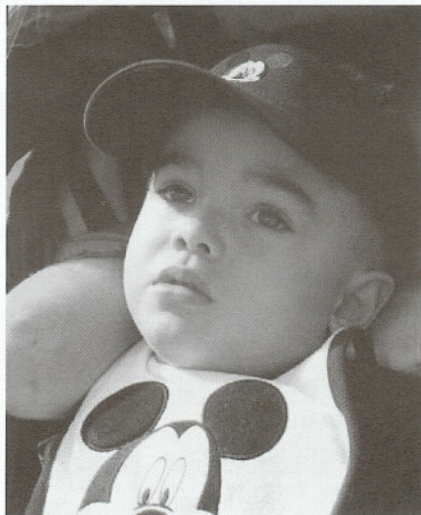




**NTSAD**

# LIFELINE

A Publication of National Tay–Sachs & Allied Diseases Association  
for Members of the Peer Support Group



## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- 2** From the Top
- 4** Organization News  
Conference update  
Canadian Holiday Gathering
- 7** Science & Medicine  
Substrate Inhibition  
Meet the LOTS Community  
LOTSF Conference 2004
- 10** Family Corner  
Dylan Goes to Disney  
Keep in Touch  
The Day Billy Left
- 14** Honoring Our Children



## FAMILY CORNER

### DYLAN VISITS DISNEY

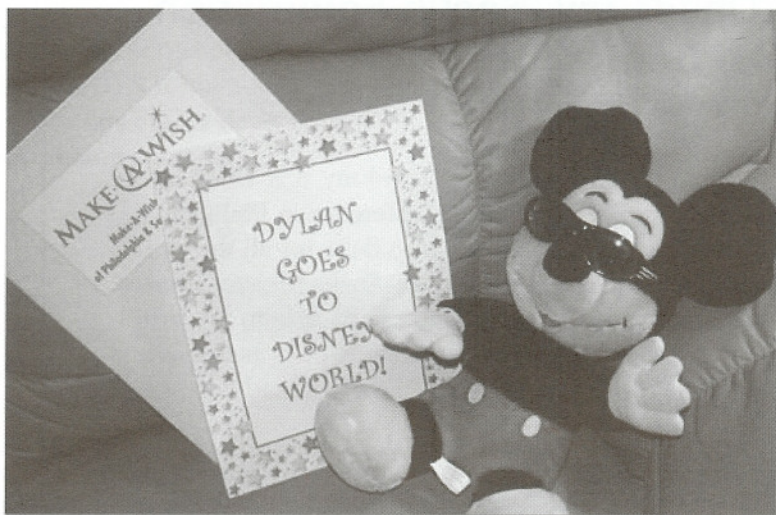
By Sherri Manning

**L**eave all your troubles behind... When you wish upon a star, your dreams come true!

As a parent of a child with a terminal illness, every day is full of challenges and heartache. Wouldn't it be nice to just forget about it all for just one week—to instead see magic reflected in your child's eyes?



Now you can! For just one week you can forget about the rest of the world, eat your meals in a life-size Gingerbread House, enjoy giant size banana splits for breakfast and get tucked in at night by a six-foot stuffed bunny driving a miniature taxi cab. Give Kids the World Village is a non-profit resort in Central Florida dedicated to granting children with life-threatening illnesses a wish of a lifetime. Visit [www.gktw.org](http://www.gktw.org) for more information on how your child can experience the magic of Disney and forget about the hassles of every day life.



The Village offers families their own personal villa, a whimsical restaurant, daily activities, and fun entertainment programs for the entire family. In addition to the Friendly's ice cream palace, there is a movie theater, a wheelchair-friendly carousel and choo choo train, and two heated swimming pools that are handicapped accessible! What more can there be to keep a child happy? Well, families also experience the thrill of the Disney theme parks with complimentary attraction tickets to complete the family's cost-free vacation. There your child will meet the characters of their dreams without waiting in long lines. They will be treated like royalty and get to ride whatever they choose without wasting a single minute of your trip!

Our son Dylan, 3, suffers from Tay-Sachs disease and we were granted a wish from the Make-a-Wish Foundation to get away from the hustle and bustle for a week to the Most Magical Place on Earth! They provided limousine transportation right from our front door to the airport where even his grandparents got to go along. There was a volunteer waiting for us when we arrived at the Orlando airport to

show us the way to our Magical Journey. We were even given spending money for souvenirs, tolls and expenses.

Our journey began with an incredible greeting from more volunteers at Give Kids the World Village who presented Dylan with a stuffed Mickey Mouse, his very own star to make a wish on, and a magical pillow which helps to make his dreams come true. When we arrived, all of his medical equipment was already there waiting for us so we didn't have to worry about packing it or taking it home with us! He received a different toy every day with a new list of daily activities to make our



stay enjoyable. Dylan got the chance to ride a pony, swim in the heated pool, meet Mickey and Friends and to make a wish upon a star which will be forever on their ceiling in the Castle of Dreams. He even made the front page of the Orlando Sentinel when he was there lounging by the pool!



At Disney, he enjoyed rides like Buzz Lightyear and Winnie the Pooh and sat in all of the 3D shows like Honey I Shrank the Audience and A Bug's Life. He rode the Safari bus through Animal Kingdom's Jungle Safari and got to sense many of the animals from far away countries. He responded well to the Electrical Parade through Main Street because he loves lights and music! Epcot was his favorite because he got to travel the world in less than a day—how many kids can say that? He loved playing the bongo drums in Mexico and trying the hats on in Morocco. The sounds of fountains were quite calming to him and the firework display was spectacular!

We tried to pack as much activity into our days as possible which makes you entirely forget about life back home without doctors and therapy sessions. Once we arrived completely exhausted back at the resort, they offered free pizza which was delivered right to our door and a stocked refrigerator...they don't accept a dime from you!

I have to admit, it is not the type of trip to take if you just want to relax! The memories you create will last a lifetime and you will have these to treasure forever, especially when they give you your very own DVD of memories before you leave to go home. It is magical, inspirational and unforgettable. When your days with your child are numbered, there is nothing greater that I would recommend but to provide your child this opportunity of a lifetime!

### A Place Where Wishes Come True

If your child is battling a life-threatening illness... picture for just one week trading trips to the hospital for trips to the world's greatest theme parks, trading bad tasting medicine for giant bowls of ice cream, and trading tears and boredom for smiles and laughter. The ability to make that happen is a wish that many parents imagine. During your family's "Wish Trip" to Give Kids The World, your child's laughter will never be louder, and their smiles will be bright as the Florida sun! Give Kids The World does much more than provide guests with a fantasy vacation. They heal hearts and instill hope not only for the special child, but for the entire family, while creating memories that will simply last a lifetime.

### Grant Your Child's Wish

Give Kids The World Village partners with over 250 wish-granting organizations and foundations to make the Central Florida wish a reality. Since their founding in 1986, over 66,000 families have come to the Village and experienced all of the wonder and magic that Central Florida has to offer. Families that visit Give Kids The World must be referred by a wish-granting organizations. Children ages 3–18, battling a life-threatening illness, as deemed by a medical doctor, are eligible regardless of income. A welcome reprieve is just a phone call away. Contact your local wish-granting organization or foundation to learn if your child is eligible, or call 1-800-995-KIDS, and Give Kids The World can refer you to the wish-granting organization or foundation in your community.