



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

It's National Volunteer Week: April 27- May 3, 2008

**Starlight Honors its National Volunteer of the Year
by Dedicating a Fun Center to the Hospital of Her Choice**

***–Honoree Marlene Rotstein Chooses Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Where
She Has Also Volunteered for 22 Years***

(CHICAGO) –Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation recently conducted a search to unearth its volunteer superstar of 2007 and is proud to announce that Chicago resident Marlene Rotstein has been named the organization's 2007 National Volunteer of the Year. In her honor, Starlight is dedicating a [Fun Center](#) – a mobile entertainment and gaming unit – to Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, the hospital of her choosing, on Wednesday, April 30 at 3:30 PM in the Janice and Kimberly Brown Family Life Center on the 5th Floor.

Marlene is a Public Affairs Director for [CNA](#), the country's seventh largest commercial insurance writer and the 13th largest property and casualty company, and became involved with Starlight in 2004. She quickly became completely committed to the organization's mission and joined the Board of Starlight's Midwest Chapter. Since then, Marlene has taken a leading role in strategic planning and is actively involved in planning special events, volunteering, and fundraising. Starlight estimates that her combined efforts have resulted in contributions in excess of \$350,000. In addition, Marlene has been instrumental in the planning of Starlight Midwest's two biggest and most anticipated [Great Escapes](#) events – prom night and the Lake Michigan cruise – which were attended by more than 530 local children and family members last year and more than 2,100 since Marlene became involved. Great Escapes are special family outings including ball games, picnics, spa days, etc. that connect seriously ill children to other children and families to other families, ultimately helping children break free from isolation that often accompanies an illness, letting them know they are not alone and providing some quality family fun time as well.

"Helping children in need is one of my greatest passions, and so it's been my pleasure to work with Starlight in its mission to bring joy into the lives of the thousands of children they serve here locally in Chicago," said Marlene. "I appreciate Starlight for this special recognition and for its gift to Children's, as well as my employer, CNA, for supporting my involvement with such a worthy cause."

"Marlene is the most hands-on volunteer in our history," said Diane Ray, COO of the Midwest Chapter of Starlight. "Marlene's boundless energy, enthusiasm for the kids, and passion for our cause have made her our number one volunteer. So many of our families have gotten to know her through the Great Escapes program; they look forward to seeing her and associate her with our organization just as much as any staff member."

Additionally, Marlene has been a dedicated volunteer at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago for 22 years and is thrilled to have the opportunity for her volunteer efforts at Starlight to benefit the pediatric patients at Children's Memorial Hospital.

About Starlight's *Fun Center* Program

A *Fun Center* is a mobile entertainment unit that includes a Nintendo Wii™, a DVD player, and a Sharp AQUOS™ liquid crystal display television. *Fun Centers* roll easily right up to the side of young patients' beds or anywhere in a hospital setting, which makes them perfect for hospitalized children in numerous situations: anticipating surgery, during long outpatient clinic treatments, waiting in the emergency room or fighting loneliness after visiting hours have ended. A *Fun Center* is a welcome guest when no one else is around. Anecdotal evidence from healthcare professionals indicates that the *Fun Center* also has therapeutic benefits and can assist in the healing and rehabilitation process. For more information about Starlight's *Fun Center* program, visit www.starlight.org/funcenter.

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About Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago

The largest pediatric hospital in Illinois, Children's Memorial Hospital provides specialists in every known pediatric specialty. Its physicians are faculty members at the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University. *U.S. News & World Report* consistently ranks Children's Memorial as the top pediatric hospital in the state. The American Nurses Association also recognized Children's Memorial as the first hospital in the state — and the first pediatric hospital in the nation — to receive its prestigious Nursing Excellence Magnet Award.

About Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation

When a child or teenager has a serious medical condition, everyone in the family is affected. For 25 years, Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation™ has dedicated itself 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 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.

Founded in 1986, the Midwest chapter of Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation touches the lives of more than 15,000 children each month in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin and has a presence in more than 150 hospitals. To learn more about Starlight in the Midwest, visit www.starlight-midwest.org.

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