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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREMIER CHILDREN'S CHARITY HOSTS FIRST WINE DINNER

Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation-MidAtlantic hosts First Annual Exclusive Wine Dinner at Award-Winning Citronelle

Washington, DC, December 5, 2007 - Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation-MidAtlantic hosted its *First Annual Exclusive Wine Dinner*. It was held at the award-winning Michel Richard Citronelle on Friday, November 16th and raised close to \$100,000. Proceeds from the event will help brighten the lives of local children who are seriously ill.

Chef Michel Richard of Citronelle, who was recently named James Beard Outstanding Chef of the Year 2007, was pleased to work with Starlight MidAtlantic on the first *Exclusive Wine Dinner*.

"I love kids. I am the father of 6 children, but sometimes I feel like I'd like to be godfather to them all. To put a smile on a child's face, I'd do anything to help Starlight MidAtlantic," Richards said.

During the *Exclusive Wine Dinner* 70 guests feasted on a sumptuous seven course menu created especially for the event by Citronelle. Guests also enjoyed French and American wines presented by Mark Slater, Citronelle's sommelier who just won the James Beard Award for Outstanding Wine Service of the Year 2007. The featured wines included Boissard Lardy Meursault 1er Cru 2004, Jean Laurent Blanc de Blanc 1996, and Joseph Phelps Insignia 1994 & 1997.

The wines were donated by Jeffrey Zell, President of Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation MidAtlantic, CEO of JM Zell Partners, Ltd, and wine enthusiast; Rick Genderson, Treasurer of the Foundation and Owner/CEO of the prestigious wine store, Schneider's of Capitol Hill; and Tom Shelton, Starlight MidAtlantic Board Member, former President & CEO of Joseph Phelps Vineyard.

"I was thrilled to be able to donate from my personal cellar for the *Exclusive Winner Dinner* and Citronelle did an amazing job hosting the first annual event. We are thrilled this event was a huge success as all money raised will fund Starlight MidAtlantic's entertainment and education programs for children who are seriously ill in our local area," Zell said.

The event was made possible by a generous donation from sponsor, Tiny Jewel Box. Proceeds from the *Exclusive Wine Dinner* will finance a multitude of Starlight MidAtlantic programs including: Fun Centers, Hospital Happenings, and Great Escapes for children in over 100 hospitals across the MidAtlantic region. Programs such as these reach over 17,199 local children a year.

About Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation-MidAtlantic:

Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation – MidAtlantic helps seriously ill children and their families cope with their pain, fear and isolation through entertainment, education and family activities. The foundation softens the hard edges of what a family experiences when a child has a serious illness, from the time of diagnosis all the way through, in the hospital and at home. Starlight MidAtlantic focuses on the children of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, DC and West Virginia. For more information please visit www.starlight-midatlantic.org.

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