



Press Contact:
Melanie Parga
Starlight Children's Foundation
(323) 556-3315
melanie.parga@starlight.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Starlight Names Award-winning Storyteller
Tony DiTerlizzi a Global Ambassador**

Los Angeles, Calif. – Starlight Children's Foundation is pleased to name *New York Times* best-selling author and illustrator Tony DiTerlizzi a Global Ambassador for the organization. A supporter of Starlight's for a decade, Tony is dedicated to Starlight's cause to help seriously ill children and their families cope with their pain, fear and isolation through entertainment, education and family activities.

"It has been my mission to share the joys of reading, art and imagination with not only the healthy children in bookstores and schools across the world, but with other children who are not as fortunate," he said.

This quest began for Tony when his young daughter, Sophia, suffered from seizures at an early age, giving his family a first-hand experience of the overwhelming and often times frightening reality of life in the hospital.

"Being storytellers, my wife and I passed the time between medical procedures and discussions with doctors by creating our own fairy tales and playing make-believe with our daughter within the walls of our quiet hospital room," said DiTerlizzi. "It was there I began to truly understand the power of what a fantastic story can do and how it can transport one to another time, place or world."

Dragons, space monsters, goblins and insects: the characters that inhabit storyteller Tony DiTerlizzi's world haven't changed since he was a kid growing up in South Florida. This year Tony celebrates ten years of creating children's books by returning to aliens and spaceships with his futuristic fairy tale, "The Search for WondLa" (Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing). It was also ten years ago, when he first got involved with Starlight and contributed beautiful illustrations for Starlight's book, "Once Upon a Fairy Tale," a unique collection of classic fairy tales with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting Starlight.

"The work Starlight does to restore a family's spirit is as powerful as any fairy tale," Tony said. "I feel incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to represent Starlight as a Global Ambassador and I am thrilled and honored to share in their mission of brightening the lives of seriously ill children and their families."

For more about Tony and his many projects, visit www.diterlizzi.com.

About Starlight Children's Foundation

When a child or teenager has a serious medical condition, everyone in the family is affected. For more than 25 years, Starlight Children's Foundation has been dedicated to helping seriously ill children and their families cope with their pain, fear and isolation through entertainment, education and family activities. Starlight's programs have been proven to distract children from their pain, help them better understand and manage their illnesses, and connect families facing similar challenges so that no one feels alone. Through a network of chapters and offices, Starlight provides ongoing support to children, parents and siblings in all U.S. states and Canadian provinces with an array of outpatient, hospital-based and Web offerings. Programs are also delivered internationally through affiliates in Australia, Japan and the United Kingdom. To learn more visit www.starlight.org.