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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Come Out and Clay with Starry!

WASHINGTON, DC (April 25, 2011)- We can bring Starlight families to the pottery, but can we bring the pottery to families with seriously ill children? Yes! On April 26th, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House families will paint the town at a colorful *Great Escape* with The Expressive Hand Studio. A *Great Escape* is a family activity to take a break from the stress of illness and relax while making special memories together.

After The Expressive Hand Studio held a wildly successful *Great Escape*[™] for Starlight Children's Foundation MidAtlantic last summer at the studio, and another in November at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, owner Marcie Ziskind was craving more! The families will unleash their creativity with a ceramic piece, paint, stencils, and of course, cookies! This therapeutic event will allow kids to transcend their illnesses and just be a kid again. Who knows how the painting will turn out, but one thing is for certain, concerned parents, sick children, and devoted siblings will all get the opportunity to have some good old fashioned family fun.

The Expressive Hand, an innovative pottery studio in Philadelphia, is very active in the community. In addition to providing both kids and adults with an artistic haven and numerous camp programs, The Expressive Hand also offers American Sign Language workshops where students learn to sign while painting pottery. Starlight MidAtlantic is incredibly appreciative of The Expressive Hand's support in sponsoring two *Great Escapes*!

Starlight Children's Foundation MidAtlantic and Ronald McDonald House both serve families with seriously or chronically ill children. Starlight MidAtlantic brightens the lives of seriously ill children through entertainment, education, and family activities. Whether it is in the hospital, in the community, or on the web, Starlight MidAtlantic is there. When a child is sick, everyone in the family is affected. Through *Great Escapes*, families get the opportunity to just have fun with one another and feel normal again.

The Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House provides a home away from home for families of seriously ill children receiving at local hospitals. The Philadelphia RMHC also runs Ronald McDonald Camp in the Poconos which provides one week of camp for oncology patients and their siblings. In addition, the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House operates two Ronald McDonald Family Rooms at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to provide a space for families away from the bedside. Founded 37 years ago as the very first Ronald McDonald House in the world, today Philadelphia RMHC is the model for over 300 Houses throughout the globe.

About Starlight Children's Foundation[™] MidAtlantic:

Since 1999, Starlight Children's Foundation MidAtlantic has been helping seriously ill children and their families cope with their pain, fear and isolation through entertainment, education and family activities. Last year, Starlight MidAtlantic provided over 2 million hours of entertainment in the hospital, in the community and on the Web, for 220,000 children and their families in the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. To learn more visit www.starlight-midatlantic.org

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