



### Starlight Has a New Name and Logo

Starlight is excited to announce that we have shortened our name and changed our logo! In an effort to simplify our name, make it easier for the public to remember, and unify with our international affiliates in Australia and the United Kingdom, we will now operate as “Starlight Children’s Foundation” in the United States and Canada and soon in Japan. Our logo has also been updated to reflect the name change and better communicate our core mission – in place of the letter “i,” a child reaches out toward a star, just as Starlight brightens the lives of seriously ill children and their families, a little each day.



### Starlight's Very Own Guitar Hero

Starlight recently partnered with Activision to host a Guitar Hero® III: Legends of Rock charity challenge. Craig, “SilentSuperior,” from our [Starbright World](#) community won a special Starlight-teen-only competition – receiving an all expenses paid trip to Southern California and a tour of Neversoft Entertainment. This once-in-a-lifetime experience for Craig took place last month. He and his mom were taken by limo from their comped hotel to the studios and made to feel like royalty! They received an in-depth tour, were treated to inside information about top secret developments, had all of their questions answered, and most importantly, Craig got to play Guitar Hero with the creators of the game! It was VIP treatment throughout. Now...meet Craig.

Craig's just like every other teen in that he enjoys listening to music, playing videogames, and hanging out with friends. Perhaps what makes him most different is



his illness. When he was 9 years old, he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. He didn't respond to chemotherapy and had to get a bone marrow transplant from his sister. He went into remission but he developed Graft vs. Host Disease from the Bone Marrow Transplant. The GvH affects his mobility, his skin, his mouth, and caused him to have chronic dry eyes. Last October, he was diagnosed with Auto Immune Hepatitis, which basically means his immune system is attacking his liver. Luckily he seems to have it under control with medication, and if he can continue to keep it under control, he can live life normally for the most part. If not, then he will need a liver transplant in the future.

Craig admits that his illness is a challenge for his whole family. It's been hard for his mom to keep a job, because she has to take him to doctors all the time. When he was younger, the hospital became his second home. He would stay for weeks, sometimes longer, come home for a day or two, and then have to go back for a few more weeks. Now he has to get his blood drawn every Friday to check on his liver counts.

Being sick all of the time and not being able to go to school has also cut him off from his friends, so he spends a lot of time connecting with other sick teens through *Starbright World*. He found Starlight when he was first diagnosed and in the hospital. A Child life Specialist brought a computer into his room and it had *Starbright World* on it. Craig told us, "I really can't imagine what I would have done without Starlight. When I couldn't leave the house because I was sick, I'd always hop on *Starbright World* and talk. I've met so many amazing people. It's really nice to know that someone else out there understands."

Through all of this, Craig says, "Personally I don't really feel like my illness affects my life a ton. I do get sick a lot easier than everyone else, but I've been doing this stuff for so long that it's all become rather normal. I have to take medication day and night, but that's about it. In a weird way I'm kind of glad I got diagnosed. It has made me really think a lot of things over. I'm a nicer person, I don't take things for granted like I used to, and I just have a totally different outlook on life."

Starlight was very happy to partner with Neversoft and Activision to give Craig an experience he will never forget! To read a couple of stories about Craig in his community papers in Oklahoma, click [here](#) and [here](#).



**Support Starlight Through SocialVibe**  
*Create Your SocialVibe badge and add it to your social networking (MySpace/Facebook) page!*



SocialVibe, a social media tool that works with advertisers and allows people to use their online influence to make a real difference, has partnered with Starlight. Now, with SocialVibe ([www.socialvibe.com](http://www.socialvibe.com)) you can show your support,

spread the word about Starlight and earn points which turn into donations that help us touch the lives of seriously ill children and their families. To create your SocialVibe profile and badge simply:

- ★ Create a SocialVibe profile
- ★ To make a badge, choose Starlight as the cause to support (every point you earn turns into fundraising dollars for Starlight)
- ★ Choose a sponsor (hundreds of leading brands to endorse that offer exclusive artwork and perks while giving back to Starlight)
- ★ Finally, place the decked-out badge (co-branded with Starlight, the desired sponsor, optional personalized message, color palette and member profile picture) on your social networking profile and every time someone visits any of your networks with the badge added, you'll earn points which translate to donations back to Starlight!

Since Starlight joined with SocialVibe, SocialVibe members have raised almost \$3,000 for Starlight!

One SocialVibe user explained her support for Starlight by posting a comment that reads, "Starlight Children's Foundation is a great cause to raise money for! How would I know such a thing? Because I was a part of this foundation as a child, I was diagnosed with AT3 (ataxia type 3) at the age of 13! The doctors told me I was the youngest person to have such a thing. I was heartbroken, as was my family. That's when Starlight reached me and helped me through all the heartache and pain. They made dreams come true that I thought would never before come true."

Visit Starlight's SocialVibe page today at <http://www.socialvibe.com/charities/7#> and create your profile and badge to earn points, showing your support!

To learn more about how SocialVibe works check out this YouTube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SaURsxbpJU>.



## **New Starlight Microsite Will Aid Teens' Transition to Adulthood**

Starlight is collaborating with the Children's Digestive Health Nutrition Foundation ([www.cdhnf.org](http://www.cdhnf.org)) to create an extension to our existing UC and Crohn's website ([www.ucandcrohns.org](http://www.ucandcrohns.org)) that will focus on content for teens transitioning from pediatric to adult care. The new microsite, which is currently entitled *IBD: Graduating to Independence* and is due to launch this winter, will address some of the issues and concerns around this topic area, especially for teens going to college or entering the workforce. There will be resources, tips, and polls to help this target group build on previous knowledge, improve self-management skills, develop a portable medical record and develop an action plan for dealing with IBD during transition into adulthood. In addition, it will include information to support and guide teens' parents and educators during this important transitional period.

Stay tuned for more information on this new development.



Have comments or questions? Have you been forwarded this email and you want to join our mailing list? [Visit our Share Your Story page](#) at [www.starlight.org](http://www.starlight.org).



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