

New Hope News!

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

New Hope for Kids Wish Goes to Washington D.C.!

"Every wish child and every wish is unique," shared Rosie Wilder, Wish Director for New Hope for Kids, "but meeting the President of the United States is in a class of its own." It was the successful culmination of a collaborative effort that began in August, 2007 when Rosie visited Glenn to determine his wish.

Glenn, now 18 years old, is about to graduate. He has spina bifida, a birth defect in which the backbone and spinal canal do not close before birth. In spite of physical challenges, Glenn is an excellent student and is very interested in history, science and politics. Hence, his wish to go to Washington D.C.

With the help of Rep. Tom Feeney's office, Team "Driven" from UCF's Cornerstone program helped make Glenn's wish come true! Team Driven helped fund the trip and celebrated his wish at NBA City, and Rep. Feeney's office paved the way for Glenn's meeting with President Bush. New Hope for Kids is grateful for each person who made Glenn's wish a reality.

"Our trip to Washington D.C. was one that I will not soon forget. Some of the highlights of the week include meeting the president, visiting Goddard Space Center, and seeing countless historical sites around the city.

Meeting the president was the greatest part of the trip. When we arrived in the oval office, President Bush welcomed me and made me feel at ease. Even though he is one of the most powerful men in the world, he calmed all of the nervousness I was feeling. He began by telling me how he begins his day and some of his philosophies.



Then we went to his desk for a photo shoot. After that, he signed a baseball for me and gave me a tie clip with the Presidential seal. Then he asked if I had any questions; I had a few prepared. Afterwards, we said goodbye and headed off to another adventure.

Visiting Goddard Space Center was another amazing experience. We saw the space shuttle take off from the mission control there. The night sky lit up when the shuttle lifted off in the darkness of night. It was like the sun was rising even though it was two-thirty in the morning! Later that day we took a tour of the facility and saw many instruments that will be taken to space in the future. Also, we met the crew

that is going to repair the Hubble Space Telescope in August. This was such an awesome day and I learned so much.

During our week stay, we saw the Capitol Building, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, National Archives, and various Smithsonian museums. We took a tour of the Capitol, and sat in a Congressional session. Seeing these and historical documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States was indescribable.

Our vacation was so exciting and a fun learning experience for me. I want to learn more about our amazing country that we live in. I want to thank New Hope for Kids, UCF, and Congressman Feeney for the awesome experience that my family and I had." 🍀

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★ ★ ★ **16th Annual Mascot Games!!!** Ready...Get Set...Go!!! The infamous mascots are tumbling into town again, and you won't want to miss this year's annual Celebrity Mascot Games! Over the course of three days, more than thirty of the nation's top professional and collegiate mascots will battle their way through wacky, zany games at the Amway Arena and Stetson University. This perfect family event benefits New Hope for Kids' Grief and Wish programs and is hosted by New Hope for Kids' partner for the event, the Central Florida Sports Commission.

This year we are taking the Games to a new level, and you will not want to miss it! So come join us as we take part in the silly antics these big-hearted mascots bring to Central Florida each year!

How do I attend? Tickets are available through Ticket Master for \$9.00 or through New Hope for Kids for only \$6.00. To get your tickets from New Hope for Kids, visit our website www.newhopeforkids.org or call 407-331-3059 x10.

Each ticket will allow you to attend one of the following dates: ★ **Thursday, July 24 – Stetson University @ 2:00pm**

★ **Friday, July 25 – Amway Arena @ 12:30pm**

★ **Saturday, July 26 – Amway Arena @ 2:00pm (new time!)**





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.

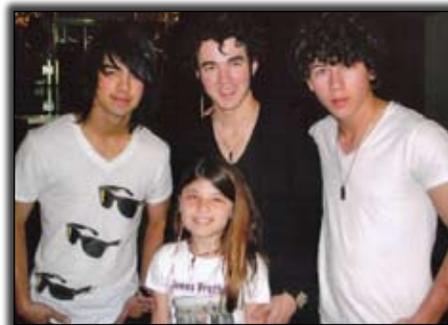
What programs does *New Hope for Kids* provide?

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.

Miranda Meets the Jonas Brothers!

From the beginning, Miranda has been a determined girl. Her birth was extremely difficult, and the doctors said Miranda might not pull through. She had suffered brain damage due to oxygen deprivation and was diagnosed with Craniosynostosis. Early in life, Miranda endured reconstructive surgeries to correct cranial malformations. She now battles severe headaches and learning challenges. These difficulties have NOT defined Miranda. She is personable and interesting. When the Knights Templar UCF Team joined *New Hope for Kids* to grant her wish, they were caught in her charm and vowed to do all they could to make her wish come true. They were successful in arranging a meet-and-greet with her favorite celebrities, the Jonas Brothers! Her mother, Denise Larkin, describes the event below:



"THANK YOU SO MUCH for working so hard to get Miranda in to see the AMAZING Jonas Brothers. She said it was the best day of her life.

Mathew and Felicia were wonderful, they made Miranda feel like a VIP. They escorted us all around backstage and allowed us to watch the Jonas Brothers perform during their sound check before the concert. We actually got to go on the stage and we even got to walk in their tour bus. We were introduced to their dad Kevin, and we

got to see Frankie (the Bonus Jonas) riding around on his scooter.

When the Jonas Brothers were finished with their sound check, they stopped by to talk with Miranda. They were SO nice!! They each introduced themselves, shook her hand and asked her a few questions. Then they signed Miranda's electric guitar, 2 CD's, a Jonas Brothers Yearbook and a book. Then they posed for a picture with her - she didn't even faint!!!

As an added surprise, Miranda received a Jonas Brothers tote bag which contained a tour book, a T-shirt and a JB glow stick. She was SO HAPPY. Just when we thought things couldn't get any better, they gave us our tickets - which were 3rd row from the stage!!!!

We watched an amazing show - the Jonas Brothers are so talented. Miranda danced, sang, jumped and yes, screamed the whole night - just like the other 10,000 girls watching the concert. She knew every word to every song - except for the two new songs they sang. She was so happy all day long - thank you so much for allowing her this wonderful day that she will never forget."



Mother/Daughter Brunch



On Saturday, May 10, 2008 mothers and daughters enjoyed a tasty brunch at the Sheraton Orlando Downtown in honor of Mother's Day. The girls had caricature drawings done as a gift to mom while the moms enjoyed a facial and/or chair massage. Delighted moms were given hand-crocheted corsages (made by volunteer Jean Roeper) and gift bags. Entertainment was enjoyed by all as Elizabeth Wilder, daughter

of Wish Program Director Rosie Wilder, sang "Wind Beneath my Wings" and guest singer Melissa Blake sang "When the Sun Comes Up" and "In Her Daughters Eyes". Thank you to all the wonderful ladies who helped make this such a special event.



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

(407) 331-3059

Giving Kids Hope Annual Giving Society

New Hope for Kids is Florida's largest independent grief support program and Central Florida's oldest wish fulfillment organization. Over the years, we have helped over 2,500 children through grief facilitation and granted over 1,200 wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses in Central Florida. Our mission is to bring hope, healing and happiness to children and families suffering grief, loss or life-threatening illnesses.

But there are still thousands more who desperately need our services, so we are asking for your help.

"When they [my children] came to *New Hope for Kids* for the first time they felt as if they were the only kids ever to have lost a parent. They learned that they're not alone, and that it's ok to be happy again."

-- Dodi Minster

A Growing Need

New Hope for Kids has established the *Giving Kids Hope Annual Giving Society* to provide a consistent source of community support for our programs. Last year alone, 240 children and 200 adults went through our Grief Program and this year more families than ever are knocking on our door. Our Special Circumstances grief program for survivors of homicide or suicide deaths has grown significantly over the last two years.

Why We Need Your Annual Gift

New Hope for Kids relies on the support of individuals within our community, and we make sure that all donations are used wisely to complete our mission. We are proud that over 93% of our revenue goes directly to program services, one of the highest averages in the nation.

But there is a cost to provide our programs to Central Florida's children and families and their numbers grow every year. Grief Support costs \$1,200 per child each year while our Wishes for Kids Program costs an average of \$2,500 per child. Your annual gift will ensure that we meet the grief support and wish needs of Central Florida's kids.

Give the Gift of Hope

Please consider joining the *Giving Kids Hope Annual Giving Society*. We offer giving levels that fit every budget. No matter which one you choose, Central Florida's kids will directly benefit from your gift.



Annual Giving Levels

Silver Level \$2,500 (\$209 per month)

- Silver-level recognition on our donor wall
- Silver-level recognition gift of four tickets to the "Art of the Vine" event and twelve tickets to the Annual Mascot Games
- Invitation to exclusive Donor Reception
- Lifetime subscription to *New Hope for Kids* newsletter
- Recognition in *New Hope for Kids* publications

Bronze Level \$1,000 (\$84 per month)

- Bronze-level recognition on our donor wall
- Bronze-level recognition gift of two tickets to the "Art of the Vine" event and six tickets to the Annual Mascot Games
- Invitation to exclusive Donor Reception
- Lifetime subscription to *New Hope for Kids* newsletter
- Recognition in *New Hope for Kids* publications

New Hope Fellow \$500 (\$42 per month)

- Fellow-level recognition gift of two tickets to the Annual Mascot Games
- Invitation to Fellows and Friends Donor Reception
- Lifetime subscription to *New Hope for Kids* newsletter
- Recognition in *New Hope for Kids* annual report



Joining is easy!

You may choose a one-time yearly donation or divide your gift into manageable payments. By signing up with us for automatic monthly deductions from your credit card, you ensure that:

- Your donation is processed securely and automatically
- You know your donation is put to work immediately, helping kids in both programs
- You receive an end of the year statement for tax purposes
- You have the ability to change or suspend your donation at any time

Please call us or go to our website to make a donation
or learn about additional giving opportunities.

www.newhopeforkids.org



407-331-3059 x12

Nicholas Finds His Smile

A Camp Ray of Hope Success Story

My husband died on December 7, 2007. He had been sick with a brain condition for over 6 years. It was so hard to watch my children suffer and to realize there was little I could do to help them. My 5 year old daughter, Gabby, is blessed with the ability to change focus quickly on whatever she is feeling. My son is 9 and isn't so lucky. This is about him.

Nicholas and his dad were "best buds forever and always", a saying they shared every night since Nicholas was 2. He remembers when his dad was healthy. He also remembers his dad's 3 brain surgeries, the hospital and all that went with it. Shortly after his dad died, Nicholas first expressed relief that his dad wasn't in pain anymore, followed by feelings of confusion. *Why before Christmas? Why when we're still just kids?* People used to call him "Smiley" but he lost his smile on December 7, 2007. Thankfully, shortly after, we found *New Hope for Kids*.

Nicholas was so sad all the time. After witnessing a horrific motorcycle accident and seeing the young rider die right in front of us, he started to suffer from migraines again. His nightmares got worse; he had trouble focusing in school, suffered from separation anxiety and stopped talking to people. In addition to attending group at *New Hope for Kids*, we started private counseling and it helped a little. Then it was time for Camp Ray of Hope.

Although he didn't want to go, Nicholas agreed to give Camp Ray of Hope a try. When I dropped him off at Disney's Fort Wilderness Friday morning he was so excited to see his friends from group. I was expecting a call that night to come back and pick him up, but it never came. When I saw him at the family picnic on Saturday, he was in the pool with his friends, smiling and having fun! My heart soared for a brief moment... until he looked over at us and his face went blank. I knew right away all those sad feelings had returned. He came over and cried. Tamari Miller, Grief Program Director, saw our struggle and came to help. She and his counselors were so wonderful with him. Shortly after lunch, Nicholas asked to join a dodge ball game, which was his way of saying *ok, you can leave*. In fact, he didn't even feel the need to call me Saturday night!



52 kids and 13 counselors attended this year's Camp Ray of Hope out at Disney's Fort Wilderness April 25-27

Pictured from left to right: Nicholas, fellow camper Jacob & Camp Counselor Brandon



On Sunday morning I picked up a different boy than the one I dropped off. Nicholas was full of energy and smiling from ear to ear. He talked the whole way home about the things he did and who he met. He even talked about some of the grief exercises they did. His sister hugged him and told him she was happy he found his smile.

The following Monday I got an unexpected e-mail from his teacher. She said she noticed that he found his smile! He was participating in class again and even making jokes. All week long people noticed a change in Nicholas. He was laughing and being silly. There were no more headaches. Sleep became peaceful again.

Nicholas still misses his dad, but he has learned how to deal with it in a different way. We talk, laugh and cry about Daddy. We still have a long journey ahead of us, but with the help of *New Hope for Kids*, and thanks to Camp Ray of Hope, we believe we will make it through. Thank you to all the wonderful people who helped me find my son again. I will always be grateful. ~Donna

Jaime Talbert has written this poem as a gift to all of the volunteers that make *New Hope for Kids* such a special organization.

Because of You

By: Jaime Talbert
Volunteer Coordinator

To Hope,
Is to desire for future good
It may be difficult, but not impossible to attain

To Grow,
Is the ability to be open to change
And increase in strength

Because of you,
Hope, Growth, and the voyage of Life
Are traveled with compassion alongside our families

Because of your time,
Inspiration is sung through the hearts you touch
And lives are changed, impacted, and moved

Because of your dedication,
Children and families receive unconditional support
through a journey of grief and loss
Though the road is bumpy, with twists and turns, your
understanding and acceptance are beside them
Like footprints in sand

Because of your devotion,
Children are able to lasso their dreams and "wish" upon a star
And with your help this wish becomes more than just a dream

Because of your support,
New Hope for Kids becomes more than an organization
But a family that strives together for a common purpose

To Hope,
Is to desire for future good
It may be difficult, but not impossible to attain

To Grow,
Is the ability to be open to change
And increase in strength

Your time, dedication, devotion,
compassion, and support,
Are the fuel that ignites the flame of Hope
And the rays of sun that feed the plants of Growth

Like ripples in a pond your contributions reach outward
Toward the story that is *New Hope for Kids*,
which has been made possible

Because of you
For this, *New Hope for Kids* will be forever grateful.



THE ART OF THE VINE

Wine Auction & Wine Tasting Event

The seventh annual Art of the Vine was a complete success. Even the newly added adventure of heavy rain showers did not keep our supporters away! More than 500 people gathered April 4 to enjoy live music, extensive silent and live auctions and a variety of wine and cuisine. This year's generous participating restaurants included Antonio's, Austral Latin Fusion, Beluga, Brio, Café Tu Tu Tango, Flemings, Harmoni, Houston's, Panera, Puff 'n Stuff, Ruth's Chris and Schokolad.

Our profound thanks to *New Hope for Kids* Board member and Fields BMW General Manager, John Mantione, John Fields and event Chair Tony Martin for all their support. Also, a special thanks to The Art of the Vine committee members who worked tirelessly to ensure the evening was a truly premier Central Florida event.

Located on the top floor of the Fields BMW garage, this exciting event raised over \$100,000 to support *New Hope for Kids*' Grief and Wish programs. We would like to thank some of the sponsors who made this event possible: Fields BMW, Tavistock Group, Avalon Park Group, International Contractors, Inc., Walt Disney World, Co., Orlando Style Magazine, Central Florida Lifestyle Publications

Make sure to join us next year as this event continues to grow. You will not want to miss it!

Visit our photo gallery online at www.newhopeforkids.org to view pictures from the event.



This Year's BMW Winner

In 1996, Kevin Mirarchi was introduced to *New Hope for Kids* by his good friend, John Kirkpatrick. John was a staff member of *New Hope for Kids* and approached Kevin about participating in our Annual BMW Drawing of Chance, even though he lived in Westchester, PA.

Touched by the Mission of *New Hope for Kids*, Kevin jumped at the opportunity to help us raise money for our programs and immediately started recruiting his friends up north to join him.

One of those friends was Shawn Lawson, who has purchased two tickets every year since 2001. This year on April 4, Shawn became the first person of this group of more than 20 people in Pennsylvania to win the Drawing of Chance! After seven years of purchasing tickets, Shawn is testimony that the supporting hands of *New Hope for Kids* spread much farther than our backyards.

So, we thank Shawn Lawson for his generosity and congratulate him on his win! And we would like to especially thank Kevin Mirarchi for his continued support and dedication to helping the children of *New Hope for Kids*. His support from afar is truly appreciated!



Congratulations Shawn!

Pictured from left to right:
New Hope for Kids Executive Director Dave Joswick, Shawn Lawson & Kevin Mirarchi

Look for us on the LYNX Public Service Bus!

May 1st boasted an exciting surprise for *New Hope for Kids* as the brand new 2008-2009 LYNX Public Service Bus was unveiled. Cassandra and Romeo Doty, a mother and son who attended our Center for Grieving Children, participated in the unveiling at Amway Arena.

LYNX has donated one bus per year to local non-profits as advertising space for the past seven years. The bus will run regular routes for the next 12 months between Osceola, Orange and Seminole Counties. Twelve organizations were randomly picked this year out of over 90 applicants, so there are six logos painted on each side.

Those winning organizations include: *New Hope for Kids*; Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida; Community Vision Inc; Seminole Cultural Arts Council; Condes Way Inc.; C.A.T.S.-C.A.N; Hispanic Business Initiative Fund; Help Now Of Osceola Inc.; National House Of Hope; Bach Festival Society; Orlando Film Festival and Asian Cultural Association.



Last Thursday as the tarp was pulled back, our logo shown prominently on the beautifully painted bus, right next to the door...great location! So, keep an eye out. The *New Hope for Kids* logo is cruising around Central Florida and we'd love to know when you see it cruise by you!

Welcome New Board Members

We're pleased to announce two new members of *New Hope for Kids*' Board of Directors. They've both been involved with our organization for some time, and are glad to be serving now in the official capacity of board member.

Julie Burkey, president of Burkey Risk Services, brings her positive attitude and goal-oriented determination to our board of directors. Julie's father died when she was 13 years old, and she wishes there had been an organization like ours to help her family cope during that difficult time. Her desire is to use her enthusiasm and talents to help improve the lives of Central Florida children as they deal with the challenges that come with grief and loss.

Elizabeth Peele, consultant with GRB Enterprises, Inc., is an active member of the community. Her warm and friendly personality compliments her experience with fund raising and special event planning. When asked why she wanted to join the board, Elizabeth said, "I believe strongly in the unique purpose and mission of *New Hope for Kids*, helping grieving children and families, and feel that your outreach to the community is extraordinary and needed."

Welcome to the *New Hope for Kids* family!



Holidays in July

Help us get a jump start on the holidays by donating early to our food and toy drives! Donations of Wal-mart, Target, Winn Dixie and Publix gift cards are in high demand over the Holiday Season. \$50.00 will provide a holiday meal for one family. All help is greatly appreciated. Please take a minute and visit our website to make your donation today.

New Hope for Kids, Inc.
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407-599-0909

www.newhopeforkids.org

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- I am receiving duplicates

This information will help reduce our mailing cost.
Cut your address label and mail to address above.



**NEW HOPE FOR
KIDS NEEDS
YOUR HELP**

New Hope can always use your help with our special events! Please check your calendar and call Jaime Talbert at (407) 599-0909 ext. 26 if you would like to volunteer at any of our upcoming events:

- Celebrity Mascot Games
- Back to School Dance
- Orangetown 5K
- Halloween Bowl

THINGS WE NEED..

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

Volunteers Needed

Grief Facilitators: Make a difference! 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 the hours of 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. with typing, filing, mailings, record keeping, computer entry and reception desk.

Grief Center Assistants: Assist with arts & crafts projects, 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, make home visits, help grant or celebrate a wish.

Speakers Bureau Committee: Visit area organizations to communicate the mission of *New Hope for Kids*' grief and wish programs.

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 us at: (407) 599-0909 x26.