

New Hope News!

New Hope for Kids • Children's Grief Support & Children's Wish Programs • (407) 331-3059 • www.newhopeforkids.org

Sam Wins at NASCAR!

Sam is 11 and is literally fighting for life on a daily basis. He has Ewing's Sarcoma, a cancerous bone tumor. Sam is an incredibly bright, personable child who has a passion for NASCAR. His wish was to meet Jimmie Johnson and be in a spectator box to view the Coke Zero 400 Race on July 5. *New Hope for Kids* was determined to give him an experience of a lifetime!

Helping us with Sam's wish was UCF's Cornerturners Team. They were able to acquire tickets to the Daytona Cubs Baseball Game where a post-chemotherapy party and wish celebration was held. One of the students said, *"We learned that this project was not about us; it was about changing someone's life."*

Sam's party was held June 21st and he had a great time. He was able to throw out a first pitch! In an article printed in the local paper, Sam wrote, *"Thank you, New Hope for Kids Foundation & Cornerturners of UCF, for providing the tickets for my End of Chemo party at Jackie Robinson Ballpark. I had a GREAT time celebrating with my family and friends. It was very cool to meet the staff and ball players of the Daytona Cubs. I received a lot of cool gear that they autographed for me. I felt very special for having the Cubs do this for me. Thank you very much for all that you have done for me and my family."*

On July 5, his wish to go to a NASCAR race was fulfilled. Bob, Sam's Dad, recalls, *"We had great Petty Tower seats to the Coke Zero 400 and took a garage tour courtesy of the NASCAR Foundation. Sam was able to meet several drivers and get lots of autographs."* Sam spent time with drivers Kyle Busch and Regan Smith, and even got to attend the driver's meeting! *"Thanks to everyone at New Hope for Kids and the NASCAR Foundation as well as the UCF Cornerturners for making all of this happen."*

As if that wasn't enough, the icing on the cake was a trip to meet Jimmie Johnson at a luncheon in Charlotte, NC held by his foundation. Sam's Dad shared, *"Everything went incredibly well. The hotel was excellent and we drove around the area on Monday and saw some race shops and took a tour of the Lowe's Motor Speedway. We went to the luncheon on Tuesday where Sam was able to meet and hang out with Jimmie Johnson, his wife and some of the people from the Foundation including Mary Barr. Everyone was so great. Sam was, of course, thrilled. It was the trip of a lifetime. Thank you so much for everything you have done for us."*



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Holiday Toy Drive: December 1st - 19th, 2008

Each holiday season, *New Hope for Kids* provides toys and gifts to children in our wish and grief programs. Last year we distributed gifts to over 350 kids! That figure represents 144 *New Hope for Kids* families who tell us they wouldn't have been able to make the holidays special without our help. Our wish and grief families are often struggling because of mounting medical bills, or perhaps because their income has been drastically cut because of the death of their spouse. The thought of not being able to provide a happy holiday for their children makes the struggle seem so much harder.

Can you help us help them, please? Look for "Hope Trees" in Central Florida Panera Bread stores, Florida's Blood Centers and other locations which will be posted on the website as they join the drive. These trees will have gift tags which list a specific item that has been requested by a child. Please help us bring joy to "our kids" this year by choosing a gift tag from a Hope Tree near you and returning your new, unwrapped gift to the same location. If your church, civic group, or place of work is sponsoring a toy drive, or if you'd like to make a donation on your own, unwrapped toys (or monetary donations) may be delivered to *New Hope for Kids* Center for Grieving Children in Maitland. We especially need gifts for teenage boys and girls!

*Dear New Hope for Kids,
Where do I begin? Wow! You're such a blessing and answer to our prayers. Thank you for providing such great service for my daughter. Christmas was saved due to your generous gifts, it lifted her spirits and took my stress level down. She loved the presents & I loved seeing her smile. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.*





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 240 children in 2007 through grief facilitation and granted 49 wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. Since inception, *New Hope for Kids* has helped over 3,700 children -- over 2,500 through grief facilitation and over 1,200 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.

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

(407) 331-3059

The Healing Activity of.. Skydiving!

New Hope for Kids Special Circumstances Group helps families deal with the unique challenges of grief when the death of a loved one is caused by suicide or homicide. In the article below, read how one mom is dealing with these challenges and seeing a bright future ahead for herself and her son.

My son and I were blessed the instant we were informed of your grief support program. I instantly learned that I was not alone. By learning from the others at various stages of grief, I was able to move forward, finding positive ways to heal. My own healing enables me to be a greater support for my son, who anxiously awaits every visit to the facility! He shows continued improvement in expressing his feelings. While the road ahead is long and uncertain, we know that it is filled with faith, hope, and a bright future.

As part of my personal healing process, I searched for a goal or activity that would symbolize my own strength and healing. I needed *something* that would prove to my inner self that I was stronger than I ever before imagined I could be...I chose skydiving! Through great faith, prayer, and growth achieved through the support group, I was able to overcome an old fear on March 22. It was truly a positive release for me! Floating above the clouds in a parachute for a few minutes certainly gave me a greater appreciation for life and the future that it holds.



Reading this quote daily has also helped me in many ways:

"In our lives, we have many trials. But in the end, it's those trials that make us the people we are today. Don't hold on to the things that make you sad, but the things that bring you happiness and joy. Don't take for granted the people you have in front of you, because tomorrow they could walk right out of your life without you having a chance to say a proper goodbye. For today you should smile because one moment of you being sad is a moment of happiness you cannot replace." (author unknown)

My sincere gratitude goes to all of the staff and volunteers at *New Hope for Kids*!

~ Angel, member of *New Hope for Kids Special Circumstances Group*

To learn more about *New Hope for Kids Center for Grieving Children* visit www.newhopeforkids.org or call 407-599-0909.



From Dave Joswick, Executive Director

The economy is on everyone's mind. The effect of the economic changes in our country has been devastating to our families. In addition to dealing with the death of a loved one, or the ongoing battle with the illness of their child, our families are also facing the rising costs of the essentials of life. We all try to reduce spending where we can, but some things just can't be cut out of the budget.

What happens to a family when dad dies? His death often reduces the family's income significantly. Can the kids wear the same shoes a year longer? No. Kids grow. What if a child breaks an arm? Can they cut doctor visits out of the budget?

Downsizing the family vehicle might save gas money. But can a wish family sell their van and buy a compact car? Not likely. Wheelchairs don't fit in smaller cars. Can a single mom take a second job to pay for her child's healthcare? Maybe, but who will care for her disabled child while she's at work? Will she even bring in enough to pay a second caregiver?

Where can *New Hope for Kids* cut back? We may have to scale back at times, but we intend to remain strong so that our programs will be available to any Central Florida child who needs us.

We strive to give our families hope for tomorrow, especially in times like these. We want them to know there are better days ahead, and with your help we can. Please talk with your family to see how you can help. We need volunteers, supplies and financial donations now more than ever. With everyone's help we'll be able to continue providing our specialized grief and wish services to Central Florida children when they need us most.

Giving Kids Hope Annual Giving Society

Give the Gift of Hope! Support our Annual Giving Program.

When you make a donation to help a local child, two lives are changed forever.

The life of an ill or grieving child is changed for the better as a result of your gift. With your support, we work with a child and his or her family to overcome the pain and grief that result from the death of a loved one or a severe childhood illness. The child will benefit from our interactive group support program and special activities designed to help them work through specific problems like depression or isolation. They will learn skills that will help prevent problems that may haunt them in the future like failure in school or even drug or alcohol abuse. In fact, the entire family benefits because our programs are designed to help them work through this difficult time together.

Your life will be changed as well. Your heart will be touched knowing that your donation gave an innocent child from your community the chance to smile again. When you become part of our Annual Giving Program you effectively sponsor a child and this will forever change the life of that boy or girl. They will always know that someone cares enough to help. And you will always know that you made a real difference.

Now, more than ever, *New Hope for Kids* depends on your support to serve those in need. Please consider signing up to make a yearly contribution to help our kids. Whether your gift is a few dollars or much more, you will be helping us bring health, healing and happiness to kids whose families often don't know where to turn. You know your gift will be used wisely, because 93% or more of all revenue goes directly to program services, not to high administrative costs.



Joining is easy!
Please call us or go to our website to sign up or for more information.
407-331-3059 x12
www.newhopeforkids.org

Our Mission, Your Legacy

If you've ever tended a severely ill child or grieved the death of a loved one, you understand the pain that suffering and loss can bring. Please help *New Hope for Kids* and local children today and in the future by including us in your will. Your commitment will make sure that *New Hope for Kids'* legacy, and your own, will be a lasting one.

New Hope for Kids or your attorney can help provide sample language that best expresses your intentions. You can be assured that your wishes will be honored and your gift will support children for years to come.

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For more information, please contact Marla Sullivan at
407-331-3059 ext. 12 or marla@newhopeforkids.org.
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Our Community in Action

The Central Florida community loves *New Hope for Kids*, and here are a few ways some of our neighbors have shown it!

Lemonade Stand: Maureen Gavin celebrated her 8th birthday this year and decided that it was more important for her to give than to receive presents. In lieu of gifts, Maureen set up a lemonade stand during her birthday celebration and invited her guests as well as individuals in her community to purchase hot dogs and lemonade and informed them that the proceeds would benefit children at *New Hope for Kids*. Maureen's selfless gesture, which generated \$60, is such a wonderful example of how it is never too early to be of service to others and that even today a child-made lemonade stand can still bring a community together. Thank you to Maureen and to her parents, Mary and Daniel, for bringing hope to the families we serve.



Memory Quilt: Blankets have been a source of comfort for hundreds of grieving children that *New Hope for Kids* serve. The Orlando/Central Florida chapter of Project Linus, whose mission is to provide blankets to children who are in need of a warm hug, has been so gracious over the years to create beautiful, intricately detailed, colorful and cozy blankets. They donate them to *New Hope for Kids* to share with children in our wish program and with children as they enter our grief program after the death of a loved one. Parents tell us that their children love the blankets and often carry them wherever they go. One of the members of Project Linus, who donates anonymously, lended her hands to create a very special memorial quilt with the help of our Special Circumstances group. The children who participate in this group have been affected by deaths due to homicide and/or suicide. Each child created a unique quilt square with a memory or symbol that reminded them of their loved one. Once these were completed, the quilter from Project Linus created our first memorial quilt. The fabrics she selected to connect the memory squares were a perfect backdrop for the final product: a quilt honoring the lives of those that very special children loved. They can now share their memories with others as the quilt will be displayed on the walls of *New Hope for Kids*. You can read more about Project Linus by visiting www.projectlinus.org.



Mitzvah Day: *New Hope for Kids* was selected to participate in the Jewish Community Center's summer camp 2008 Mitzvah Day. Over 150 children from the JCC summer camp and from a local boys and girls club contributed to the community service project. It was a wonderful opportunity to network with our across the street neighbors. It was great to see children learning the meaning and value of giving back to others. The campers created picture frames which were given to the children who participate in the grief program, they weeded and planted flowers to beautify the outside of our center, and they prepared goodie bags that were given to *New Hope* families during the Mascot Games. As part of the day, children from *New Hope for Kids* were invited to the JCC to participate in a variety of field and water games. Under the direction of Christie Miga, Mitzvah Day was a wonderful day of sharing and fun for all. Christie also shared her wonderful artistic abilities with the assistance of the campers and created a vibrant and wonderfully crafted mural centered around the *New Hope* logo that will adorn the walls of *New Hope for Kids* along with the artwork that the children who participate in the grief program create. Thank you to Christie, the JCC campers and the wonderful camp counselors who accompanied the campers for gifting *New Hope* with art, friendship and fun.



16th Annual Celebrity Mascot Games



The Amway Arena and Stetson University were filled with fun and laughter this summer as more than 30 of the nation's top professional and collegiate mascots battled their way through wacky games on July 24th through July 26th. Bringing smiles to over 20,000 Central Florida children and adults, this perfect family event, hosted by the Central Florida Sports Commission, brings so much to our community each year. It financially benefits *New Hope for Kids'* Grief and Wish programs, allows us the opportunity to grant wishes for some very special children and provides lasting memories the kids in our community look forward to experiencing every year. Be sure to save a spot on next summer's calendar for the return of the Celebrity Mascot Games (dates announced in the spring of 2009). One of our favorite family events, this unique experience is one you will not want to miss!

New Hope for Kids Summer Kamp

Thanks to the hard work of many, especially volunteer Katie Burn, fun times were enjoyed by everyone who attended "Kids Kamp" at Christmas Airstream Park on June 12, 13 and 14, 2008. "Kampers" enjoyed their days working on red, white & blue themed crafts and swimming in the park's refreshing pool. Their day started with a yummy breakfast prepared by our Kamp cook, volunteer Lisa Charlton. For the closing of Kamp Saturday afternoon, parents and friends had fun visiting with each other and seeing all of the kids' crafts. A live band performed while a delicious fried chicken lunch was enjoyed by everyone. To add to the festivities, five-year-old Rachel received a wish for a Disney Cruise with her family. Over the 3-day period, 100 children, 60 adults and 40 volunteers from Eckerd's Camp plus 10 volunteers from NHFK participated in the fun & activities. A heartfelt thanks to all the great volunteers, the UCF Cornerstone program for helping fund the Kamp, Publix and Christmas Airstream Park for their continued support. 2009 will be another year full of surprises for the kids!

"Silly September" Family Event

An afternoon of fun was enjoyed by *New Hope for Kids* families on September 20, 2008 at the First Presbyterian Church in Maitland. Kids and adults arrived in silly attire, with clothes turned inside out, goofy hats, silly shoes and more. DJ Kent provided a good time for all with musical chairs, TV Shows Music Trivia, line dancing and more. Everyone who attended "Silly September" brought a dish to share, with NHFK volunteers providing desserts. Emmanuel and his family were welcomed into the *New Hope for Kids* family when he received his wish for a computer. Emmanuel's beaming face told everyone that this was his wish of a lifetime. A BIG thanks to all the volunteers that helped make the day special. Memories of "Silly September" will make us smile for a long time to come!



Greater Maitland 5K

Over 360 participants gathered Saturday, October 4 to run or walk in the 4th Annual Greater Maitland 5K. Designed to unite the Maitland community, this event brought together neighbors and local businesses alike to support the mission of *New Hope for Kids*, Central Florida Helpline and Shepherd's Hope. We would like to thank Orangewood Presbyterian Church and Fleet Feet Sports Orlando for dedicating so many resources and time to make the day a success. Also, we would like to thank the volunteers and the many generous sponsors without whom this event would not be possible.

Welcome New Employees

We're pleased to announce two new employees!



Cory Johns, Volunteer Coordinator

Born in Hamilton, Ohio, Cory moved to Florida when he was 8 years old and was raised in St. Lucie County. After high school he attended the University of Central Florida, where he received his B.S. in Business Management in May, 2008. Cory credits much of his success so far to the everlasting support of his family. His first experience with *New Hope* was through UCF's Cornerstone program. He and his group organized several successful fundraising events for our Wish Program. It was during this time that Cory gained a great appreciation for our organization, prompting him to pursue a career with us as the Volunteer Coordinator in September, 2008. He has experienced the death of several relatives and understands the grief our families incur as a result. Cory also serves as a Grief Facilitator, and is a valuable and compassionate addition to our family.



Margie Grebin, Adult Support Counselor

Margie earned her B.S. degree in Psychology and her Masters of Science degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Stetson University in Deland, Florida. She is currently registered with the State of Florida as a Marriage and Family Therapy Intern and is a member of the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC). Margie is also the author of a number of publications including the book "Baseball Forever! A boy's book on grief, loss, and healing". In addition to her position as an adult support counselor with *New Hope for Kids*, she currently works at the Center for Counseling and Consulting as a marriage and family therapist intern. Margie and her husband of 12 years, Fred, have 3 children. They also have 5 grandchildren, 2 who live nearby, and enjoy staying involved with them and their many activities.

To learn about the rest of our staff, visit
www.newhopeforkids.org

We're hosting another blood drive!

Join us at the Center for Grieving Children on November 17, 2008 and **give the gift of life!** Our first blood drive was a great success and we're hoping our second will be even better. The Big Red Bus will be in the parking lot of the Center for Grieving Children in Maitland from 4:00pm until 7:00pm on Monday November 17th. Remember to bring a picture ID with you. Questions about giving blood? Check out Florida's Blood Center's website www.floridasbloodcenters.org and remember... There is no substitute for blood. People are the only source.



2008 Thanksgiving Food Drive

New Hope for Kids' Food Drive helps our families who may be struggling to put Thanksgiving dinner on the table. In 2007, we helped an unprecedented number of families: over 100 *New Hope for Kids* families received bags of non-perishable food for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. As you can imagine, this required an extraordinary amount of space to sort, store and distribute to those in need. This year, we know the need will be even greater for our families who are hurting and struggling financially. In order to make this drive more effective, we're asking for donations of grocery store gift cards that can be distributed to families who will then purchase their own food for Thanksgiving dinner. Please help us by donating a \$10, \$20 or \$50 gift card that can be used at Winn Dixie, Publix, Albertsons or Wal-Mart. Donations will be accepted now through November 21, 2008 at the Center for Grieving Children in Maitland. You can mail your gift card (or check) to *New Hope for Kids*, 900 North Maitland Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751. If dropping off in person, please call ahead 407-599-0909. You may also donate online. Visit www.newhopeforkids.org and remember to mention the food drive as your reason for donating. We're so thankful for you!

Holiday Grief Support

The holidays can be a challenging time for individuals and families whose loved ones have died. As a result, local organizations come together on an annual basis to serve as a source of comfort and a beacon of hope during these times for those who are walking their grief journey. Two events in which *New Hope for Kids* participates with local support groups and organizations are the **National Survivors of Suicide Day** and **Candlelighting Central Florida**.

This year the **National Survivors of Suicide Day** will be held on November 22, 2008 from 11am-4pm at Rollins College. All survivors and their supporters are invited to attend. There will be opportunities to share with other survivors and to gather resources that are in the Central Florida community that can be accessed for ongoing grief support.

Candlelighting Central Florida will be held at the Maitland Civic Center in Maitland, near Lake Lily, on November 16, 2008 at 5:00 pm. This holiday preparation event (formerly Candlelighting Orlando held at Lake Eola) offers voices of experience sharing their anticipations of the holiday season and practical ways they have found helpful for dealing with the challenging weeks ahead. All individuals in the Central Florida area that have experienced any form of loss are encouraged to come out and share in this event.



Christmas Bike 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 13, grab your bikes and cruise through 10 miles of neighborhoods full of holiday lights and decorations. During a special stop half way along the route, riders get a chance to get off their bikes, grab a snack and enjoy some of the most brightly lit streets in Central Florida. Come make a new family tradition at the *New Hope for Kids* Christmas Bike Ride!

Ride begins 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.

Win a New 2009 BMW 128i !!



Everyone's favorite fundraiser has started again! Be one of the first to secure a chance at being the winner of the newly introduced 2009 BMW 128i. How about purchasing 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 March 27th 2009 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 or call (407) 331-3059 x10.

Get Acquainted Lunch

If you are interested in getting a first-hand look at *New Hope for Kids*, please feel free to join us at one of our upcoming Get Acquainted lunches. This highly informative yet informal lunch provides an opportunity for you to tour the Center for Grieving Children, learn more about the Grief and Wish Programs and ask any questions you may have. *New Hope for Kids* strives to provide complete family support. Educating our community about these resources is the best way to make sure they are fully utilized and continue to grow.

The next luncheon will be held Friday, November 21, 2008.
To RSVP or for more information, please call Joy at (407) 331-3059 x15 or email joy@newhopeforkids.org.

Get "New Hope News" by Email!

We'd love to keep you up-to-date on *New Hope for Kids'* current news and events! All you have to do is visit our website and share your email address with us. We'll update your records and you'll receive the next e-newsletter delivered right to your email inbox. By using this technology, you'll have the chance to participate in the fun instead of reading about it after! We will not give, sell or rent your email address to any third party at any time, for any reason.

To sign up, visit www.newhopeforkids.org/contact.php4 While you're there, please let us know your current mailing address and phone numbers. We don't want you to miss a thing!

New Hope for Kids, Inc.
900 North Maitland Ave.
Maitland, FL 32751
407-599-0909

www.newhopeforkids.org



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.

Our Wish List:

- Items for Silent Auction
- Cookies, salty snacks & Capri Suns
- Gifts for teens: Video games, DVD movies, CD/DVD/MP3 players, etc.
- Craft supplies, paint paper & Tempera paint
- Disposable cameras
- Assorted greeting cards, scrapbooks, paper & supplies
- Gas station gift cards
- Store gift cards for food & toy drives

Upcoming Volunteer Needs:

- November 17th - Blood Drive
- December 7th - Old Towne Event
- December 13th - Christmas Bike Ride
- December 14th - Family Christmas Event
- Distribute Items from our Christmas Food & Toy Drive
- Help with "Win a BMW" ticket sales

Ongoing Volunteer Needs:

Grief Facilitators: Have you always wanted to help kids? *New Hope for Kids* is looking for that special person who is willing to come in twice a month from 5:00– 8:00 p.m. and facilitate activities for kids who have had a death in their family. Volunteers are asked to make a one-year commitment. Spanish-speaking grief facilitators are always needed.

Office Support: Help needed M-F between 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. with typing, filing, mailings, computer entry and reception desk.

Grief Center Assistants: Organize playrooms, assist with gardening, cleaning or maintenance.

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

Wish Program Assistants: 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 Cory Johns at: 407-599-0909 x26.