

A Father's Story:

Each day Daniel gets up is a challenge for him. He first must take medication for his lymphoma and get it into his system before he can start his day and function. This requires him to get up at 6 a.m. just to be able to function by 7 a.m. At 10, he still forgets how to get dressed, eat, or even ride his bike.

Social interactions are difficult at best, and trying to keep pace with his peers becomes a small marathon each day.

As parents with two other children and both of us working, one of us is always coming or going to get Daniel to where he needs to be as well as getting his siblings to where they need to be. At the end of the day, sometimes all we can do is just collapse from exhaustion realizing that somehow we've put 150 miles on the car within the city limits.

Back in January 2007, I was introduced to Starlight's Great Escapes program. We attended the circus with the group in February. This was at a time with so many other expenses going on that we did not plan to do anything recreational ourselves. This seemed like a great opportunity to just slow down even for just one night.

So many times, Daniel's siblings get frustrated with us as parents, being dragged along to one appointment or another for Daniel, not being able to us attend an event of this nature, or because we have to do something for Daniel. That night was different because we went out for Daniel, but this time it was filled with FUN for us all. In addition to watching the circus that night, I watched our family. I heard laughter from us all. I watched Daniel's eyes full of enjoyment instead of frustration, and I watched the family come together that night in a way that had seemed to escape us.

We left that night also with a small gift from Starlight. Daniel got to give it to his siblings, which was a chance to be that big brother he is, but many times he cannot be because of his disability. It was truly a wonderful night for the entire family on so many levels.



Since that event, Daniel looks forward, as we all do, to what is next. He gets a special invitation about what's going to happen and asks all of us if we want to attend with him. We have since enjoyed many trips and shows.

We have met many wonderful families who are in similar situations to us and have made special bonds with them all. Without this program none of this would have been possible and we would probably do what we did before we were made aware of the Great Escapes Program and that is just keep going without a break. This program has truly helped my family take time each month to enjoy each other and, for the moment, forget the chaos that engulfs our lives on a daily basis. - David (Daniel's Dad)

Special thanks!

LeMaster Daniels PLLC
 Certified Public Accountants and Advisors

A special thanks to LeMasterDaniels for its generous donation of time, talent and treasure with a first class carnival, "**Under the Big Top**", utilizing the entire lobby of the Bank of America building in Spokane for Starlight kids! This October 25th event was the firm's special "Make A Difference Day" and celebrates its 100th anniversary - bringing games, prizes, clowns, & more!



A Starlight Supper at Duke's Chowder House in Greenlake in September was a Great Escape for several families, including from left, Rebecca Bodger and MacKenzie Wilson, the Bates family, and Jordan and Dad William Bodger.



We help seriously ill children and their families cope with their pain, fear and isolation through entertainment, education and family activities.

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Spokane Office: 509-474-2820
 3920 East 57th Avenue Suite 5, Spokane WA 99223

www.starlight-washington.org ~ 1-866-236-6379 ~ ID# 91-1558287

We welcomed two new staff members in September to fill vacancies: Pat Cramer, office manager at Redmond, and Stacie Webb, program coordinator at Spokane.

Redmond Office

Steve McGraw, *Executive Director*
 Erin Behen, *Program Services Director*
 Joyce Bottenberg, *Development Director*
 Tami Gibb, *Volunteer Coordinator*
 Pat Cramer, *Office Manager*

Spokane Office

Susan Faltermeyer, *Development Officer*
 Stacie Webb, *Program Coordinator*

To email staff, type first name with @starlight-washinaton.ora

----- please clip and mail, or fax to 425-883-9023 -----

Please consider Starlight in a gift that gives on giving!

Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, Mother/Father's Day, holidays, special thanks, tributes, memorials - a gift to Starlight in your honoree's name will mean much to many - donor, honoree, and the seriously ill children we serve.

Donor name _____ Honoree's name _____

Address _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Occasion _____

Phone _____ Special message? _____

Enclosed is my gift: \$ _____ (please make checks payable to Starlight) _____

Please charge my credit card: Visa __, MasterCard __, AmEx __ _____

Card # _____ Exp. ____/____ _____

Please provide billing address if differs from above address: _____

4th Quarter 2008

From the desk of Washington Chapter's Executive Director, Steve McGraw



I have a very important plea for your support of Starlight at this time.

One of the effects of the uncertainty of the current economic climate is that many people are waiting - waiting to purchase, waiting to invest, and waiting to donate. We have seen a significant drop in donations over the last three months.

Unfortunately, the needs of seriously ill children, their families, and our hospital partners who depend on our programs and services do not change. We have already made budget cuts. Without your support, further drops in donations and further cuts to reduce expenses will compromise our ability to operate our chapter and provide services to these children, families, and hospitals.

Please say yes to Starlight and send in a donation at this time. Please call me if you would like to talk in more detail.

Together, we will bring light and joy into some of the darkest moments of these seriously ill children and their families. Thank you. steve@starlight-washington.org
425-861-7827 ext. 101

We welcome two new board members – Bill Rielly, marketing director at Microsoft, and John James, managing partner of Instant Imprints.

Starbucks will not be supporting the Holiday Angel Toy Drive this year, but some individual stores will hold a toy drive. Hollywood Entertainment has stepped forward statewide to host this year's toy drive. We are thrilled that all 122 Hollywood Video stores will be participating!

Wanted and Needed!

We welcome volunteers to serve on committees, fill intern positions, and provide project work in our office, warehouse, and with our programs for children. Contact tami@starlight-washington.org (425-861-7827 ext. 104).

**Meet Mavis King:
Teenager
Patient
Donor!**



In May 2006, I was diagnosed with Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma, a tumor growing inside my nasal cavity, trying to get into my brain.

For six months, I went through intensive sessions of chemotherapy and radiation at Seattle Children's Hospital and the University of Washington Medical Center. During that time, I watched a lot of TV shows and movies, as well as used my dad's laptop to talk to my friends.

It was nice to be able to talk to my friends online, play games, or look at pictures – something that took me away from the hospital for a while. I also became very good at spider solitaire.

I noticed that there were not a lot of things that kids and teenagers can do besides watch TV or walk around. That's why I decided to support Starlight's PC Pal program where the kids can have something to do.

Something to do is setting up a Caringbridge website, check their MySpace, or even do some of their homework if they are feeling up to it.

Also, I picked the Therapy Dog program to support, so kids can play with dogs, like they would have done if they have a pet at home. I have five cats at home, and I missed them very much because I couldn't be with them.

This November, I will be two years cancer-free. I hope that any kid who has to go through something like I did, their time at the hospital will go as well as possible.

Editor's note: Mavis is now 16 and a junior at Cashmere High School where she is active in the school musicals as a singer and dancer. She plans on college ahead.



Starlight's **PC Pal** (above) and **Fun Center** (at right) are two very popular and important "distractive entertainment" programs! The Fun Center, at left, is a mobile entertainment unit with Nintendo's new Wii game system, and the PC Pal is a laptop computer providing pediatric patients with a variety of entertaining and educational software as well as filtered internet access.

"They make a huge difference especially for the kids who are having pain management issues. They are really important for kids who are waiting for surgery. If you're just sitting there doing nothing, you get really nervous. But if you can sit and work with the Fun Center or PC Pal, who cares about surgery?"
– Heather Omlid, Child Life Specialist
Mary Bridge Hospital, Tacoma