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The Starlight Children's Foundation Midwest Chapter Raises Nearly \$400,000 at
25th Anniversary Gala

Foundation celebrates record-breaking year for attendance and funds raised

CHICAGO – June 21, 2011 – The Starlight Children's Foundation Midwest, an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for critically and chronically ill children, held its 25th anniversary gala celebration June 4, raising \$385,000 for the organization. Through the generosity of Starlight's sponsors, supporters and gala attendees, Starlight Midwest increased fundraising by more than 50 percent.

"This year's gala celebration marked 25 years of supporting Midwest children and families in need, and we are grateful for the generous support of our community which enables us to continue our work," said Sonya D. Naar, Board President. "The Board and the entire Starlight team thank all of the organization's volunteers and donors for their continued support and assistance in making this year's gala the best yet."

The gala, held at The Standard Club, featured remarks from special guest, Academy Award Nominated Actress, Minnie Driver, live and silent auctions, dinner and dancing. Several Starlight children and families were in attendance as well. This year saw an increased attendance of 21 percent over last year.

"We are so pleased by the results of this year's celebration, and the incredible generosity of the entire Starlight family," said Joan Steltmann, Starlight Midwest Executive Director. "The money raised will go a long way to supporting Starlight Midwest's efforts, including the expansion of our Great Escape programs and in-hospital support to over 160 institutions. We are thrilled to be able to use this funding to increase our presence in the Midwest and to reach more children and their families who need our services and support."

Starlight Midwest offers comprehensive programming of outpatient, in-patient and online offerings that enable the organization to provide ongoing support for children and families — from diagnosis through the entire course of medical treatment. Programs are high tech and high touch, blending therapeutic entertainment, education and family interaction.

To learn more about Starlight Midwest, visit www.starlight-midwest.org

About Starlight Children’s Foundation Midwest:

When a child or teenager has a serious medical condition, everyone in the family is affected. Since 1986, Starlight Children’s Foundation™ Midwest has been dedicated to helping seriously ill children and their families cope with their pain, fear and isolation through therapeutic 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. Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, Starlight Midwest provides ongoing support to more than 300,000 children, parents and siblings in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin with an array of outpatient, hospital-based and Web offerings. To learn more visit www.starlight-midwest.org.

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