



A Starlight Family Shares: Lizeth's Story



The story of Lizeth's illness begins when she was just 18 months old. She was a very playful and loveable baby, however, one week she developed a fever that just rose and fell and made her pale and anxious.

At first, I thought it was a cold, but took Lizeth to the doctor to be safe. After running a few tests, the pediatrician concluded that Lizeth had anemia and prescribed iron pills. The next day, I still felt uneasy, and took Lizeth back to the doctor for more tests. An ultrasound was taken of Lizeth's stomach and before I knew it, the doctor had me on the phone urging me to take Lizeth to the emergency at once.

At www.starlight.org/lizethsstory, Lizeth's mother, Marisol, shares more of her daughter's incredible story and what Starlight's *Great Escapes™* events program brings to her family.

"Starlight makes families smile and makes EVERY child feel special," Marisol says. "My kids have so much fun at Starlight events, and I thank them for all they do."



Arriving at Shelves Near You

With many thanks to sponsor Universal Studios Home Entertainment, Starlight would like to announce that the beloved classic children's story *The Little Engine that Could* will come to life in all-new fun-filled movie on DVD March 22.

Featuring the voice talents of Starlight's Fairy Godmother Jamie Lee Curtis and National Spokesperson Corbin Bleu, as



well as Whoopi Goldberg, Alyson Stoner, Patrick Warburton and Brenda Song, *The Little Engine that Could* has been declared “a fun family film” and “positively delightful” by *Los Angeles Family Magazine*. For every DVD sold, a donation of up to \$0.50 will be made to Starlight.

Learn more at www.littleenginemovie.com.

Don't forget – on March 22 look for *The Little Engine That Could* DVD in the movie section of retail stores near you!



Encompass Group and Starlight Showcase Work of Young Artists on Starlight Pediatric Gowns



Earlier this year, Encompass Group selected Starlight as its national charity partner and then enlisted Starlight's children to help design its next line of pediatric patient apparel, professional staff apparel, bedding and patient care products.

Starlight's seriously ill children and their siblings – all too familiar with hospital stays – submitted more than 325 designs from across the US and Canada based on the theme of what should be on a pediatric gown to cheer up patients during a scary and lonely hospital stay.

Encompass employees then cast their votes and crowned four winning designers –

- Myron Laban, 16, of Des Plaines, IL
- Noah Yosif, 15, of Chicago, IL
- Anna Kristina Alfaro, 11, of San Antonio, TX
- Rebecca Gordon, 14, of Manhattan IL

The artists were honored during two separate Starlight *Hospital Happening®* events that took place at hospitals where they or a sibling regularly receive treatment for a serious illness.

Noah was diagnosed with asthma when he was just 10 years old. His design, *One Small Star*, is a reflection of his experiences in the hospital and his dream to travel around the world to visit The Great Wall of China, Taj Mahal and Golden Gate Bridge.



“It felt really great to know I won,” said Noah. “My design was meant to motivate young hospitalized patients to never stop dreaming about the great places and great experiences they will have one day. I want these kids to know that hoping for better days isn't a bad thing. In fact, it will only make them stronger.”

Learn more about Noah and our other winning designers at www.starlight.org/encompass and to read a full press release about Starlight Pediatric Gowns visit our [Press Room](#).

Teens Share Their Experiences on UC and Crohn's



April is National Irritable Bowel Syndrome month, and Starlight invites teens living with inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) and their families to visit its [UC and Crohn's](#) website developed in partnership with the [Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America](#).

Over the last several months, *UC and Crohn's* has received a collection of new stories from its teen community. The stories are compelling and share the experiences of teens living with IBD from all over the country.

"[I] got blood tests, CAT scans, MRIs, ultrasounds and other procedures," member Stephanie explains in her story. "I finally had a colonoscopy and an endoscopy that showed ulcers and they diagnosed me with Crohn's disease. I thought it was cancer until they explained to me."

Stephanie is just one of the many teens on *UC and Crohn's* who are using the website as a vehicle to share their story. The site also offers a place for teens to share tips with one another or ask questions using the site's *Ask the Expert* feature.

To read the incredible stories submitted to the *UC and Crohn's* website, similar to Stephanie's story above, go to www.ucandcrohns.org/my_story.php?c=3.

And if you know of a teen suffering with ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease, please refer them to www.ucandcrohns.org.



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