

Walgreens – Starlight Toy Drive a New Partnership and a Great Success



An exciting new partnership formed late last year between Walgreens stores and Starlight Children's Foundation of Washington. We were thrilled when Tracy Ellis of the Lake Stevens Walgreens store contacted our chapter about joining together for a holiday toy drive. Steve McGraw, Starlight WA Executive Director, met with the district managers of Walgreens covering Washington and Oregon States. The synergies of both organizations' missions were quickly recognized.

Walgreens in their local districts including Washington; Oregon; Anchorage, AK; and Coeur d'Alene, ID, were ready to partner with our Starlight chapter for a holiday toy drive.

Delivery Express and PODS joined this partnership to deliver toys to Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The holidays were a happy one for many families and hospitalized children thanks to this partnership.

Special thanks to Walgreens' District Managers: Denise Myers, Bruce Philipp, Sanjay Bhana, Greg Thomas, and David Royster, and to all their store managers and staff for their enthusiastic support and execution of this toy drive. Final count is still being conducted but the number of donated toys by Walgreens customers will be in the thousands. Thank you Walgreens customers. Walgreens and our delivery partners are already talking about next year's toy drive!

We just finished distributing the last of the boxes from Starlight within the hospital. Everyone was so happy to have toys that they can pass along to the sick children and their families.

In the Peds Rehab unit, one of the therapists started to cry because she was so touched by the donation. She works with a family that has three children with special needs and found toys that would specifically help them.

*Thank you again. Your toy drive program is bringing joy to so many people.
~ Shawna, Salmon Creek Hospital Foundation*

Starlight hosts holiday shopping party with regional law enforcement at Seattle Children's Hospital

On Tuesday, December 14, 2010. Starlight Children's Foundation of Washington joined forces with regional law enforcement to host our fifth annual holiday party at Seattle Children's Hospital.

Together, Starlight, regional law enforcement, local students, and Starbucks partnered with some additional caring people to generate more than 2,600 toys and gift items. These items were used to create a "store" at Children's where hospitalized kids could "shop" for themselves and their families for the holiday season.

Patients came to the "store," escorted by a police officer as their personal shopper, and selected gift items for themselves and their family. After they were done shopping, they brought their items to a gift wrapping station staffed by law enforcement and civilian volunteers. Children that could not attend in person sent shopping lists that were fulfilled, wrapped, and personally delivered by the law enforcement crew up to their room. Thank you to everyone who so generously contributed to make this a wonderful and memorable day for these children and their families.



Washington State Trooper, Rob Taylor, helped countless children shop for holiday gifts at Children's Hospital this year. This is his 5th year supporting this event. He also helps to recruit and organize the volunteers that participate. Thank you Trooper Rob!

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This photo captures, Santa Greg Schmidt, a Starlight Santa, on a very special visit to the Evergreen Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Here he is pictured holding four-month old Oliver, who is a miracle baby, born in September at just over one pound.

You are invited to attend our Annual Oscar Night® Gala!

Join us for the only Academy-sanctioned
 2011 Oscar Night® Gala in Washington State benefiting

starlight
 children's foundation washington

OSCAR NIGHT® GALA
 Sunday, February 27, 2011 at The Fairmont Olympic Hotel
 411 University Street, Seattle, WA 98101
 Doors open at 2:45 p.m.

3:00 p.m. - Red Carpet Event
 Featuring live music by Seattle's own Ambience Jazz Quintet,
 silent auction, best-dressed contest and award, tray-passed hors d'oeuvres,
 complimentary wine and open bar.

5:00 p.m. - Main Event
 83rd Annual Academy Awards® telecast, five-star dinner
 and live auction with auctioneer Pat Cashman

\$175 per person Attire: Black Tie

Enjoy a night to remember at The Fairmont Olympic
 Hotel. Special pricing is available on accommodations
 and limousine service for our guests.

To register: lori@starlight-washington.org
 or (425) 861-7827 ext. 102

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Don't miss the hottest Oscar Night® party in Washington State!
 In addition to attending, there are a number of ways that you can become
 involved with our Annual OSCAR NIGHT® GALA. We welcome Table
 Captains, auction items, sponsors, and volunteers to join us in making this
 event a smashing success. Please contact Lori at 425-861-7827 x 102
 or by email at lori@starlight-washington.org if you are interested in
 getting involved.

Starlight Children and Families in Spokane were treated to a day of holiday magic

On December 12, 2010 Starlight families in Spokane were gifted with a magical day at the North Pole by North Pole Adventures. From the moment they arrived they were treated as royalty. Mr. and Mrs. Claus were overjoyed to be visited by these very special guests, especially during the busy holiday season. One family stated that the event was "over the top wonderful, we felt like celebrities. We were overwhelmed by the beauty and spirit in the place!"

Families experienced a holiday extravaganza, complete with their own elf for the day, paparazzi elves, fiddler elves, face painters, a gigantic toy train—complete with a real conductor—reindeer and an assortment of fun holiday activities.

No North Pole adventure would be complete without a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus and these families were not disappointed. When they entered Santa's chamber, they found the jolly old fellow sitting in his beautiful sleigh awaiting each child with a personal gift for them.

Mrs. Claus invited them to her "living room" and began to read the *Polar Express*. At the conclusion of this magical Christmas tale each child received their very own Christmas bell.

Special thanks to Wells Fargo for financial sponsorship and 20 volunteers. Thank you as well to Albertsons, FSA, Craven's Coffee Company, ZAK Designs, Wal-Mart and Fred Meyer's for providing much needed in-kind donations of food, drinks and toys! Thanks as well to American Medical Response for having EMT personnel on site to help with any emergencies. Thankfully none occurred.



A Starlight Family Story

Drew and I realized yesterday on our way to Pullman that it was the first time we had ever taken Quinn on a trip that didn't involve someone poking or prodding him. (Hence the deeply suspicious look on his face whenever he's in the car seat for more than the time it takes to take his brother to school!) It was so wonderful to see his face when we got to Pullman and took him out to go to the stadium. He was absolutely thrilled!

We had an absolutely wonderful time! I cannot thank you enough, Starlight, for all the work that you do for families like ours.



Starlight Spokane Honors Trish McFarland

Starlight honored YWCA Executive Director Trish McFarland at our annual breakfast event in Spokane. Trish has been a leader and outspoken advocate for children and families in Spokane for many years. Her passion and leadership for children and families has improved the quality of life for many. At the event Trish praised the important work of Starlight and called for the community to help children and families in need through donations and volunteering.



Starlight Families and Sacred Heart Children's Hospital Partner for *First Night Spokane* Event

On December 31, 2010 over fifty Spokane Starlight children and family members enjoyed a Starlight Great Escape at the tenth annual **First Night Spokane** event, a family-friendly New Year's Eve festival of music, arts and kids' activities, spread out over 40-plus venues in downtown Spokane. This popular event drew over 26,000 people.

First Night Spokane also included a special component for pediatric patients at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital where children and their family members enjoyed a "kid's night out" with event activities at the Spokane Convention Center.

**Starlight Children's Foundation-
Washington Chapter**

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**Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/
starlightwa](https://www.facebook.com/starlightwa)**



Thank you volunteers!

We would like to extend a very special thank you to the 194 volunteers, who over the past three months, offered Starlight more than 1320 hours of support. Without the help of these amazing individuals, our work would not be possible.

Thank you for all that you do for Starlight and the families we serve!

Starlight's Mission: to help seriously ill children and their families cope with their pain, fear and isolation through entertainment, education and family activities.

Starlight is a 501c3 charity, Federal ID #91-1558287

Starlight Children's Foundation of Washington has a four-star rating on Charity Navigator.



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