



Starlight Children's Foundation Northwest
Starlight is a 501c3 Charity, Federal ID#91-1558287
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starlight
children's foundation northwest

Yes, I want to brighten the lives of seriously ill children with a special gift of:

___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ \$1,000 ___ \$2,500 other \$ _____ I am interested in volunteering with Starlight.
I wish to donate \$ _____ per month; Employer _____ will match \$ _____.
___ Check enclosed (Please make payable to "Starlight") ___ Charge my credit card (see below):
Name(s) _____ Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Email _____
Home phone _____ Cell phone _____
Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ / _____
Name on card _____ Billing Address (if different) _____

Thank you for supporting Starlight.
GIVE ONLINE at www.starlight-northwest.org

SAVE
THE DATE

Coming up...

Buy your tickets NOW to hear the renowned Trans-Siberian Orchestra play on **Saturday, November 26**, at The Key Arena.
One dollar from each matinee performance ticket price will go directly to Starlight Northwest!

Become a table captain or corporate sponsor at our annual Oscar Night® America Gala on Sunday, **February 26, 2012**, at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel in Seattle. There's no other Oscar® party like it in Seattle and it **WILL** sell out!

As 2011 comes to a close, please consider the tremendous joy Starlight brings to thousands of lives and generously include Starlight Northwest in your year-end charitable giving. **We wish you a happy 2012!**

Interested in volunteering or interning with Starlight? We'd love to have you as a part of our team! Contact our offices for more details and to apply!



NEWSLETTER FALL 2011

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Mark Your Calendar

Santa for Starlight

Want Santa, Mrs. Claus and some elves to visit your home or business this holiday season?

Starlight Northwest can help. We've got a direct line to the North Pole

Visit www.starlight-northwest.org or call 425-861-7827x100 for additional information, pricing and details about our annual Santa for Starlight program.

Spokane's Starry Starlight Night

7:00 pm
Spokane EpiCenter

18 Wines • 18 Hors d'oeuvres
Live Auction • \$50 per person

Food by noted chef, David Goldman • Wines presented by Mike McKenna, Vehrs

Visit www.starlightnorthwest.org or call 509-321-0799 to RSVP or become an event sponsor.

Breakfast with Santa

9:00 am
Bellevue Hilton
\$25 Children • \$35 Adults

Enjoy Starlight's **first ever** Breakfast with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves. Activities include: photos with Santa, breakfast, crafts, singing, gifts and story-time with Mrs. Claus. Register at www.starlight-northwest.org.



Meet Jessica.

Q. How did you become a Starlight kid?

A. When I was 13, I started experiencing all kinds of confusing symptoms—headache, dizziness, intense fatigue, and most of all, lots of pain in my joints when using them. For three years I was bounced from doctor to doctor and they could not figure out what was wrong with me. I felt like a mystery and the pain was just getting worse and worse. During this time, I had to give up ice skating, badminton and karate, and a lot of my friends abandoned me—not really understanding how I was sick, not knowing how to treat me, and seeing that I couldn't go hang out and have fun as much anymore. I felt really alone. I met a friend online one day, though, who introduced me to Starbright World (SBW), Starlight's on-line social networking community support program — and then my life was seriously changed. On SBW I met people who were undiagnosed, just like me. They actually *got* everything I was going through! And best of all, they were my age. I felt comfortable in the community right from the start. There were also a lot of kids who were diagnosed, and they were able to help me and my doctors figure me out. It was actually a SBW member with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS) who told me I should get checked for it. My doctors hardly even knew what it was, because it's so rare, but after further evaluation, they realized it was the answer to everything! I just got my EDS

FALL NEWSLETTER

2011

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diagnosis a couple of months ago, and although it hasn't made me better, and it hasn't helped the pain go away, the peace of mind it has given me has been amazing.

Q. How has Starlight made a difference in your life?

A. Starlight has made a huge, indescribable difference in my life. Before I was introduced to Starbright World, I felt like I had nobody to talk to about being sick and the pain and stuff, nobody who really understood. I've made so many lifelong friends and am so much happier thanks to Starlight. I really feel like you guys have given me some quality of life back, which is hard to do when you have a condition that robs you of so much of your quality of life. The Starlight Prom was the most amazing dance I'd ever been to.



Oscar Night® America Gala
February 26, 2012 • Seattle

Fairmont Olympic Hotel — \$175
Black Tie • Glitzy Red Carpet Event
Silent Auction • Open Bar
LIVE Academy Awards® Telecast
Live Auction with John Curley
5-Star Dinner • **RSVP TODAY!**



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Our Mission

The Starlight Children's Foundation helps seriously ill children and their families cope with their pain, fear and isolation through entertainment, education and family activities.

Message from the Executive Director

This year Starlight Northwest began the effort to expand its programs and services under the child life professional practice. Our Director of Program and Child Life Services, and Program Coordinators in Spokane and Portland are now all child life specialists. In addition, our current and future programs will continue to reflect this professional discipline — a vital role in pediatric healthcare. Starlight's core programs — Hospital Happenings, Great Escapes, Fun Centers, Starlight Sites, Starbright World, and Starlight educational programs — exemplify child life in action.

We have surveyed and talked with our Starlight families, embracing our effort to provide meaningful and impactful child life support and services. As a result, we will be launching our new pediatric playroom early next year. Ours is the first on-sight room of its kind at a Starlight location in the United States. Child life specialists and pediatric counselors will now have the space to provide therapeutic programming to Starlight children, siblings and families at Starlight Northwest — a needed compliment to our core programs.

As we advance, Starlight Northwest will continue to identify ways to bring the knowledge of child life out of hospitals and into the community. Starlight Northwest is fully committed to the children and families we serve and embraces child life as our next evolutionary step in our mission.

Contributions from individuals and businesses directly impact our ability to provide programs and services to our Starlight children, families and hospital partners. Your trust and financial support this holiday season will make Starlight's mission a reality for thousands.

In advance, thank you for your generosity as 2011 comes to a close.

- Steve McGraw, Executive Director

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Spotlight on a STAR

Every organization needs a programming intern like **Michelle Harsant**. We thank our lucky stars for Michelle each day.



Q. How did you hear about Starlight?

A. The Human Development department at Washington State University had Starlight listed as organization seeking interns and my professor recommended the internship to me. I was looking for an internship opportunity that incorporated children and health.

Q. What are you currently studying?

A. This December I'll graduate from WSU with a double major in human development and psychology -- once I complete my Starlight internship. I'm also studying for the GRE and plan to obtain a Master of Science degree in Nursing from PLU or Seattle University. I'd like to work with children and families in the health industry and also have a family-friendly career.

Q. What do you think of your internship?

A. It's a perfect fit for me because I get to combine human service with the help industry. I get to work directly with families, children and hospitals. Being able to see the positive effect my work has on all of these individuals and organizations is highly rewarding. Starlight touches many lives in the Northwest. I'm proud to be a part of that.

Q. What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

A. I used to snowboard and backpack, but now that I have my 15-month-old daughter, Elliana, I spend more time at the zoo, aquarium and children's museum. I also really enjoy drawing and painting, but I don't want to be a starving artist.

Our seasonal TOY DRIVE is underway!



Another year of Starlight toy drives has begun! Various regional locations and over 140 participating Walgreens stores in WA and OR will display toy collection bins November 2011 - January 2012. It's not too late to become an official toy drive location this holiday season. Interested? Please contact the Starlight offices and your child's school or your workplace can help bring tremendous joy to thousands of Starlight children in Washington and Oregon this holiday season and all year long. For a complete listing of toy drive locations, please visit our website.

Thank You
 2011 Toy Drive Sponsors
Walgreens



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Celebrating Events and Activities all over Northwest

2011 Annual Luncheon Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Starlight's 2011 Annual Luncheon broke attendance records this September making this year's event our chapter's most successful outreach effort — ever.

Over 400 Starlight supporters filled the Bellevue Hilton to honor Seattle Seahawk and University of Washington Husky, Lawyer Milloy, with Starlight's well-deserved Citizen of the Year Award.

Master of Ceremonies, John Curley, entertained the crowd in between heartfelt Starlight family stories, Lawyer's inspirational address to the audience, and various words of praise from figures in Lawyer's life.

Starlight owes tremendous thanks to our Luncheon Sponsors and valued donors who generously contributed to the amazing success of this year's event. A special thank you to Brian Tracey and Ride-the-Ducks Seattle for their \$10,000 corporate match!

Congratulations Luncheon Chairs, Laura Walton and Dave Hamilton, and all table captains on a job well-done!



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Would you like to see your company name listed above??
 Contact the Starlight offices for **Corporate Sponsorship** opportunities.

Testimonial

"Starlight has been such a blessing to our family. The kids went to the pumpkin patch yesterday and had a wonderful time. It is SUCH a needed break from the "daily grind" of ventilators, pulse oximeters, pneumonia, etc. Truly, I cannot thank this foundation enough. Let alone the financial burden it would be. Such a blessing."

- Jennifer (Starlight Parent)

Emerald Downs September 16, 2011

Thirty Starlight participants enjoyed a VIP dinner, races and fireworks put on by the American Pyrotechnics Association.

Thank you Emerald Downs for being a committed and generous Starlight corporate partner! The stars shone bright that night!



Great Wolf Lodge September 23, 2011

An astounding 70 Starlight families (300 people) attended the much loved, fun-filled overnight Great Escape at Great Wolf Lodge. This "mini-vacation" was complete with two days of unlimited access to the indoor waterpark, magic quests around the lodge, story-time and a special pizza dinner. Thanks Great Wolf!



Trick or Suite October 22, 2011 • Tukwila

More than 300 children and family members enjoyed Starlight's biggest Trick or Suite ever at the Embassy Suites in Tukwila. Children and their siblings trick-or-treated through 34 suites decorated in different Halloween themes by local businesses, organizations and families. The night finished with a grand party for all participants and an overnight stay, generously donated by Embassy Suites.



Trick or Suite October 29, 2011 • Portland

Roam the halls of Embassy Suites at Washington Square on October 29th? If so, you certainly had a ghoulishly-good time. One hundred twenty-nine Starlight families from Oregon and SW Washington visited 10 decked out suites filled with games, activities and Halloween candy. Thank you to our suite sponsors, volunteers and Embassy Suites for such a fantastic Starlight event.

