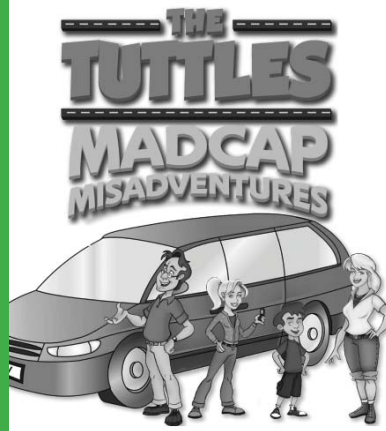


## Starlight Starbright Launches First-ever Original Fundraising Videogame



In just a few weeks, Starlight Starbright will invite people from around the world to play *The Tuttles Madcap Misadventures: Starlight Starbright Charity Challenge*, a casual videogame that pairs having a good time with doing good.

*The Tuttles Madcap Misadventures* is a hilarious arcade adventure game about a modern family trying to



bond on a road trip to see the Alamo. In addition to 40 engaging levels of gaming action, players are treated to animated, comic book-style scenes brought to life by the fantastic voice-over talents of some of Hollywood's biggest names: Bob Saget (Barry Tuttle), Jamie Lee Curtis (Barbara Tuttle), Ashley Tisdale (Jess Tuttle), Dominic Scott Kay (Zach Tuttle), Dave Thomas (The Australian), Dave Coulier (The Islanders), and William Shatner (Vance Shepherd, a TV action star whose self-involved persona has been downloaded into the on-board computer of the family's souped-up mini-van).

Starlight Starbright partnered with Legacy Interactive®, a leader in games for the mass market, on the game's development and publishing. Dave Thomas and his comedy team at Emmy Award-winning studio, Animax Entertainment, developed the game's original script and characters.



The game will be available to the public through multiple online gaming portals. The standard price to play will be about \$20 (though prices will vary depending on customer agreements with various gaming portals). On average, Starlight Starbright will receive approximately \$4.75/game played.

Additional information about the game is available at [www.tuttlesfamilygame.com](http://www.tuttlesfamilygame.com).

## Starbright World: Chat Hosts 'Round the Clock

The *Starbright World* ([starbrightworld.org](http://starbrightworld.org)) online social network for seriously ill teens and their siblings is now running 24/7! If a child can't sleep because he or she is in pain or worried about tomorrow's treatment, it is now possible to log-on, even in the middle of the night, to find friends and support.



Recently, one of our trained *Starbright World* moderators asked the teens to tell her what they thought was best about *Starbright World*. The chat revealed a touching endorsement of the value of the program:

**Moderator:** so whats the best thing about SBW?  
**Lizzy:** how all the people on here support everyone else on w/ everything they're going through  
**Bikerkid:** its the connection between the hosts and the members  
**Bikerkid:** one big online family  
**Bikerkid:** we got each others back  
**Abandoned:** being able to connect to others who understand that we're basically all going through the same things just a tad bit different  
**Bikerkid:** yeah...i thought i was all alone in the world... i wanted to find some kids like me...kids sick from UC or Crohns...but its not something you can just search myspace for  
**Abandoned:** learning others users stories, Making friends, Hope  
**Kitty08:** :)  
**Lizzy:** ...here you are with only people that have some sort of illness so in one way or another they can understand what it's like to be stuck in the hospital or to be stuck not being able to do things...  
**Bikerkid:** everybody here is the same...

If you're interested in a tour of *Starbright World* or would like to refer a seriously ill child for membership, send an email to [sbw@starlight.org](mailto:sbw@starlight.org).

## Coping with Chemo™ Program Gets a Facelift

Starlight Starbright recently redesigned our *Coping with Chemo™* online program in order to make it more visually appealing to young cancer patients, and to encourage *Coping with Chemo* users to consider *Starbright World* as a means to connect with other teens who are experiencing similar challenges.



Using a series of animated webisodes, *Coping with Chemo* has helped thousands of children and teens learn to cope with the devastating effects of having cancer and what to expect when undergoing chemotherapy and other treatments. Each webisode addresses a different topic, including the shock of getting diagnosed, dealing with grief and isolation, telling friends about the diagnosis, and celebrating the last treatment.

The redesign was made possible thanks to a grant from The Linda Tallen and David Paul Kane Educational and Research Foundation.

Check out the new design at <http://chemo.starlightprograms.org>.

## New Fun Center to Feature Nintendo Wii

First designed by Nintendo and Starlight Starbright more than a decade ago to combat the anxiety and weariness faced by hospitalized children, we are proud to debut a new *Fun Center* mobile entertainment unit featuring a Nintendo Wii (modified for hospital use) together with a Sharp® AQUOS™ liquid crystal flat-screen monitor and DVD player.

The Wii *Fun Center* lets users control the action on the screen through the motion of the Wii Remote itself. Its design allows kids, even those who aren't able to leave their beds or who have limited motion, to play with ease.

Preloaded with dozens of new Wii games and the ability to add downloaded game content, kids will find hours of distraction with each *Fun Center* unit.



"While diversion has always been the *Fun Center's* primary purpose, we have found that the mobile entertainment units do much more — they improve the quality of a pediatric patient's life," said Jane Van Stedum, Starlight Starbright's VP of Program Services. "The Wii technology allows us to offer hospitals an even greater benefit, as the new *Fun Centers* can be used in physical therapy and motor coordination exercises."

Another exciting feature that hospitals may choose to activate is Wii's online connectivity. A hospitalized child playing on a *Fun Center* could connect to a sibling or friend who has a Wii at home so that they can play games together. The units also have two Wii Remotes to allow for two-player mode in the hospital as well.

"We couldn't be more proud of the new *Fun Center* model," said Don James, Executive Vice President of Operations at Nintendo. "With each generation of *Fun Center* we have been able to do more for seriously ill children — starting with the first edition Super Nintendo Entertainment Systems and N64s; then introducing a smaller, more mobile GameCube™ version; and now adding true-to-life motion and interactivity to the Wii model. We can't wait to get these *Fun Centers* into the hands of the young patients who will benefit from them."

The ease with which *Fun Centers* roll right up to the side of young patients' beds or anywhere in a hospital setting makes them perfect for hospitalized children in numerous situations: anticipating surgery, during long outpatient clinic treatments, waiting in the emergency room or fighting loneliness after visiting hours have ended. It is this versatility that has made *Fun Centers* an invaluable tool in Starlight Starbright's programmatic efforts to counter the isolation and fear often experienced by sick children. Caregivers report that *Fun Center* use may even result in a reduced need for pain medication.

To learn more about the *Fun Center* program or to view our current hospital waiting list, visit [www.starlight.org/funcenter](http://www.starlight.org/funcenter).



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# starlight starbright connect

vol. 2 issue 2



## GET FIT, GET RIGHT!™

The rising rate of type 2 diabetes in children and teens has been called a "looming crisis" that is reaching epidemic proportions. Unlike in decades past when type 2 diabetes was commonly called "adult-onset diabetes," it is rapidly becoming a disease of the young. In fact, one in three American children born today will develop diabetes during their lifetimes, and a majority of those children will develop type 2.

If the disease is not controlled, these children will also be faced with one or more of the secondary complications of diabetes — blindness, amputation, renal failure, hypertension and heart disease — by the time they reach their 20s.

This alarming rise in type 2 diabetes is linked to the nationwide obesity epidemic among children and teens that has seen obesity rates double in the last two decades.

To address this crisis, Starlight Starbright has developed a new, interactive online program called *Get Fit, Get Right!™* ([www.getfitgetright.org](http://www.getfitgetright.org)) to reduce teen obesity in order to prevent life-long health complications, the most prevalent of which is type 2 diabetes.

"We need a program like *Get Fit, Get Right* because over the last few years, I've seen, as so many of my colleagues across the globe have, an explosion of type 2 diabetes in children and youth," says Francine Kaufman, M.D., *Get Fit, Get Right's* Medical Director, Professor of Pediatrics and Communications at the University of Southern California, and Head of the Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. "If we don't intervene, it will lead to devastating health consequences in our children. We need to explain to teenagers in particular that they can do something to prevent this, if they start living a healthy lifestyle today."

"Preventing type 2 diabetes in teens calls for an intervention that will motivate and educate them in a way they will hear and accept," adds Starlight Starbright CEO Paula Van Ness. "Starlight Starbright developed *Get Fit, Get Right* with input from more than 40 overweight teens across the nation to ensure it speaks to the teen audience."

*Get Fit, Get Right* website users learn from video diaries that profile the real-life experiences of six teens as they worked to improve their eating and exercise habits over 90 days. The site also offers real-world advice from nutrition, fitness, and medical experts, and provides a social network where teens share struggles and successes.

"I wanted my children to be involved with *Get Fit, Get Right* because my daughter Cameron was diagnosed with double diabetes — she has juvenile diabetes and type 2," explains mother Shelly. "I also really wanted my youngest, Kyra, involved because she is at high risk for type 2, and I am so trying to prevent that."

"The biggest change I've made in my life since the program, is probably that I've been able to apply the knowledge I learned in the nutrition classes to what I eat and how I eat when I'm going out to eat or when I'm at home," says 13-year-old Kyra. "I feel better now that I'm making better food choices. I feel more alive some days, because I'm not eating really fatty, sugary type things. It gives me more energy. I'm more awake at school, and just all the time."

"*Get Fit, Get Right* has helped immensely," Shelly reports. "Now when Cameron and Kyra go to the market with me, they are turning everything over and looking at labels to see how many grams of sugar it has, or carbohydrates, and telling me 'Mom, we can't buy this.' They've been to nutritionists before, but this is the program that worked. This is where it really clicked and they were able to take in the information. They listened and learned!"

If a teen you know is overweight or at risk for type 2 diabetes, tell them to visit [www.getfitgetright.org](http://www.getfitgetright.org).

For nearly 15 years, Starlight Starbright has made use of teen-friendly media, such as educational gaming, interactive websites and online social networking, to deliver research-proven-effective interventions that educate teens about their medical conditions, and help them cope with the social and emotional challenges that accompany illness. To learn more about our other online, educational programs, visit [www.starlight.org/programs](http://www.starlight.org/programs).

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## ONE FAMILY'S STORY

Willy and Eva Gatus have four beautiful children — daughters Angel, Katie and Aimee and son Austin. All were happy and healthy until a year ago when, at age 9, Austin began to experience repeated head and stomach aches, recurring colds and escalating joint pain. Because Austin was such an active child, involved with a traveling basketball team and an avid saxophone player, Willy and Eva found it strange that doctors determined he had "arthritis" in his shoulder, and were unable to do anything for a cold that never seemed to go away.

Months later, the family was enjoying a vacation when Austin began to complain that his left side ached. As the family headed home, the pain got worse. He began to hyperventilate. It was an agonizing drive back home and directly to the emergency room. After 24 hours of tests, doctors told Willy and Eva that their son had pre-B ALL Leukemia. He began intensive chemotherapy days later.

Following his diagnosis, in addition to chemotherapy, Austin required multiple surgeries and extended hospital stays for severe pancreatitis, collapsed lungs, plural effusions, painful cysts and several other serious complications. Everyone in the family was affected. With mom and dad focused on Austin's care and so often at the hospital, the girls moved in with grandma and had to quit dance lessons and other activities. Austin's surgeries and complications prevented the family from celebrating the girls' birthdays and Katie's first communion together. Mom had to miss many of Aimee's kinder-year activities. Even a spring break trip to the beach was cut short when Austin started having pain once again.

The Gatus family was introduced to Starlight Starbright during one of Austin's hospital stays. Nurses wheeled a *Fun Center* mobile entertainment unit into his room, and he and his sisters played video games for hours.

"The *Fun Center* helped keep Austin distracted. We were grateful for anything that helped him focus on something other than his illness," recalls Eva. "I noticed the Starlight Starbright signage on the *Fun Center* and was curious to learn more. When I found the foundation on the Web, I was excited to learn about the *Great Escapes* family activities offered regularly in our area."



The family started looking forward to *Great Escapes* events, and now attend whenever Austin feels up to it. They've enjoyed jewelry making, an AND1 street basketball game and more.

"Starlight Starbright's *Great Escapes* make family time a priority, and allow us to forget our problems for a little while and create cherished memories," says Eva. "My entire family laughs, smiles again and enjoys ourselves. It's nice not to have to worry for a moment about the stress and uncertainty we face daily with having a child with a life-threatening illness. Just to see the excitement and smiles on our kids' faces — is just amazing! Plus, *Great Escapes* give Austin something positive to look forward to as he copes with his illness.

"At the *Great Escapes* events, we're also surrounded by other families in similar situations and we give each other support," Eva adds. "They understand what it's like; they understand what we're going through. Being around other families reminds us that we are not alone in our struggles and gives us the moral support we need to cope."

Today, Austin continues his treatment. His health is improving, but he is still dealing with the side effects of his treatments and continues taking medication and chemotherapy. Because he missed so much school, he is repeating fifth grade. He is trying to get back into basketball, continues to enjoy playing the saxophone, and has even started learning to play the trumpet!

"Austin is trying to be normal, trying to be a kid," says Eva. "And we're spending as much time together as a family as possible, knowing how precious that time is."

To read other families' stories, visit [www.starlight.org/familiesshare](http://www.starlight.org/familiesshare).

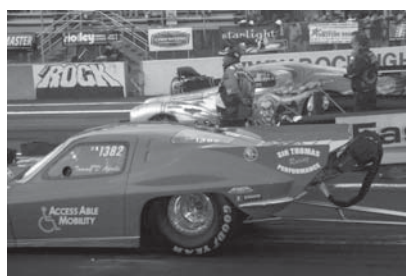
## American Drag Racing League Drivers and Fans Unite to Support Seriously Ill Children

The American Drag Racing League recently selected Starlight Starbright as its charity partner as it works to give back to the communities that support it. In just three races — Chevy Drags in Norwalk, OH; Dragstock IV in Rockingham, NC; and the AlphaTrade ADRL World Finals in Ennis, TX — fans and drivers donated thousands of dollars to support seriously ill children and their families.

In addition, drivers will soon spend time with young hospitalized fans as part of our *Hospital Happenings* program, and will host Starlight Starbright families at race events around the country for "Day at the Races" *Great Escapes* family outings.

As part of the partnership, ADRL fans are also invited to place stars in the galaxies of their favorite drivers at Starlight Starbright's *Site of a Million Stars* virtual universe — showing support for the sport and shining a light into the lives of seriously ill children and families at the same time. If you are a drag racing fan, log-on to [www.millionstars.org](http://www.millionstars.org) today and add your star to an ADRL driver galaxy!

Visit [www.starlight.org/adrl](http://www.starlight.org/adrl) to learn more.



## Russ Berrie Launches Charity-Focused Shining Stars Plush

Russ Berrie U.S. Gift, Inc. has selected Starlight Starbright as the official charitable partner of its new Shining Stars® plush line. Customers who purchase a plush Shining Stars friend also have the opportunity to "become a star" by naming and registering a real star in the sky through the International Star Registry.

As the official charity of the Shining Stars program, Russ is making a minimum guaranteed donation of \$50,000 and a maximum donation of \$850,000 to the Foundation over a two year period and will help spread the word about Starlight Starbright and its charitable mission.

Each Shining Stars friend also comes with its own unique code found inside a sealed hangtag that enables its owner to access [www.shiningstars.com](http://www.shiningstars.com), a virtual universe where kids can send e-cards, play customized games and find a galaxy of fun activities. Kids who visit [www.shiningstars.com](http://www.shiningstars.com) also have the opportunity to donate 'glow points' (the official currency of the site) to Starlight Starbright, knowing that they are helping to make a world of difference for seriously ill children and their families. To date, children have donated more than 600 million glow points to Starlight Starbright!

You can find Shining Stars plush at Hallmark, Carlton Cards, Barnes & Noble, Borders, JC Penney and other fine retailers. Teach children about giving back and buy a Shining Stars plush today!



## Give a Gift that Gives Back

Instead of getting your loved ones a typical gift card this holiday season, or your vendors or employees a fruit basket, how about giving them a star in Starlight Starbright's *Site of a Million Stars* — a universe of individuals and organizations who are coming together to bring seriously ill children and their families out of the dark.

You can purchase gift certificates for denominations between \$5 and \$30 that will enable your favorite people to create stars featuring a variety of sizes, colors and effects. They will have the chance to add a 250-character message, a photo/logo, and a website link (to any external website, including social networking pages) to their star to promote something (a business, school, band, etc.) or pay tribute to a special person in their lives (parents, kids, pets, etc.). Their star will be visible to everyone around the world who visits *Site of a Million Stars*.

In addition, as a Starlight Starbright donor, you will receive a tax receipt for the full value of the gift certificates you purchase.

It is a meaningful gesture that everyone can appreciate, especially the seriously ill children whom it will benefit! The site gives everyone a chance to shine a light into the lives of families who need it most.

To make a donation and receive your gift certificates today, please email [millionstars@starlight.org](mailto:millionstars@starlight.org) or call 310.479.1212.



## Gridlock LA Red Carpet New Year's Celebration to Benefit Starlight Starbright

Looking for the perfect way to spend your New Year's Eve? Join us for Gridlock New Year's Eve '07 - the largest red carpet New Year's event in the world! This year, Hardball Productions selected Starlight Starbright as the charity beneficiary of its annual, much-talked about New Year's bash.



For those who will be in the Los Angeles area, Gridlock will be host to 6,000 revelers at the world-famous Paramount Pictures Studio Lot in the heart of Hollywood. The six square blocks of Paramount Pictures' "New York Street" backlot facility will be transformed into the West Coast's answer to Times Square with sound stages, store fronts, great food and drink, and entertainment of all sorts.



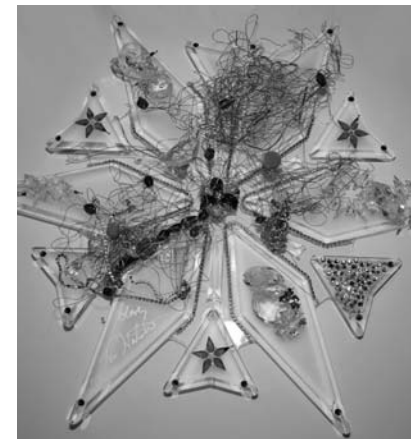
As in years past, Gridlock will feature celebrity hosts, world-renowned DJs and live musical performances by some of today's biggest acts. This year's event will be hosted by Mario López (Dancing with the Stars) and Cat Deeley (So You Think You Can Dance) and showcase an enviable roster of high profile musical acts.

If you can't make the trip to Southern California, you can still take part! The event will be aired nationally on the Fox network in conjunction with a live New York feed. Support Starlight Starbright from the comfort of your home by participating in on-air, text-to-win contests and our online appeal.

Start the New Year off right by having a fantastic time while doing something great to help seriously ill children and their families!

For more information about ticket prices and performers, please visit [www.gridlockla.com](http://www.gridlockla.com).

## Swarovski Shines Holiday Light



It's a holiday tradition. Each year, Swarovski unveils a custom-designed 9.5 foot, 550 pound star adorned with more than 25,000 crystals to sit atop the Rockefeller Center® Holiday tree.

For the second year in a row, celebrity-designed replica stars were also unveiled. Decorated by 22 Hollywood celebrities — Laila Ali, Patricia Arquette, Patti Austin, Cindy Crawford, Jamie Lee Curtis, Dakota Fanning, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Teri Hatcher, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Dave Koz, Nicole Lapin, Téa Leoni, Debbie Matenopoulos, Robin McGraw, Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen, Brittany Snow, John Stamos, Keifer Sutherland, Mena Suvari and spokesperson Christie Brinkley — these dazzling creations were auctioned off on eBay from November 1-8 to raise additional funds for Starlight Starbright.

Swarovski has also created a special 2007 Annual Edition holiday ornament — the most important item in the holiday collection — which is available for purchase at Swarovski gallery stores nationwide and on [swarovski.com](http://swarovski.com). Swarovski will donate \$250,000 from sales to Starlight Starbright bringing the company's cumulative gift to more than \$600,000.

To find a Swarovski holiday ornament retailer near you, visit [www.swarovski.com](http://www.swarovski.com).



## The Bandai Foundation Places PC Pals in Hospitals Nationwide

The Bandai Foundation recently made a donation to support Starlight Starbright's *PC Pal* program, committing to place 40 *PC Pal* laptop computer systems in wireless hospitals throughout the United States.

Bandai's gift will help us ensure that more young patients are able to use *PC Pal* laptops to stay connected with friends and family, find distraction and entertainment through the dozens of games and educational software titles that come pre-loaded on each machine, keep up with schoolwork, and find support through the *Starlight World* online social network.

To kick off their commitment, Bandai sponsored five *PC Pal* laptops in the Pediatrics Department of New York Hospital Queens and hosted a special dedication event featuring a hospital visit from the *Operations Overdrive* costumed characters. Young patients had a blast getting to know the characters and exploring the new *PC Pal* laptops now available to them during their hospital stays. As a memento of the day, each child also received toys compliments of Bandai America Incorporated.



If you would like more information about how you can help bring *PC Pals* to your local hospital, please visit [www.starlight.org/pcpal](http://www.starlight.org/pcpal).

## LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Dear Friend,

At this time of year, thoughts often turn to giving thanks for our blessings and expressing wishes for the new year to come. At Starlight Starbright, we are no different.

More than anything else, we're thankful this year that in conjunction with our chapters we are now serving more families than ever before. With new headquarters and chapter field offices in Arizona, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Washington, we've been able to offer *Great Escapes* family activities in new communities, offering seriously ill children, siblings and parents a chance to reconnect outside the hospital and meet other families facing similar challenges so that no one feels alone.

In addition, we've been able to expand our *Starbright World* online social network for teens to ensure it is available 24/7 to better serve a community that has grown to more than 3,000 members and continues to welcome new seriously ill teens and their siblings everyday. In the middle of the night, and in every time zone around the globe, we are able to offer friendship and support.

Among our hopes for the coming year is the continued expansion of *Great Escapes* to new cities and states. We also want to see *Get Fit, Get Right* make a significant impact on the epidemic of teen obesity and type 2 diabetes among youth, and prevent the onset of related conditions such as blindness, amputation, renal failure, hypertension and heart disease by the time these children reach their 20s.

It is your unwavering support that makes it possible for us to do more for families dealing with chronic and life-threatening childhood illnesses and life-altering injuries. We are grateful for all that you do to help us shine light into these families' lives, both at the holidays and all year long.

For the children,

*Paula*

Paula Van Ness  
Chief Executive Officer  
Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation

Visit [www.starlight.org/howtohelp](http://www.starlight.org/howtohelp) to find creative ideas about how you can make a difference for seriously ill children and their families.