to a place of healing. *New Hope for Kids* is extremely grateful that they made the decision to give back by volunteering. Sabrine's heartfelt words say it all. "To know that you helped a child with their grief, as I was helped at *New Hope for Kids*, and that you can make that child feel a little better, is most important to me and that's what I like about this program."

New Hope for Kids Kamp

This summer's *New Hope for Kids* Kamp was great! A generous group of volunteers joined us for three days of friend-making and fun activities. Families were able to relax for a few days knowing that their children were well-cared for. It was endearing to see the volunteers help and engage so wonderfully with our kids. Everyone was involved with amazing projects...from swimming at the pool, water color painting, building memory boxes, painting tube characters and more, to the special fire truck presentation by Stormy Burns! There was plenty to eat and drink (a *New Hope* tradition!) each day, and Kamp ended with a family day BBQ and goodie bags for the kids. And to all the volunteers that gave their time...we appreciate your energy and compassion for our wish and grief families. You make our events extra special!

Florida Kids and Family Expo

The Florida Kids and Family Expo was a fantastic, first-time event that took place in the Orange County Convention Center on August 29th and 30th. Families had the chance to discover what Central Florida has to offer parents and kids of all ages, including parents-to-be and grandparents! "It was so awesome that *New Hope for Kids* was selected as the beneficiary for this epic family venture. We saw about 16,000 attendees at the event having a grand time!" shared Gloria Capozzi, Volunteer and Marketing Manager. Supreme kudos to Brandi Zrallack and her team for this AMAZING success. Next year's event is a must-see for families, so mark your calendars for August 27-28, 2016. For more info FloridaKidsandFamilyExpo.com



Central FL Community Supports NHFK

Confidence in *New Hope for Kids* has been expressed by a number of local foundations, including the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, the Martin Andersen - Gracia Andersen Foundation, Harvey L. Massey Foundation, HCF Foundation, and others. Together, these philanthropic organizations have pledged or donated more than \$547,000 to our Capital Campaign. A Matching Grant of \$100,000 has also been pledged by an anonymous donor who wishes to challenge Central Florida to get involved by supporting *New Hope for Kids*.

Showing their commitment to our organization and its future, members of *New Hope for Kids* Board of Directors have pledged a total of nearly \$200,000.00 to the renovation of our new facility. As members of our Central Florida community, these dedicated individuals have shown how important our mission is to the families who need our services.

We've received donations and pledges from many individuals, as well. Every dollar makes a difference, so don't be discouraged from giving just because you can't donate a large amount! The African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child" can easily be applied here in this way: "It takes a community to support *New Hope for Kids*!"

The Team That's "Building New Hope"

Architect Robert Day has been a true champion for *New Hope for Kids*, tirelessly and generously working with us since 2007. He has provided his outstanding architectural experience to our organization for 8 years at no cost to us. (To say this is a substantial contribution would be an understatement.) He painstakingly designed a brand new facility for vacant land that we attempted to purchase, but after several years of zoning issues the sale did not go through. In order to determine if they would work for our programs, he redesigned existing facilities that we attempted to purchase, but those sales also failed. Finally, the right building was located, right here in Maitland, and he went to work again. This time Bob's vision is becoming a reality. His design for our new facility is beautiful and functional. It inspires thoughts of comfort and healing, just what we had hoped for. Interior structures are being built; home-like details are ready to be implemented. This quiet, modest, caring family man has taken our mission to heart from the beginning of his relationship with *New Hope for Kids*. We are privileged to have witnessed Bob's dedication, and thankful beyond words for his commitment to our organization.



Bob's inspired design is being turned into reality by KTH Architects and Charles Perry Partners Inc. They each expressed what this project means to them.

KTH ARCHITECTS "It has always been the mantra of KTH Architects that 'Family comes first.' Few things embody that ideal like the mission of *New Hope for Kids*. It has been a privilege to be part of the project to create a new home for the New Hope Family. We hope that the new home will inspire children and families to find relief in their grief journey as it has been our goal to create a place that can transform, revitalize, reinvent, and celebrate our spirits." – John Adams, AIA – Principal-in-Charge of KTH Architects, Inc. Orlando Office

"Charles Perry Partners, Inc., a Florida based firm founded in 1968, strives to maintain the same personal roots developed by our founder Charles 'Chuck' Perry within our organization as well as the communities we serve. CPPI's five core values of Commitment, Integrity, Teamwork, Excellence, and Stewardship drive us toward continuous improvement in providing quality construction management as well as bettering the communities in which we live and work. With that being said, we were extremely grateful to be selected as the Construction Manager for *New Hope for Kids*' new Center for Grieving Children. As a partner throughout the preconstruction stage, our excitement has grown as the project progresses and the hard work and efforts of the New Hope Staff and KTH Architects becomes evident as the existing space begins its transformation." ~ Chris Brunson, Senior Project Manager, Charles Perry Partners Inc.



Left to Right:
Craig Haire, Project Superintendent, CPPI;
John Koch, Project Engineer, CPPI;
Bob Day, Architect;
Tony Martin, NHFK Board Member

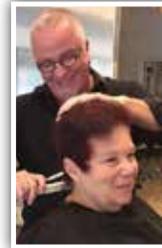


Operation: Lemon-aid Stands at Panera Bread

Nothing says summertime like Panera Lemonade! On August 7th and 8th from 10AM – 2PM, special Lemon-Aid Stands were displayed at 32 Central Florida Panera Bread cafes in support of *New Hope for Kids*. In fact, each store built and decorated their own lemonade stand, so it really was a labor of love. For just one dollar, thirsty visitors received a cool serving of Panera's delicious lemonade with all money collected benefiting *New Hope for Kids*. Panera even extended their generous gift to include funds received through Operation Dough-Nation boxes during the entire month of August. Over 150 *New Hope for Kids* volunteers gave their time and energy to serve lemonade and spread the mission of our organization. We appreciate the generosity of our long-time partner, Panera Bread and the heart-felt way they care for us and the Central Florida community.



Cut-a-thon Makes a Difference



One person can make a difference, and this time it was Gary Lambert. The owner of Gary Lambert Salon on Park Avenue in Winter Park, was introduced to *New Hope for Kids* by our dear volunteer, Jola Cope, when discussing the idea of a Cut-a-Thon to raise monies for a give-back to the community. Gary rallied his team of talented stylists (who volunteered their time and contributed their tips) and reached out to the Aveda Institute Orlando for support with blow drying and shampoos. Ideas and plans became reality on September 13th, and over \$5,200.00 was raised for *New Hope for Kids* programs! "I felt like a princess," said Lori Loftus, "I really needed this!" Thanks to Gary Lambert's commitment to his community, a beautiful difference was made for *New Hope for Kids*.

Our Thanks to UCF's Cornerstone Teams

Since 2003, University of Central Florida students from the Cornerstone Program have partnered with *New Hope for Kids*. They made a huge impact on the Wishes for Kids Program by raising funds and "adopting" a special Wish Child. Their willingness, combined with our need for funding and student involvement, opened the door to an extraordinary experience. Over the past 12 years, Rosie Wilder, Wish Program Director, worked with approximately 2,400 students who raised \$40,000-\$50,000 annually for wish costs, and canvassed the Central Florida area sharing *New Hope for Kids*' mission. Teams directed caring attention to each child and gave what money cannot—a sense of hope.

New Hope for Kids was officially notified in March of 2015, that UCF would no longer offer Cornerstone as a part of their business program. This significant loss of funding has left a great void. Beyond funding, it is impossible to replace 200 students who share their enthusiasm, compassion and dedication for helping our children. Their influence was felt by children who were amazed by the time spent with them. Our Central Florida community was changed one wish at a time through their encouragement and compassion. They cannot be replaced and no amount of money can compensate for UCF's excellent students. We are so proud and privileged to have worked with some of the finest young adults of this generation. Our future is in good hands!



544 Mayo Ave.
Maitland, FL 32751

www.newhopeforkids.org



Non-profit Org
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LITHTEX NW



Bringing Hope,
Healing & Happiness



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 - 544 Mayo Ave., Maitland, FL 32751
To make a donation by credit card, call 407-331-3059 x10
or visit www.newhopeforkids.org/donate

Items we frequently need:

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

Upcoming Events... Save the Date!

Holiday Bike Ride- Saturday, December 12th

Join us as we tour Casselberry neighborhoods to view homes decorated with the magic of the season. Thanks to continuing support from the Seminole County Sheriff's Office and David's World Cycle, this event is truly a safe and family-friendly experience. See website for details.

You Could Win a BRAND NEW 2016 BMW!

During our 26th Annual Drawing of Chance
Tickets are \$100 each or sets of two for \$150.



Drawing takes place on **April 15, 2016**
at our annual **Art of the Vine** event.
(Admission not included. Need not be present to win)

For tickets and rules:
Call 407-331-3059 x10 or visit
www.newhopeforkids.org/bmw



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

No purchase necessary. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR New Hope for Kids, A FLORIDA-BASED NONPROFIT CORPORATION (REGISTRATION NO. SC-01297), MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OR VISITING THEIR WEBSITE <https://csapp.800helpfla.com/cspublicapp/giftgiversquery/giftgiversquery.aspx>. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. THIS ORGANIZATION DOES NOT RETAIN AN OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL SOLICITOR AND, THEREFORE, RETAINS 100% OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED.

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.