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PRESS RELEASE

Starlight Children's Foundation to win Child Life Council's Spirit of Giving Award

Rockville, MD – June 1, 2010 – The Child Life Council, the leading nonprofit professional association serving child life specialists, announced today the selection of Starlight Children's Foundation as the recipient of the 2010 Spirit of Giving Award. The Child Life Council Spirit of Giving Award was established in 2007 to recognize organizations and individuals making significant monetary or in-kind contributions that have a positive impact on child life programs on a national or international level.

For more than 25 years, Starlight Children's Foundation has helped seriously ill children and their families cope with their pain, fear and isolation through entertainment, education and family activities. In fulfilling its mission, Starlight brings together experts from pediatric health care, technology and entertainment to create programs that educate, entertain and inspire seriously ill children. The member of the pediatric health care team responsible for the psychosocial care of the child and family is most often the child life specialist who works with Starlight to bring its programming to the healthcare facility. In providing Starlight programming, the child life specialist is equipped with invaluable resources to help children and families cope with the challenges they face daily. Starlight's programs can be found in more than 1,300 hospitals across North America – in each and every U.S. state and Canadian province.

Starlight provides ongoing resources and a sense of community from the moment of diagnosis throughout a family's journey with serious illness and touches the lives of more than 3 million family members in North America each year. Starlight programs include:

- Family activities and outings

- In-hospital entertainment technology
- Online communities and interactive websites
- In-hospital playrooms, kid-friendly treatment rooms and special events
- Educational programming

Child life specialists would not be able to complete their mission of working to reduce the negative impact of stressful or traumatic life events and situations that affect the development, health and well-being of infants, children, youth and families without programs such as those provided by Starlight Children's Foundation. Child life specialists embrace the value of play as a healing modality and Starlight provides fun and engaging entertainment, education and family activity programs that 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.

Starlight meets a very real need in the health care community. Research studies have found that Starlight's programs help reduce children's pain while helping them to better deal with, understand and manage their illnesses. In addition, Starlight programs help the child, parents and siblings experience less depression, anxiety, pain and isolation and bond as a family. While researchers look for cures and doctors work to restore a child's health, Starlight works to restore the entire family's spirits.

The CLC Spirit of Giving Award will be presented to Paula Van Ness, CEO, Starlight Children's Foundation on June 13, 2010 during the Closing General Session of the 28th Annual Conference on Professional Issues in Phoenix, Arizona.

About Child Life Council

Child Life Council (CLC) is the leading membership association for child life specialists, professionals who are specially trained to help children manage stressful and potentially traumatic experiences. Membership is composed of over 4,000 individuals representing more than 600 organizations worldwide.

Throughout the United States, Canada, and in nations across the globe, child life specialists provide support for children and their families undergoing challenging life events, such as surgery, cancer, diabetes, the death of a family member, and natural disasters. Child life specialists promote effective coping through play, education, and self-expression, drawing on child development theory and practice to encourage optimum development and well-being. To learn more about Child Life Council and the child life profession, please visit our Web site at www.childlife.org.