



**Press Contact:**

Jo Ann Yeo

Community Development Officer  
Starlight Children's Foundation Arizona

[joann.yeo@starlight.org](mailto:joann.yeo@starlight.org)

(480) 280-5289

**NEW STARLIGHT FUN CENTER™ LIFTS SPIRITS OF PEDIATRIC PATIENTS AT ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER**

**Phoenix, AZ (October 21, 2010)** – Children undergoing treatment at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center will be smiling brighter. Through an ongoing partnership between the Phoenix Suns Charities and Starlight Children's Foundation Arizona, a new Starlight Fun Center™ was unveiled at the hospital for its pediatric patients.

For children who may be facing surgery, enduring long outpatient treatments or fighting loneliness after hospital visiting hours have ended, Starlight Fun Centers™ provide a comforting break. Each Starlight Fun Center™ mobile entertainment unit features a Sharp AQUOS™ LCD TV, DVD player and Nintendo Wii™ gaming system to provide hours of fun and distraction.

“When a child is diagnosed with a serious illness, the day-to-day joys of childhood take a back seat to the rigors of treatment and hospitalization”, said Jo Ann Yeo Community Development Officer, Starlight Children's Foundation Arizona. “Our Fun Centers help ease the isolation and fear children often experience while in the hospital. We're proud to join Phoenix Suns Charities in presenting this new Fun Center to St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center.”

This year, the Phoenix Suns Charities celebrated its 3rd year of partnering with Starlight Children's Foundation to help improve the lives of young patients and their families. During the partnership, Phoenix Suns Charities has donated more than \$20,000 which includes three Starlight Fun Centers™ and support to the Starlight Great Escapes program (monthly recreational events for seriously ill children and their family members.)



**About Phoenix Suns Charities:** Phoenix Suns Charities utilize the unique resources of the Suns organization to raise funds to benefit non-profit organizations that assist the needs of children and families. With more than \$1.2 million in grants to 157 different charitable organizations throughout Arizona, Phoenix Suns Charities marks a milestone of over \$10 million in donations since its 1988 inception. The announcement marks the most successful season in Phoenix Suns Charities 22-year history of funding community projects for children and families.



**About St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center:** St. Joseph's is a 697-bed, not-for-profit hospital that provides a wide range of health, social, and support services. It is a nationally recognized for quality tertiary care, medical education, and research. It includes the internationally renowned Barrow Neurological Institute, the Heart & Lung Institute, St. Joseph's Children's Health Center, the only Lung Transplant Center in the Valley, and one of only two

Trauma Centers in the state of Arizona with Level I verification from the American College of Surgeons.



### **About Starlight Children's Foundation Arizona**

Starlight Children's Foundation™ was founded in 1983 to help seriously ill children and their families cope with their pain, fear and isolation through entertainment, education and family activities. Starlight's programs have been proven to distract children from their pain, help them better understand and manage their illnesses, and connect families facing similar challenges so that no one feels alone. Last year, Starlight Children's Foundation Arizona touched the lives of more than 72,000 children and their families statewide. To learn more about the magic of Starlight Children's Foundation Arizona, or to volunteer, visit [www.starlight.org/arizona](http://www.starlight.org/arizona) or call (480) 280-5289.



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