

Meet Olivia!



Olivia, 13, lives with her family in Portland. In June, her mother called our Redmond office to ask if there was a possibility of tickets to a museum in Seattle. Finances in the family are tough plus Jana was hoping to do something special for her daughter. As she reported, "We spent Saturday through Tuesday morning at Emanuel Medical Center in Portland, then went to Seattle for three more appointments and testing."

"We found out that Olivia would have a bone marrow aspiration and the only thing that got her through was thinking about Starlight's gift of tickets to the aquarium. Her first word that we could understand out of the sedation was 'AQUARIUM!' It was FANTASTIC!"

Olivia was diagnosed with immunodeficiency disease in August of 2008. She was born without antibodies like the 'boy in the bubble'. She has replacement therapy weekly at home subcutaneously (under her skin) in her tummy. In September 2009, doctors thought she might have cancer but luckily, it turned out not to be. Olivia started steroid therapy in January 2010, at first every week, but now it is tapered to once a month. She's doing well.

"Starlight came into our lives in our first

month of treatment at the hospital. A nurse put us in touch with Starlight's Great Escapes for both the child and whole family. This was a happy day...you have NO idea."

Olivia's mother continues, "We have met many wonderful families through our medical journey. Olivia is an amazing girl, always putting others before herself. She is the most giving child, coordinating blood drives, volunteering with Make-A-Wish, raising donations for Emanuel Children's Hospital BINGO and ER book program. She keeps me busy!"

- Jana Trueb, Olivia's mother



Note: Olivia recently wrote "Thank you for all the hard work you do and for the hook up with Seattle people. The aquarium was awesome!"

- provided from Melissa Parmelee
Portland Program Coordinator

Summer Newsletter 2011

Join Us at our Annual Starlight Luncheon – September 20th

Meet a famous friend of Starlight, **Seahawks** Celebrity and Supporter, Lawyer Milloy, at our upcoming Starlight Benefit Luncheon on Tuesday, September 20th, at the Bellevue Hilton!

Lawyer will be presented with the coveted 'Starlight Citizen Award' to recognize his generosity of time and donations to many youth endeavors over the past years, including Starlight's events! Colleagues from Tacoma's Lincoln High School, University of Washington Huskies, and professional NFL football will be in attendance.

We hope you'll join us for this annual event! To register, call our Development Manager at (425) 861-7827 ext.100, or email

pat@starlight-northwest.org

There is no cost to attend this fundraising event. We appreciate your ongoing support and a 'donations request' is included as part of the luncheon program to help fund the quality programs and activities we provide for seriously ill children and their families throughout the Pacific Northwest region!



Lawyer Milloy with happy Starlight fan and volunteer, Nick Kuntz

Starlight Northwest Embraces Child Life

We have shared with you about our new Child Life temporary staffing service being offered to hospitals with pediatrics. We have staffing contracts now with Evergreen Healthcare, Swedish Medical Center, and Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, and continue discussion with more hospitals for this service. In July, Starlight Northwest had its first Child Life Specialist placement at Evergreen. We are very excited that this new earned income opportunity has begun and that service delivery to children in families facing medical challenges is deepening and expanding.

Child Life Specialists are degreed and professionally certified members of the healthcare team in many pediatric hospitals. They play an important role to help pediatric patients and their families understand their medical condition and treatments in ways that are age appropriate. With a family-centered approach, the needs of all family members are addressed. Education and play therapy help reduce stress in both the child and family with pre- and post-medical treatments. In hospital settings they improve the medical experience of the child and family and as a result, they help the doctors and medical caregivers to be more effective and efficient.

As Starlight Northwest has embraced Child Life and expanded our knowledge of the Child Life discipline and profession, we realize Starlight's mission and programs are intimately connected to the work of Child Life. Our core programs - Hospital Happenings, Great Escapes, Fun Centers, Starlight Sites, Starbright World, and Starlight educational programs - are wonderful examples of Child Life in action. Child Life traditionally has mostly lived in children's hospitals. Starlight is uniquely positioned to provide a continuum of care with its hospital and community based programs to bring this valuable professional service to expanded healthcare settings, into the community, and in home settings.

Starlight Northwest is continuing to professionalize its programs and services under the Child Life professional practice. Our Director of Program and Child Life Services as well as Program Coordinators in Spokane and Portland are all certified Child Life Specialists. Our current and future programs will reflect this professional discipline that is recognized with high regard in the health care industry. Starlight Northwest is committed to continuously challenging itself to be more meaningful and helpful to the children and families we serve. Starlight embracing Child Life is our next evolutionary step in this goal and mission. All of us at Starlight are very excited about this new opportunity, a new expansive way to help and serve many more seriously ill children and their families as we work with our healthcare partners.

Meet Our Staff Members!

Stacey Finch, CLS

Inland Northwest Program Coordinator

Spokane

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Stacey will complete her certification as a Child Life Specialist in November, having completed her internship at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital in Spokane. She has an undergraduate degree in psychology/special studies in child development with a minor in sociology. With her love for children and medical interests, she knew working with children and families was a perfect fit for her. Growing up on a wheat farm in a community service-oriented family, Stacey is no stranger to working on fundraisers and family coordinated activities. She enjoys music of all kinds, playing the piano, snow skiing, boating, and is currently training for a 26-mile marathon in October. She is marrying her high school sweetheart this Summer.

Melissa Parmelee, MS, CCLS

Southwest WA and OR Program Coordinator

Portland

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Melissa is a certified Child Life Specialist, having completed her internship at Doernbecher's Children's Hospital (Portland) in 2003. She has a master's degree in family and child development and an undergraduate degree in business with an emphasis in public relations. A native of Marble Falls, TX, Melissa has lived in Oregon since 2003, directing Valley Christian Preschool in Raleigh Hills for three years, and raising her family, including daughter McKenna, a son Carter, and a baby due in February. She notes she likes to snowboard, ride four wheelers, camp, hike, read and walk on the beach. She reports "falling in love with Starlight" and looks forward to growing the programs for families in Washington and Oregon!



Sheryl McGrath, MA

Regional Development Officer

Inland Northwest Office, Spokane

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Sheryl has over 18 years of professional progressive experience in leadership positions at an executive level in the not-for-profit and private business sectors. She holds a Master of Arts degree in interdisciplinary studies, and has significant experience in development and fundraising. She owned a restaurant for five years and is active in the community with her church, is an elected Cemetery Commissioner, and serves as a Stephen Minister. She enjoys belly dancing, enology (wine making), cooking, playing piano and her four dogs: Augie, Glory, Cubby and Lincoln.



Melissa Fields, BA

Programs Assistant,

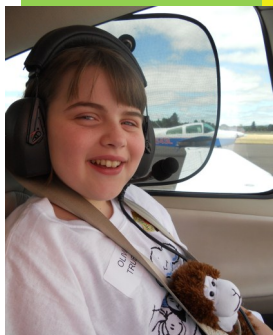
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Melissa is a Southern California native, making the trek to the Pacific Northwest to attend Seattle Pacific University. She graduated last Spring with a degree in individual and family development and is currently pursuing a career as a Child Life Specialist. Melissa joined Starlight in March as an intern planning several Great Escapes events as well as helping launch Starlight's Child Life Agency. She enjoys her new home here and, as a valued addition to our Starlight team, she loves any chance she gets to interact and build relationships with Starlight kids and families.

Starlight Celebrates at Events & Activities All Over the Pacific Northwest!



Portland 'Challenge Air' for Kids and Friends :

Gives kids with disabilities a chance to experience the fun of flying in a small plane. Challenge Air was founded by a Vietnam fighter pilot who lost the use of his legs after an aborted landing attempt on an aircraft carrier. He loved flying so much that he figured out how to continue to fly after his accident, and shares the experience with children who spend much of their lives being told what they can't do.

Pictured is Starlight child, Olivia Trueb, ready for take off!



Great Escape: Spokane Indians baseball game:

The family reports having a great time! At the bottom of the 9th, the Spokane Indians won the game! Kenadie thought for sure they won the game just for her and it made her night! It's moments like this that make Starlight events such a wonderful gift!

Pictured is Starlight child, Kenadie, at her very first baseball game.



"Hospital Happening" Spokane, WA:

A fun-filled afternoon at Spokane's Sacred Heart Medical Center including a special Starlight Hospital Happening with 35 kids enjoying a "Beach" theme party along with many special craft activities. Kids made their own beach visors, and put together colorful paper crabs and jellyfish. Special treats of beautifully decorated cupcakes and frozen yogurt (with lots of candy toppings to choose from) were also served. With the help of great volunteers for this event, it definitely was another great day at the hospital!



Take Me Out to the Ball Game! - Tampa Blue Jays Seattle, WA

A special late July "Great Escape" at a Mariner's game in a suite donated by Melody and Guy O'Tierney included four Starlight families. The Mariners lost the game to the Tampa Blue Jays, but our families had a blast and were spoiled throughout the evening. The O'Tierneys generously provided food, drinks and candy and the staff from the Mariners showed up providing baseball hats, cards and team pennants for each of the kids. The weather was perfect and everyone had smiles on their faces.

Pictured left to right: Isaiah Swanson; Cassidy and Ella Huff; Starlight Dad Jody Jefferson with his two sons; Isabella Swanson and Mom Lisa; and Chloe Miller holding Claire Behen, daughter of Starlight's Child Life Director, Erin Behen.



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.

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 wish to donate \$ _____ per month; Employer _____ will match \$ _____

Check enclosed (*Please make payable to "Starlight"*) Charge my credit card;

Please charge my credit card (see below)

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Home phone _____ Cel Phone _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date: _____ / _____

Name on Card _____ Billing Address if different _____

I am interested in volunteering with starlight

Thank you for supporting Starlight!

Starlight Children's Foundation-Northwest Chapter

www.starlight-northwest.org

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

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starlightwa](https://www.facebook.com/starlightwa)**

to see the latest news and
photos from our programs
and events in the Northwest

Coming up

- ◆ **Workplace Giving**—please designate Starlight in your workplace giving
- ◆ **Santa for Starlight**—it's time to schedule your Santa visit for December parties at home and work - in King, Pierce, and South Snohomish counties.
- ◆ **Starry Starlight Night**—A Spokane wine social, December 2nd - featuring gourmet food and uniquely selected wine pairings (honoring Starlight) prepared by Executive Chef, David Goldman!
- ◆ **Oscar Night® America**—our 8th annual gala, Sunday, February 26, 2012 at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel in Seattle—join us at Washington State's only Academy-sanctioned Oscars event!



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