

# Dreamline

Fall 2011

A newsletter celebrating Dream Come True

## BEN DREAMED OF MEETING "INDIANA"



How many kids ever want to sit with a doctor for three hours? The answer to that question is most definitely very few.

That is, unless you are 12-year-old Ben Jones, who has spent much too much time with doctors. Just the same, this was Ben's dream.

In June of 2010, a couple of members of the referral committee of Dream Come True met with Ben to discuss his "Dream."

He wanted to meet with one of the most famous doctors in America, perhaps even the world. His "Dream" was to meet Dr. Indiana Jones, who is also known as Harrison Ford. The team went to work in August

2010 and after six months of planning and scheduling, Ben's "Dream" came true.

A member of Harrison Ford Productions contacted Dream Come True on February 18th and Ben's "Dream" was set to begin.

On March 19th of this year Ben began his journey in his first limo ride to the airport. He and his family arrived in Santa Monica, California and were taken to the offices of Harrison Ford at the Santa Monica Airport.

While there, Harrison took plenty of time with Ben, showing him his fleet of planes including some from WWI and the Korean War.

He gave Ben many signed pieces of memorabilia including that famous Indiana Jones hat, numerous posters and photos, and several t-shirts that Ben has shared with his friends.

Harrison not only showed Ben and his family around, but also shared lunch with them.

He took his time with a little boy who has spent far too much time in hospitals and with doctors than any little boy deserves.

That's the kind of doctor visit anyone would love to experience.

For Ben, it was the best experience of his life, and one he will never forget.



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# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF GIVE KIDS THE WORLD

# Telethon Returns!

Give Kids the World is a non-profit organization that exists only to fulfill the wishes of all children with life-threatening illnesses and their families from around the world to experience a memorable, joyful, cost-free visit to the Central Florida attractions, and to enjoy the magic of Give Kids the World Village. 100,000 children have had their dream come true at GKTW.

GKTW is a place where families find joy, laughter, serenity, and a lifetime of memories. Wish granting organizations across the world send their children who are eligible to GKTW. Dream Come True is no different. DCT sends approximately 25 children per year to GKTW. There is no other place on earth where children have their every whim answered.

The GKTW experience is all about saying yes to families who all too often hear and have to say no.

Do you want to have ice cream for breakfast? How about Christmas every Thursday and video games and miniature golf as often as you'd like? That can happen at GKTW.

With the help of many generous individuals, corporations and partnering wish granting organizations, GKTW has welcomed more than 100,000 families from all 50 states and more than 70 countries.

Founded by Henri Landwirth in 1986. Mr. Landwirth gave up his childhood when he was separated from his family and they all became prisoners in the Nazi death and labor camps during WWII. He miraculously survived and worked his way to America.

After retiring in 1986, Landwirth created GKTW to offer children with life threatening illnesses a place to dream.

GKTW offers so much to our families the 7 days they are there. The families get to experience along with Central Florida attractions, many more activities, gifts and a place to relax and have fun.

Their first priority is the needs of the children and their families. They reach out to all their guests and make them feel like members of their family and help create magical memories.

Dream Come True is thrilled to have been partnered with GKTW since the beginning and we hope they are around creating awesome memories for our families for another 25 years.



Check out GKTW's website at [www.gktw.org](http://www.gktw.org).

The 26th annual Telethon will be held December 5th. Beginning at 6 pm tune into RCN Channel 4 and learn all that Dream Come True does for the children of the Lehigh Valley area that are afflicted with a serious, chronic or life threatening illness.

Our Telethon is our largest fund raiser. The money raised helps us continue to fulfill dreams for some wonderful children. We invite school groups, individuals and organizations who raise money for Dream Come True to appear and share their story of how they helped our dream recipients. We also feature some of the children who have received their dream.

There will be a great on-air auction where you have the chance to purchase some one-of-a-kind items that make great holiday gifts. Featured guests include the music group "Dream Kidsx Mopar Madness and more.

Some of the auction items will be listed on our website beginning November 28th.

Enclosed is our remittance envelope, where we ask you to make a donation so you can become part of helping make dreams come true.

## remembering ZACH KRAUS



When we hear the word "courageous" we think of a 16-year-old Zach Kraus who passed away on February 12, 2011. For 11 years the Parkland High School student and North Whitehall resident had battled Leukemia and a variety of health issues related to the Leukemia.

Zach was 6 years old when he was diagnosed with Leukemia. From that time on Zach encountered a host of other problems related to the cancer.

He received a bone marrow transplant in 2003 from marrow donated by his then 6 year old sister Tori. Zach faced an ongoing battle with the effects of the cancer on other parts of his body – lungs, bones, kidney, and liver.

During those 11 years, Zach never complained, nor did he pity himself, even after going through surgery after surgery, procedure after procedure. The hospital was a second home to him. But it never defeated his spirit. Although Zach spent months at a time in the hospital he never put himself first.

He was always thinking of how he could help others. He not only thought about helping, he did it. Throughout the years Zach raised money to buy toys, televisions and video games for children to use while being treated at St. Christopher's Hospital.

He inspired others to join him in helping those who need a lift while in the hospital. Nothing stood in the way of Zach's emotional, strong willed determination to improve hospital stays for countless youngsters who need uplifting.

He put others first, and he made a real difference. Because of Zach always putting others first, Dream Come True in 2008 nominated Zach for the Weller Center's "Outstanding Friend to Kids Award."

Zach won the award and although in the past few years he went through numerous major surgeries he never lost his determination to make things better for others.

Zach was adopted by the Lehigh Valley Yankee Fan Club who held many fund raisers to help his family with enormous medical bills.

Zach became a friend and an inspiration to everyone in the Club.

Zach's dream trip to Disney World was fulfilled in September 2001 where him and his family spent 7 glorious days.

Zach was a phenomenal young man who never let his illnesses defeat his spirit. He will never be forgotten by so many who drew inspiration from his zest in life.



Derek Graffis of Bethlehem was born on December 11, 1989 and passed away on December 17, 2010.

Derek's dream was a cruise on a National Geographic Ship through Alaska in July 2009. Derek and his dream were featured in our Autumn 2009 Dreamline.

Derek and his family had a unique experience, with daily opportunities for Zodiac rides, wilderness hikes and ocean kayaking in pristine bays. Derek took advantage of each and every opportunity to experience and learn about the Alaskan cultures.

He was a fun-loving and inspirational young man, which became even more evident in his long fight against the cancer that tried to overtake him. A 2008 graduate of Liberty High School, Derek was always active behind the scenes, setting up audio/visual systems, and working on stage sets for numerous events, graduating with the most community service hours in his senior class.

Despite his ongoing cancer treatments, he courageously attended Millersville University with the intention of becoming a technology education teacher.

His greatest joy was from serving others, allowing their smiles to be his only payment. Derek was a member of the Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 and the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem, where he was an active member in the high school programs. He viewed his cancer like rust on an old car, which a talented restorer would carefully remove and rebuild.

He hoped that his cancer treatments would give him new life as the old rust was killed off and a new body emerged, cancer and rust-free. He was thankful for every day, and looked forward to being ready to roar and becoming stronger than before.

He will watch over all of us now that he has his angel wings, and will thoroughly enjoy driving all the angels around in his Mustang.

Prior to his recent bone marrow transplant, a bone marrow drive took place looking for a possible match.

Because of Derek, many of his friends, family and even strangers turned out to be a possible match. Although Derek's match did not come from that drive, he was the inspiration for the rest of us and hopefully one day someone from his drive will be a match for someone like him.

Memorial donations in Derek's honor raised over \$8,000 for Dream Come True and Angel34. Derek's memorial tribute to Dream Come True will sponsor a similar dream for another child who is facing what Derek faced and Angel34's tribute will help fund "Derek's Camp Flip-Flop."

Derek's Camp Flip-Flop is a chance for families whose children are battling cancer a long weekend at the beach which was important to Derek.

He never missed a summer at Cape May. Shortly before Derek passed he came up with the idea of providing warm colorful blankets to children in the hospital. Derek's memorial tributes will also help pay for blankets that will have a "Derek's Hug" orange heart on every blanket. A little bit of Derek will live on in the life of other kids.

Derek's ashes will be spread out to the places that were important to him, including Ethiopia where he volunteered with his church youth group. Derek was an awesome young man who now is our angel in heaven.



# Dream Maker Awards

Since 1986, Dream Come True annually honors individuals, businesses and service groups that have consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty to help Dream Come True continue to achieve our mission.

These Dreammaker recipients are an elite group that help us in various ways to bring smiles and happy moments to the children of Dream Come True.

In December of 2010 we were proud to announce the following Dreammakers:

**Paula Bonstein** of the Lehigh Northampton Airport Authority – Paula has for many years coordinated the North Pole Express. She has worked countless hours ensuring the North Pole Express is a wonderful experience for the kids.

**Kimberly Helwig** of RCN – Kim is in charge of getting items for our annual Telethon and preparing them for bidding. Kim works hard to make the Telethon a success.

**Susan Kittle** of the Lehigh Northampton Airport Authority – like Paula, Susan coordinates the North Pole Express. She too makes sure everything with the North Pole Express is running smoothly. Susan works the numerous hours it takes to host this event.

**David Yanoshik** of the Express-Times – David volunteers his time to help Dream Come True with public relations and advertising. He also creates our newsletter "Dreamline." No matter how busy David is he drops everything to help us out.