

## Give Kids The World Village: The Place Where Happiness Inspires Hope

The most precious gift you can give is hope...and that is exactly what is delivered at Give Kids The World Village, an 89-acre, whimsical nonprofit resort in Central Florida that provides critically ill children and their families from around the world with magical week-long wish vacations at no cost. Amidst snoring trees, enchanting castles and the world's largest game of CANDY LAND, Give Kids The World creates life-changing moments that lift spirits, renew hope and inspire belief in the impossible.

Every year, more than 30,000 children in the U.S. are diagnosed with a critical illness; and half of those who are eligible for a wish choose to visit Orlando and its world-famous theme parks and attractions. Give Kids The World Village is the nonprofit that fulfills all of these wishes.

When wish-granting organizations around the world receive a request from a critically ill child who wishes to visit Central Florida, Give Kids The World takes over – providing the entire family with a once-in-a-lifetime experience in a fully accessible storybook Village imagined from the pages of a fairy tale. From life's simple pleasures to the stuff that dreams are made of, every wish family is treated to transportation; accommodations; all meals and snacks; nightly entertainment; donated theme park tickets; daily gifts; and a breadth of activities at the Village, a remarkable destination featuring an array of accessible rides and attractions. Since 1986, nearly 200,000 wish children and their families from all 50 states and 77 countries have been welcomed to the Village to laugh together, play together, and create unforgettable memories away from hospital stays and medical treatments.

A stay at Give Kids The World Village is much more than a vacation. It's a magical week of "YES!" where wish kids can experience the joy and wonder of just being a kid, and where families can relax, reconnect, and recapture many of the priceless milestones and celebrations that may have been missed due to a child's illness. It's a respite from the stress and worry of illness where the possibilities for fun and adventure are as endless as the ice cream.

Give Kids The World was created by Holocaust survivor and hotelier Henri Landwirth. Born in Antwerp, Belgium, Landwirth survived five years in Nazi death and labor camps during World War II, including Auschwitz. After immigrating to the U.S. and serving in the Army during the Korean War, he began a 50-year career in the hotel industry, rising from bellman to owner. Most notably, he managed the Starlite Motel in Cocoa Beach, FL, which served as the temporary home to the original Mercury 7 astronauts – who became Landwirth's lifelong friends. With their support, and through contributions from founding partners, Landwirth created Give Kids The World Village in 1986 to fulfill his long-ago promise to one day prevent children from missing out on childhood as he had.

From its humble beginnings on 35 acres of land with 16 wish family villas, a pool and a playground, Give Kids The World Village has grown exponentially. It now encompasses 166 villas; the Park of Dreams, featuring a wheelchair accessible swimming pool, splash pad and Serendipity pirate-themed entertainment stage; Henri's Starlite Scoops, an accessible ice cream parlor; the Castle of Miracles, where the stars of every wish child who has visited adorn the ceiling; Amberville, an accessible gaming venue; four wheelchair accessible rides, including the world's first-ever wheelchair-accessible carousel; therapeutic horseback riding at Keaton's Korral; Julie's Safari Theater, an accessible movie theater; the Happy Harbour Fishing Pond; miles of nature trails; dining and event venues; Twinkle Hope's Rockin' Spa for kids, and Olivia's Oasis, a relaxation spa for wish parents and caregivers; a nondenominational chapel; and much more. In 2024, the Village will debut Mayor Clayton's WonderLab, a STEAM education center with a focus on science, crafts and technology.

One of less than 1% of all U.S. charities to receive Charity Navigator's highest rating 17 years in a row, Give Kids The World (tax ID number 59-2654440) is made possible by thousands of dedicated volunteers, who donate their time, talent and passion filling up to 1,800 volunteer shifts every week. The Village relies on the generosity of countless caring donors and corporate partners to accomplish its mission to deliver joy, optimism and hope to families who need it most. For more information or to make a donation, please visit [www.gktw.org](http://www.gktw.org).



## From Heartbreak To Hope: The Story Of Give Kids The World Village

Like the special children Give Kids The World Village serves, founder Henri Landwirth knew all too well what it was like to miss out on childhood.

Born on March 7, 1927, in Antwerp, Belgium, Henri moved to Poland with his parents, Max and Fanny, and twin sister, Margot, in 1930 for greater opportunity. When Germany invaded Poland nine years later – initiating World War II, the Landwirths' lives changed forever. Max was incarcerated in Radom prison without reason and later shot; Fanny and thousands of other Jewish prisoners were loaded onto a boat, which was sunk by German soldiers; and Henri and Margot were packed into train cars headed for Nazi death camps.

Over the next five years, Henri was shuttled between Mauthausen, Płaszów, Gusen, Ostrowitz and Auschwitz. In 1944, Henri and two other Jewish prisoners were recaptured after attempting to escape. As punishment, three German soldiers marched them into the woods to be executed. In a miraculous twist of fate, Henri's life was spared at the last minute when one soldier told them, "When I raise my gun, run into the woods."

Suffering from gangrene and a fractured skull, Henri ran, walked and limped, eventually finding refuge in an empty house near Prague. When the war officially ended in 1945, he returned to Krakow, eventually reconnecting with Margot in Germany. In 1950, in pursuit of the American dream, Henri sailed to New York City as a deck laborer with just \$20, a Torah, and little knowledge of the English language. He began cutting diamonds in midtown Manhattan, but was soon drafted into the Army during the Korean War. After his discharge, Henri used his G.I. Bill to study hotel management. At night, he worked the front desk at the Wellington Hotel in New York City. In 1954, Henri honeymooned in Florida with his then-wife, Josephine, and never returned north. He began working as the manager at the President Madison Hotel in Miami Beach, making \$120 a week.

Serendipity once again changed the trajectory of Henri's life when he loaned his tie to a patron who needed one to dine in the hotel's restaurant one night. The gesture made an indelible impression on the man, who turned out to be B.G. McNabb of General Dynamics – who was helping to develop the new space program at Cape Canaveral. There were no hotels nearby for the astronauts, so McNabb was building one...but he needed a manager. A few weeks after the restaurant encounter, McNabb hired Henri to manage the new Starlite Motel in Cocoa Beach. In the early days of space exploration, the Mercury 7 astronauts including Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Deke Slayton, Alan Shepard and John Glenn lived at the Starlite Motel, becoming Henri's lifelong friends.

In 1969, in partnership with Glenn, Henri opened his first Holiday Inn franchise in Orlando, the Holiday Inn Main Gate. A tourism boom began two years later with the opening of Walt Disney World, and Henri was often asked by wish-granting organizations to provide complimentary accommodations for critically ill children, and he happily obliged. In 1986, he noticed that the parents of a six-year-old girl with leukemia named Amy had canceled their visit. When Henri asked why, he was told that the other portions of Amy's wish to meet Mickey Mouse had taken too long to arrange, and she had passed away; time simply had run out. Henri was profoundly heartbroken and vowed to never again allow a child's wish to go unfulfilled. With the support of Walt Disney World, SeaWorld, Mercury 7 astronauts, 90 Orlando area hotels and other corporate sponsors, he began fulfilling wishes out of his Holiday Inn office – with 329 wishes granted during the first year. But Henri wasn't satisfied.

In 1989, Henri purchased 35 acres of land in Kissimmee and began building a storybook resort designed to deliver joy, optimism and hope to wish families during once-in-a-lifetime dream vacations. Imagined from the pages of a fairy tale, Give Kids The World Village opened on May 13, 1989, with 16 wish family villas, a pool, a playground and administrative offices. Since then, with support from donors, corporate partners and thousands of caring volunteers, the Village has grown exponentially; it now encompasses 89 acres, 166 wish family villas, and a breadth of accessible rides, attractions and amenities. True to Henri's vision, rush wishes can be fulfilled within 24 hours if necessary.

Since 1986, nearly 200,000 wish children and their families from all 50 states and 77 countries have been welcomed to the Village to laugh together, play together, and create priceless memories away from hospital stays and medical treatments...the impact of which is immeasurable. For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.gktw.org](http://www.gktw.org).



## Give Kids The World Fact Sheet

**WHAT:** One of less than 1% of all U.S. charities to receive Charity Navigator's highest rating 17 years in a row, Give Kids The World Village is an 89-acre, whimsical nonprofit resort in Central Florida that provides critically ill children and their families with magical week-long wish vacations at no cost.

**WHERE:** 210 S. Bass Road  
Kissimmee, FL 34746

**WHO:** Since 1986, Give Kids The World has welcomed nearly 200,000 families from all 50 states and 77 countries to laugh together, play together, and create priceless memories away from hospital stays and medical treatments.

**HOW:** When wish-granting organizations around the world receive a request from a critically ill child who wishes to visit Orlando, Give Kids The World takes over – customizing an all-inclusive dream vacation designed to engage and delight every member of the family. From life's simple pleasures to the stuff that dreams are made of, every wish family is treated to transportation; accommodations; donated theme park tickets; all meals and snacks; nightly entertainment; daily gifts; and nonstop fun at the Village, a remarkable storybook destination of its own. The Village is made possible by countless volunteers, donors, corporate partners and wish-granting organizations.

- MORE:**
- Children between the ages of 3 and 18 who have been diagnosed with a critical illness, and who have been referred by a 501(c)(3) wish-granting organization, are eligible for a wish trip to Give Kids The World Village.
  - The Village encompasses 166 wish family villas; dining and entertainment venues; four wheelchair accessible rides; a movie theater; horseback riding; a miniature golf course; an accessible zero-entry swimming pool and splash pad; an accessible ice cream parlor; an accessible arcade and gaming center; a fishing pond; an accessible playground featuring the world's largest game of CANDY LAND; a pirate ship entertainment stage; a children's spa; a relaxation spa for wish parents and adult caregivers; nature trails; a nondenominational chapel; a gift shop; a basketball court; and much more.
  - The Enchanted Carousel, the world's first-ever wheelchair accessible carousel, features 22 hand-carved animals – two of which are specifically designed to accommodate wheelchairs.
  - The Village welcomes an average of 8,400 wish families each year.
  - Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Village; volunteers fill up to 1,800 volunteer shifts each week and serve 229,000 volunteer hours each year and save the Village nearly \$7.3 million annually in operating expenses.
  - Since 2011, volunteers have served nearly 5 million hours and filled 1.6 million shifts.
  - There are nearly 200,000 gold stars on the ceiling of the Castle of Miracles and the adjoining Wish Tower – one for every wish child who has visited.
  - The Village distributes nearly 120,000 gifts a year through the Gift Fairy program. Santa Claus visits the Village 52 times a year, where an additional 23,400 gifts are handed out annually.
  - Halloween, Christmas and birthdays are celebrated every single week at the Village.
  - Alumni wish families may visit the Village for the day twice each year as part of the Village's popular Welcome Back Family program.
  - Give Kids The World's Alumni Club helps alumni families stay connected and share the mission of the Village through fundraising and engagement opportunities year-round.



## Give Kids The World President & CEO Pamela Landwirth Bio

Pamela has been part of Give Kids The World since 1992 and was chosen to lead the Village in 1995. As president and CEO, she is responsible for the operations of the Village and all strategic advancement initiatives for the organization.

Prior to joining the Village, Pamela developed an extensive background in resort operations management, human resource development, and project planning from her 16 years with the Walt Disney World Company. After leaving Disney in 1993, Pamela was a consultant to the president and CEO of Hard Rock Cafe in all areas of human resources, organizational development and strategic planning.

Under Pamela's leadership, virtually every aspect of Give Kids The World Village has been transformed. The Village more than doubled in size, from 32 acres to 89 acres. The number of villas grew from 56 in 1995 to 166 today. More than a dozen new venues and attractions have been added, including Julie's Safari Theatre, Matthew's Boundless Playground, the Amberville Train Station, Towne Hall, Twinkle Hope's Rockin' Spa, Banyan Park, Lori's Magical Flight, Kelly's Sunny Swing, Jersey Jaxson's Playroom, Serendipity II, Henri's Starlite Scoops and Olivia's Oasis. Volunteer shifts have quadrupled, from 421 to more than 1,800 per week.

But most importantly, the number of families who visit Give Kids The World Village each year has grown from 3,949 in 1995 to more than 8,400 today. Pamela works tirelessly to accomplish Give Kids The World's mission of creating joy, optimism and enduring hope for every guest who visits.

In addition to her work at the Village, Pamela is a highly sought-after speaker in the nonprofit world. She has served on numerous nonprofit boards and currently sits on the Executive Advisory Board for the Something mAagic Foundation and the University of Central Florida's Nonprofit Advisory Board. Pamela has a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Georgia and a master's degree in Business Administration from Rollins College. In 2017, Pamela was inducted into the IAAPA Hall of Fame. She is also an Amusement Today Golden Tickets Award LEGEND, and was named i4 Business magazine's 2020 Business Leader of the Year, Nonprofits. Most recently, she released her first book, *On Purpose: How Engagement Drives Success*.



## Give Kids The World Village: Volunteering Gets to the Heart of the Matter

When volunteers at the non-profit Give Kids The World Village in Kissimmee, FL, describe their volunteer experience as transformative and life-changing, they can also now add "life-extending." That's the implication of a new study which indicates that giving your time to help others, rather than your money, may help you to live longer – especially among older adults.

The study, which appears in the peer-reviewed journal *Personality and Individual Differences*, followed 3,544 participants from 2004 to 2017 and measured whether each had given money to charity, volunteered, or cared for someone other than a spouse. Participants who volunteered their time and energy experienced a lower risk of mortality, while those who gave money to charity or other people did not. It isn't the first study to show a correlation between pro-social behavior and improved health and wellness; but it has wonderful implications for charitable organizations like Give Kids The World, which relies on the passion and kindness of thousands of volunteers to accomplish its charitable mission.

"It is no secret that alleviating stress and promoting laughter and positivity help immensely in the healing process by improving the immune system and relieving pain," says Give Kids The World President & CEO Pam Landwirth. "At Give Kids The World, our goal is to spread joy, inspire hope, and help facilitate the most positive outcome possible for these children and their families. We could not do it without our amazing volunteers, and are indebted for their generous donation of time and compassion. Our volunteers change the lives of our wish families, and in the process, their own lives are enriched."

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Give Kids The World Village. Every single week 365 days a year, volunteers ranging from students and families to seniors, snowbirds, faith, community and corporate group members, and conference attendees fill up to 1,800 volunteer shifts to make wishes possible. Volunteers contribute an average of 217,000 volunteer hours each year contributing their time, talent and passion serving meals; operating the accessible rides and attractions; hosting parties and celebrations; assisting with daily gift-giving; supporting the character program; delivering pizza; scooping ice cream; and innumerable other roles and responsibilities that are integral to creating magical, all-inclusive wish vacations. Since 2011, volunteers have served nearly five million hours and filled 1.6 million volunteer shifts. In addition, volunteers donate \$3.5 million each year and save the Village nearly \$7 million annually in operating expenses – making a tremendous financial impact on the Village and its ability to fulfill growing numbers of wishes. And the benefits to volunteers are equally impactful.

A few times each week, Dr. Stewart Dobbins volunteers at the Village after spending a full day at work. "As a pediatrician, I know first-hand the struggles and hardship these children endure. The bravery and heart these little ones have is just incredible. Volunteering at the Village can sometimes be more rewarding than my real job," says Dobbins. "The progress made by the kids staying here with their families is often off the charts. I've seen terribly sick children come here to have their wishes granted whose health turns completely around. It's amazing, it really is. I get back far more than I give."

Give Kids The World Village is an 89-acre whimsical non-profit resort that fulfills all of the wishes for critically ill children from around the world who want to visit Central Florida. When wish-granting organizations receive a request from a critically ill child, Give Kids The World fulfills the wish – providing every family with a magical week-long dream vacation at absolutely no cost, including transportation; accommodations; all meals and snacks; nightly entertainment; donated theme park tickets; and priceless experiences at the Village, featuring fully-accessible rides, attractions and activities for the whole family. To learn more about volunteering, visit [www.gktw.org/volunteer/](http://www.gktw.org/volunteer/).



## Give Kids The World Village Venues

### Amberville Train Station

Amberville is an interactive train station that includes an expansive, interactive model railroad, a waterway with remote-controlled boats, train memorabilia, an interactive video arcade, billiards, bowling and Jersey Jaxson's Playroom, a LEGOLAND Merlin's Magic Space. The Village's accessible gaming experience inside Amberville features 30+ feet of controllable LED product, two PlayStation 5's, racing games, pinball, Ice Ball, basketball, and a photo machine. Just outside the Amberville Train Station area are two additional ADA accessible attractions, Kelly's Sunny Swing and Lori's Magical Flight.

### Avenue of Angels

Constructed with more than 35,000 paving stones, the Avenue of Angels is a 750-foot walkway that serves as the "main street" of Give Kids The World Village. It is dedicated to the thousands of volunteers who make it possible for the Village to create life-changing experiences and unforgettable memories for wish families. Trunkie the Elephant and Auguste the Clown are unique, voice-activated paper gobblers who eat paper and other small pieces of trash gathered by children. The Avenue leads from Amberville Train Station to Towne Hall.

### Bob's Sparkleberry Nature Trail

Built and designed by U.S. Navy Seabees, the nature trail is a 600-foot elevated boardwalk trail offering a glimpse of Florida's lush native wetlands.

### Café Clayton

Located on the first floor of Towne Hall, Café Clayton is the primary dining area for wish families and visitors. The food court-style venue encompasses Nancy's Kitchen, Mama Merry's Pizzeria, Katie's Kitchen, a Fresh Bar/grab-and-go food station, and more. The adjacent Gingerbread House provides seating for more than 300 guests. The Café is a favorite place for volunteers – especially groups of all ages and sizes – to volunteer. The venue serves more than 350,000 meals to wish families each year.

### Castle of Miracles

Perhaps the most iconic venue at Give Kids The World Village is the Castle of Miracles, where more than 180,000 gold stars – one for every wish child who has visited – adorn the ceiling and the adjacent Star Tower and Star Observatory. Designed by ITEC, the venue is home to an array of whimsical interactive elements including Father Time, a grandfather clock that wakes up the Castle every morning and puts the Castle to sleep each evening; Tom Foolery, a court jester that interacts with children; Tom Foolery, a court jester who interacts with children; Jolly Hollow, an enchanted forest inside Ol' Elmer, the huge snoring tree outside toward the back of the Castle – featuring a giant honeycomb where bees buzz, a slide that makes noises as children slide down, and an array of whimsical creatures; the Whimsy Well, a wishing well with audio effects enabling children to hear a coin as it splashes down to the bottom; the Magic Mirror, which turns each child into a king or queen; and the Dream Pillow Tree with Hermes, the owl, which creates a Dream Pillow for wish children and their siblings as a special reminder of their visit to the Village.

### Chapel

Give Kids The World's nondenominational chapel offers a serene, peaceful venue for contemplation, prayer and meditation. Four beautiful stained glass windows represent each of the seasons.



## Village Venue: Page 2

### Enchanted Carousel

Located just outside the Castle of Miracles, the Enchanted Carousel was designed and donated by Vekoma in the Netherlands. The one-of-a-kind attraction features 22 hand-carved animals, two of which – a snail and a turtle – are wheelchair accessible.

### Gazebo at Happy Harbor Fishing Pond

The Gazebo at Happy Harbor Fishing Pond is a unique place to cast a line. The gazebo features a specially-adapted railing that allows wheelchairs to pull up for a first-hand look at all of the fishing fun. All fish are “catch and release,” and all necessary equipment is provided at the enclosed Fishing Hut located next to the pond.

### Gingerbread House

Situated within Towne Hall adjacent to Café Clayton, the Gingerbread House provides seating for more than 300 as wish families and guests enjoy dining, birthday celebrations and special events. The walls of the venue are lined with thousands of dolls and stuffed animals which have been gifted to the Village by visiting children and families. The venue features tabletops encased with more than 84,000 real peppermint candies, with tables and chairs scaled to “child size.”

### Henri’s Starlite Scoops

Henri’s Starlite Scoops is an accessible, space-themed ice cream parlor that pays tribute to the life and legacy of Give Kids The World Founder Henri Landwirth. Opened in 2021, the venue features custom-built 28-inch tall ice cream chests in lieu of the traditional 34-inch cases to make it possible for all children, including those in wheelchairs, to pick out their favorite flavors. Similarly, lower countertops, an accessible ice cream toppings bar and an open floorplan enable those in wheelchairs to easily navigate the venue and enjoy its immersive theming. Walls inside the rotunda feature false windows that offer a glimpse into space, as if guests are dining inside a 30-foot flying saucer, which sits atop the building. Historic photos and NASA memorabilia – including a space suit, moon rover, and a Give Kids The World flag which John Glenn took with him on a space shuttle mission – complete the out-of-this-world venue, which is open from 7:30 am to 9:30 pm seven days a week...so guests can enjoy Ice Cream For Breakfast (or lunch and dinner!)

### House of Hearts

The distinctive purple House of Hearts is Give Kids The World Village’s welcome center. Upon arrival past the Welcome Hut and through the resort gates, families are greeted by Guest Services representatives who provide them with their first introduction to the Village and all the fun and adventure that awaits. The special tiles in the entryway depict the word “welcome” in several languages, and the flags that are flown outside represent the home countries of current international wish families staying at the Village. Among the unique features of the House of Hearts, the venue features a bronze statue of Give Kids The World Founder Henri Landwirth and wish children which was sculpted by Frank Eliscu, the artist who sculpted the Heisman Trophy.

### Julie’s Safari Theatre

Julie’s is a 104-seat, fully-accessible movie theatre that provides families with the chance to view films, entertainment shows and events, all while enjoying an endless supply of popcorn, soft drinks and sweets. Every week, Julie’s hosts Stellar’s Star Show, a talent show featuring wish children, their siblings and sometimes even their parents in unique, on-stage performances including singing, dancing, magic acts, joke telling, hula-hooping and more. In this fun-filled event, every participant is a winner.



## Village Venues: Page 3

### **Jurassic Junction**

Jurassic Junction, formerly JJ's Express, is an immersive Jurassic-themed accessible train experience that takes riders on a journey through a jungle, inside prehistoric caves and past paleontological dig sites, with themed storytelling along the way. Two character voices, The Conductor and The Paleontologist, point out places of interest as the track traverses the Amberville section of the Village.

### **Keaton's Korral**

Keaton's Korral is a therapeutic horseback riding venue featuring a wheelchair-accessible riding platform, enabling riders of all abilities to ride along with a certified riding specialist. The venue is made possible by Misty Blue Acres and Unbridled Spirit Therapeutic Riding Center.

### **Kelly's Sunny Swing**

Kelly's Sunny Swing is a wheelchair-accessible swing ride that accommodates nine riders of all ages and abilities. Donated by Zamperla, the brightly colored swing is topped with a rainbow and smiling sun. It features eight standard seats and one specially designed space to accommodate riders using wheelchairs.

### **Lori's Magical Flight**

Located behind Amberville Train Station, Lori's magical flight is a rotating ride with six arms which raise and lower, up to a maximum of 16 feet, depending upon the pedaling speed of the riders. It was donated by Zamperla and features a wheelchair transfer-capable car as well as a fully wheelchair-accessible car. Lori's is one of four accessible rides at the Village that enable children in wheelchairs to safely ride. Often these rides provide wish children with their first-ever amusement ride experience.

### **Marc's DinoPutt**

Sponsored and built by Universal Orlando employees, Marc's DinoPutt is a seven-hole, Jurassic-themed miniature golf course filled with friendly dinosaurs, a glow-in-the-dark cave, a waterfall, and more fun, interactive elements. Families can download a scorecard app to their mobile devices.

### **Matthew's Boundless Playground**

Matthew's Boundless Playground is a 15,000-square-foot, fully-accessible playground featuring the world's largest and only life-sized version of the CANDY LAND board game. Characters from the famous game including King Kandy, Princess Frostine, Mr. Mint and Gloppy line a colorful trail that leads through Gumdrop Pass and Lollipop Forest to the Candy Castle.

### **Mayor Clayton's WonderLab**

Mayor Clayton's WonderLab is a one-of-a-kind, immersive STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) activity center located on The Avenue. A focal point for creativity and exploration, the WonderLab is designed to inspire curiosity; foster collaboration; and spread childlike wonder to wish children and their families. From its whimsical architectural elements and ADA accessible features to its breadth of hands-on experiences, every aspect of the WonderLab has been crafted to spark the imagination and facilitate endless opportunities for learning, invention and creative expression. Six unique spaces engage families in a wide spectrum of fun and fascinating activities including animatronics; 3D printing; stop motion video creation; hydraulic machine building; printmaking; magnetic marble runs; spherical robot obstacle courses; and more.





## Village Venues: Page 4

### Miss Pitty Pat's Garden of Hope

Designed as a sensory experience filled with delights to stimulate every sense, the Garden of Hope features raised plant beds and wheelchair-accessible paths to ensure that everyone can enjoy the beautiful plants, specifically selected for their fragrance, texture and color. A serene koi pond adds additional color and movement to this lush area, with sounds of trickling water, colorful, fragrant flowers and various textures available to explore. The Garden of Hope encompasses Millie's Butterfly Garden and Bethany's Garden, with Mayor Clayton's Cottage nestled among the butterfly bushes.

### Olivia's Oasis

Located on the Avenue of Angels inside Twinkle Hope's Rockin' Spa, Olivia's Oasis is a relaxation spa dedicated exclusively to wish parents, adult family members and caregivers. Designed to provide caregivers with a respite from the stress of caring for a critically ill child, the venue immerses guests in a tranquil ambience featuring seven unique quiet spaces for relaxation and reflection. Each space features state-of-the-art amenities including SolaJet® Dry-Hydrotherapy tables and chairs; therapy loungers; aromatherapy utilizing soothing essential oils; chromotherapy: ambient colored lighting to promote a sense of calm; a hydration station; and more. Olivia's Oasis is open seven days a week, 365 days a year, and is staffed entirely by caring and compassionate volunteers.

### Park of Dreams

The Park of Dreams features Jack's Wacky Water Works, a whimsical splash pad, and a wheelchair-accessible, zero-entry pool where children of all abilities can experience water fun – with specially designed aqua wheelchairs provided. The Park of Dreams is home to Serendipity, a 90-foot long pirate themed entertainment stage, as well as Noah's Nook, a snack shack offering hotdogs, popcorn, ice cream and other delicious treats.

### Serendipity

Serendipity is an interactive pirate themed entertainment stage located at the Park of Dreams pool. Designed and built by SteamLabs Design Group, Icarus Exhibits Orlando, Electrosonic AV Design and SNA Displays, the ADA-accessible ship spans more than 90 feet and is highlighted by a 16-foot by nine-foot SNA Displays LED screen for film screenings, dive-in movies, sports broadcasts and special events. The ship also includes fun photo op features; an animated parrot; an interactive ship's wheel; and a masthead figure that is the maritime cousin of the seahorses on Give Kids The World's accessible Enchanted Carousel.

### Stellar's Star Experience

Among the myriad of magical experiences enjoyed by wish families at Give Kids The World Village, the most treasured of all is the opportunity for every wish child to customize a gold star and have it placed permanently within our galaxy of stars in the Castle of Miracles and the adjoining Star Tower and Star Observatory. To make this special moment even more unforgettable, the Village engaged SteamLabs Design Group to completely reimagine the star experience – transforming it into a highly interactive encounter featuring cutting-edge animation, fully-integrated audio in four languages and charming new characters. Joining the Castle's resident Stellar The Star Fairy in bringing this deeply personalized experience to life, Franko the giant and fairies Glitter, Dusty and Willow take wish kids on a fantastical journey as their stars are lovingly placed and their stories become woven into the rich history and legacy of the Village.

The Star Experience comes to life in English, French, Spanish and Hebrew, enabling children from around the world the opportunity to enjoy this unique experience in their own language.



## Village Venues: Page 5

### **Towne Hall**

Towne Hall is a 53,000 square-foot, two-story building covered in chocolate kisses, swirly lollipops and colorful gumdrops. Inside are various dining options for wish families and guests; several entertainment venues, including The Hopping Place and The Peppermint Table; and the Village's administrative offices.

### **Twinkle Hope's Rockin' Spa**

Twinkle Hope's Rockin' Spa provides wish children and their siblings with fun services such as manicures, face painting, temporary tattoos, hand massages, makeup, "crazy" hair styles, and other opportunities to glam up and feel special.



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Volunteers are the heart and soul of Give Kids The World Village. Every single week 365 days a year, volunteers ranging from students and families to seniors, snowbirds, faith, community and corporate group members, and conference attendees fill up to 1,800 volunteer shifts to make wishes possible. Volunteers contribute an average of 229,000 volunteer hours each year contributing their time, talent and passion serving meals; operating the accessible rides and attractions; hosting parties and celebrations; assisting with daily gift-giving; supporting the character program; delivering pizza; scooping ice cream; and innumerable other roles and responsibilities that are integral to creating magical, all-inclusive wish vacations. Volunteers have served 5 million hours and filled 1.6 million volunteer shifts. In addition, volunteers save the Village nearly \$7.3 million annually in operating expenses – making a tremendous financial impact on the Village and its ability to fulfill growing numbers of wishes. And the benefits to volunteers are equally impactful.

A few times each week, Dr. Stewart Dobbins volunteers at the Village after spending a full day at work. "As a pediatrician, I know first-hand the struggles and hardship these children endure. The bravery and heart these little ones have is just incredible. Volunteering at the Village can sometimes be more rewarding than my real job," says Dobbins. "The progress made by the kids staying here with their families is often off the charts. I've seen terribly sick children come here to have their wishes granted whose health turns completely around. It's amazing, it really is. I get back far more than I give."

Give Kids The World Village is an 89-acre whimsical non-profit resort that fulfills all of the wishes for critically ill children from around the world who want to visit Central Florida. When wish-granting organizations receive a request from a critically ill child, Give Kids The World fulfills the wish – providing every family with a magical week-long dream vacation at absolutely no cost, including transportation; accommodations; all meals and snacks; nightly entertainment; donated theme park tickets; and priceless experiences at the Village, featuring fully-accessible rides, attractions and activities for the whole family. To learn more about volunteering, visit [www.gktw.org/volunteer/](http://www.gktw.org/volunteer/).

