

# news release



For Immediate Release

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## **HOSPIRA FOUNDATION GRANT SUPPORTS PROGRAMS TO LESSEN FEAR AND ISOLATION FELT BY SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN**

LAKE FOREST, Ill., and LOS ANGELES, Aug. 14, 2006 -- Making a major commitment to lessen the fear, anxiety and isolation often felt by children dealing with illness, the Hospira Foundation has announced a major grant in support of Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides programs to help improve the quality of life for seriously ill children and their families. The Hospira Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Hospira, Inc., a leading global hospital products company.

"We are proud to support Starlight Starbright, which shares our commitment to improving the healthcare experience," said Christopher B. Begley, chief executive officer, Hospira, and president, Hospira Foundation. "This gift will increase access to Starlight Starbright's unique programs that help empower, validate and educate youth who are coping with illness."

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The Hospira Foundation's gift will touch several programs at Starlight Starbright, helping:

- Expand a collection of interactive programs that educates pediatric patients about their conditions and various medical procedures, encourages them to communicate with healthcare providers and helps them feel more empowered about their illnesses. The grant will fund conversion of the series from CD-ROM to a Web-based platform, making the program accessible to countless more sick and injured children and their families worldwide.
- Underwrite the placement of five PC Pals in two hospitals near Hospira's corporate headquarters north of Chicago: Ronald McDonald Children's Hospital of Loyola University and Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. PC Pals are secure, Internet-enabled laptop computers that allow hospitalized children to e-mail friends and family, keep up with school work and meet others going through similar experiences via Starbright World, Starlight Starbright's online community for teens. PC Pals feature all of Starlight Starbright's medical education programs and access to age-appropriate games and distractive programs.
- Provide funding to Starlight Starbright for the development of dedicated chat rooms for teens with sickle cell, cystic fibrosis and kidney disease.

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"This generous gift from the Hospira Foundation will allow us to dramatically expand several significant programs and exponentially increase the number of children we are able to reach," said Paula Van Ness, chief executive officer, Starlight Starbright. "The PC Pals will be used by thousands of local children in Chicago-area hospitals, and the other programs they are supporting will be accessible to children and teens no matter where they live."

**About Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation**

Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation is a nonprofit organization that transforms the lives of seriously ill children and their families through imaginative programs that educate, uplift their spirits, foster a sense of community, and help alleviate the pain and fear of prolonged illness. Starlight Starbright offers an impressive array of in-hospital, outpatient, school and home-based programs and services that touch the lives of more than 180,000 children and families each month. To learn more, visit [www.starlight.org](http://www.starlight.org).

**About the Hospira Foundation**

The Hospira Foundation, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, provides support to help improve health and wellness in communities across the United States, including those with a significant Hospira employee presence. The Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Hospira, Inc., a global specialty pharmaceutical and medication delivery company with approximately 13,000 employees and 14 manufacturing facilities worldwide. For more information, visit [www.hospira.com/InTheCommunity](http://www.hospira.com/InTheCommunity).

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