



A Starlight Family Shares: Catriona's Story

When Catriona was born, she was very thin at just five pounds and yellow. I knew something was not right.

After several weeks of testing, we discovered Catriona had a genetic disease called Alpha 1 Antitrypsin Deficiency that affects the liver and lungs. Catriona had cirrhosis of the liver - as a newborn!

My daughter's diagnosis completely turned our lives upside-down. My husband and I had always planned on returning to Ireland, our home country, with our family. However, Catriona's medical care became our first priority, and we knew it was in our best interest to stay in Boston and treat the disease.



Catriona's mother, Joan, shares more of her daughter's inspiring story at www.starlight.org/catrionasstory and how Starlight's *Great Escapes™* family activities program "shows Catriona that fun is possible her life – like a regular kid."



A Huge HURRAY for California Pizza Kitchen, Who Allowed Our Children to PAUSE TO PLAY!

In 2010, California Pizza Kitchen hosted and sponsored 20 CPKids Camp *Great Escapes™* around the country, which allowed our children and families to "Pause to Play." More than 2,500 Starlight family members attended the camps, more than 300 CPK employees donated their time, and CPK donated more than \$50,000 worth of delicious CPK food. Click

[here](#) to watch a short thank you video that recaps all 20 camps.



Starlight's *Fun Center*[™] Program Reaches Milestone



In November, Starlight passed a very special milestone — placing our 7,000th *Fun Center* mobile entertainment at the Child Abuse Resource and Evaluation Department of Driscoll Children's Medical Center in Corpus Christi! The unit became the 20th *Fun Center* to bring therapeutic fun to young patients at the hospital, which provides care to children from 33 counties in South Texas.

"In the Child Abuse Resource and Evaluation Department, the *Fun Center* will be used by children and families in crisis situations — allowing our young patients to watch movies or play video

games while they wait or while they receive care," explains forensic nurse Carol McLaughlin.

First introduced by Starlight and Nintendo of America in 1991, Starlight's *Fun Center* program has grown year after year based on an increasing demand from hospitals, patients and their families.

In the program's earliest days, analysts predicted that demand would cease after 3,000 *Fun Centers* had been placed. Instead, even after reaching the 7,000-mark, hospital demand shows no sign of slowing down!

Read more about this special milestone in our Winter 2011 Starlight [Connect](#) newsletter. There are 470 hospitals in the United States and Canada requesting more than 1,100 new *Fun Center* units to better serve their pediatric patients. If you would like to bring a *Fun Center* to a hospital on our waiting list, visit www.starlight.org/funcenter to learn more.



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