The most magical sound in the world is that of a child’s laughter.

That is what fills the air at Give Kids The World Village—a wish-fulfilling, fanciful, carefree retreat for children with life-threatening illnesses and their very deserving families.

Give Kids The World Village is a 70-acre, nonprofit “storybook” resort located near Central Florida’s most beloved attractions. Children and their families are treated to weeklong, cost-free fantasy vacations, complete with accommodations in the Village’s whimsical villas, transportation, donated attraction tickets, meals, and much more.

At the Village, these precious children learn that dreams really do come true, as they and their families are immersed in joy, hope, and non-stop fun for a few unforgettable happy days—a most welcome escape from the weight of their challenging circumstances. Since 1986, Give Kids The World has hosted more than 106,000 deserving families from all 50 states and more than 70 countries.

This extraordinary, life-changing experience is Give Kids The World’s gift, made possible only through the generosity of dedicated corporations and countless individuals. For more information, visit givekidstheworld.org.
Give Kids The World

The story of Give Kids The World begins in 1986 with a little girl with a wish and the desire of one man to make that wish come true.

The little girl’s name was Amy. Amy had leukemia and one wish - to visit the theme parks in Orlando. To facilitate Amy’s wish, the request of a complimentary stay was made to a respected hotelier. As he had done many times before, the hotelier gladly obliged and Amy’s wish was that much closer to being realized. Sadly, the remainder of Amy’s travel plans took too long to arrange and her wish was never granted; Amy had passed away. Time simply ran out.

This unfulfilled wish inspired a man, the hotelier, to make a vow that no child in need would ever be failed again. That man was Henri Landwirth and his desire to ensure that Amy’s story would never repeat itself is where the story of Give Kids The World begins.

Landwirth enlisted the support of colleagues in the hospitality industry, including our world-famous theme parks, to assist him in bringing these special families to Central Florida within 24 hours if need be. He called the project “Give Kids The World,” because that is just what he intended to do - provide memorable, magical, cost-free experiences to children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

As the program expanded and the number of families continued to grow, it was apparent that Give Kids The World would need to create a place that could better serve the special needs of our families. The gates of Give Kids The World Village opened in 1989.

Today the Village is a 70-acre resort complete with 140 villa accommodations, entertainment attractions, whimsical venues, and fun specifically designed for children with special needs. In 2011, Give Kids The World is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with the grand opening of two new Village Venues—the Star Tower and the Gallery of Hope.

With the help of many generous individuals, corporations and partnering wish-granting organizations, Give Kids The World has welcomed more than 110,000 families from all 50 states and more than 70 countries.
Facts About Give Kids The World

- Since 1986, GKTW has served over 110,000 families from all 50 states and more than 70 countries.
- Families enjoy a weeklong, cost-free vacation that includes accommodations at Give Kids The World Village, meals, donated attraction tickets and more.
- With the help of many generous individuals and corporations, including Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando, SeaWorld Orlando, Hasbro, Walmart, Perkins, Boston Market and many more, GKTW is able to serve over 7,000 families each year.
- Each and every day, dedicated volunteers share their time and talents with the Village. Each week more than 1,500 volunteer shifts are filled to help wish Families experience their memorable vacation.
- GKTW maintains an administrative rate of just 7.8% - well below the national non-profit average. For the past 6 years, GKTW has earned Charity Navigator’s Four Star rating.
- GKTW is always in need of financial and in-kind support, as well as new volunteers. To learn more about GKTW, visit www.givekidstheworld.org or call 1-800-995-KIDS.

A child with a life-threatening illness between the ages of 3 and 18, whose one Wish is to visit any of Central Florida’s best loved attractions, may have their dream vacation come true by first being identified by a doctor as a child with a life-threatening illness.

The child is then teamed up with one of over 250 partnering wish-granting organizations from around the world, who then refer the eligible wish child and their family to GKTW Village.

Once a wish has been approved and recommended by the wish child’s local wish-granting organization, their Give Kids The World wish includes:
- Accommodations on-site in one of 140 villas
- Donated tickets to all three major theme-park resorts (SeaWorld Orlando, Universal Orlando and Walt Disney World)
- Transportation
- Meals in our Gingerbread House Restaurant and Katie’s Kitchen; and ice cream all day in the Ice Cream Palace
- Many other fun surprises
Everything is entirely cost-free to the family!
Henri Landwirth

Founder
Give Kids The World

Like the special children Give Kids The World serves, its founder, Henri Landwirth, knows all too well what it is like to give up his childhood. Born in Antwerp, Belgium, on March 7, 1927, Henri and his family were separated and became prisoners in the Nazi death and labor camps during WWII. Henri spent the years between the ages of 13 and 18 in camps including Auschwitz and Matthausen. By war’s end, both of his parents had been killed, but miraculously Henri and his twin sister, Margot, survived and were reunited. Henri worked his way to America on a freight ship, arriving in New York City with $20 in his pocket and little knowledge of the English language; soon after he was drafted to serve in the Army.

Henri used his GI benefits to learn hotel management and landed a position in a hotel, taking every opportunity to learn each job in the industry. This first job became a lifelong career.

Landwirth moved to Florida in 1954 and began to manage the 100-room Starlight Motel in Cocoa Beach, near Cape Canaveral. Space exploration was in its early days and the original Mercury 7 astronauts and newsmen covering their adventures made the Starlight their temporary residence. It was during this time that Henri forged lasting friendships with the astronauts and newsmen, including Senator John Glenn and Walter Cronkite; friendships that continue today.

Since his retirement in 1986 from a successful, innovative hotel industry career that spanned more than 50 years, Henri has devoted himself to improving the lives of those in need through numerous foundations and non-profit organizations he has founded in addition to Give Kids The World.

With the original astronauts, Henri founded the Mercury Seven Foundation, now known as the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, which provides scholarships to promising young science students. Through the Fanny Landwirth Foundation, named for his mother, he has built a senior citizen center and a children’s school in Orlando and created a scholarship program for underprivileged children in Israel.

In 2000, Henri founded Dignity U Wear, an organization that provides hope to children and their families who are homeless, abused, abandoned, or neglected by providing them with new clothing. Today this organization supports shelters in nine states.

Henri has earned numerous honors, including being named in 1988 as one of the 12 Most Caring Individuals in America by the Caring Institute and the Parent’s Magazine Humanitarian of the Year and the Orlando Sentinel’s Floridian of the Year in 1994. On June 13, 1997, Henri received an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Cincinnati. He has twice been invited to carry the Olympic Torch.

His latest initiative is called Hate Hurts, a program that shares the message of how important it is to forgive those who have hurt us, as well as ending our own acts of hatred, no matter how small. Henri now tours colleges and high schools speaking about the lessons he has learned about the virtues of forgiveness.

Henri’s life and the story of Give Kids The World are chronicled in his book, “Gift of Life” which was published in 1996.
Pamela Landwirth
President
Give Kids The World

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” — Anne Frank

It is a quote that guides the leadership of Give Kids The World and its president, Pamela Landwirth as she encourages and inspires the staff, more than 5,000 volunteers, corporations, and associations to all work together to make a difference in the lives of children battling a life-threatening illness. Pamela has been involved with Give Kids The World since 1992 and was appointed President in 1995. In this role she oversees the operations of the Give Kids The World Village and all fundraising, communications and corporate alliances for the organization.

Pamela brings to the Village an extensive background in resort operations management, human resource development, and employee relations from her 16 years with the Walt Disney World Company. As Manager of Human Resource Development for Resorts and Attraction Sales, Pamela was responsible for the training and development and organizational development for more than 18,000 Walt Disney World Cast Members. This role allowed her to be active in a wide range of initiatives including serving on the “I Have An Idea” Committee, instructing Disney Seminars such as the Disney Approach to People Management and Disney Approach to Quality Service, and serving on the opening task force for nine hotel and attraction openings. In 1992 Pamela accepted an assignment to help oversee the pre-opening activities and training for all resort cast members at Disneyland Paris. After leaving Disney in 1993, Pamela was a consultant to the President and CEO of Hard Rock Cafe in all areas of human resources, organizational development and strategic planning.

Pamela brings a strong background in community service to Give Kids The World. She was the liaison between Walt Disney World and Junior Achievement for five years and served on Disney’s Operation: Community and VoluntEar boards. Pamela has served on numerous non-profit boards, and currently sits on the Executive Advisory Board for the Something mAAgic Foundation and the Nonprofit Advisory Board of the University of Central Florida.
In 2011, Give Kids The World served 7,097 families – the highest number in its 25 year history.

6,207 Domestic Wishes in 2011

Total Wishes in 2011: 7,097
Total Wishes From 1986-2011: 113,200
890 International Wishes in 2011, comprised of families from 25 countries around the world:

Argentina 1  
Australia 7  
Belgium 2  
Brazil 1  
Canada 565  
Chile 1  
France 1  
Grand Cayman 1  
Greece 3  
Holland 1  
Ireland 23  
Israel 29  
Italy 4  
Jamaica 1  
Mexico 2  
Netherlands 3  
Panama 5  
Peru 2  
Poland 2  
Scotland 1  
Singapore 1  
South Africa 1  
Spain 2  
United Kingdom 230  
Venezuela 1

In the past 25 years, Give Kids The World has been honored to serve families from more than 70 countries worldwide.
Since the very beginning Give Kids The World has fulfilled its promise to never turn away a child whose one wish is to visit the world-famous Central Florida attractions. And with the generous support of our dedicated partners, we always will.

We are deeply grateful to every corporate partner for its unique contribution; we simply could not fulfill our mission without them. Our partners are truly Heroes not only in our eyes, but in the eyes of the special children and families we serve.

Thank you to our Corporate Heroes

Platinum

Walt Disney World
Sam’s Club
Walmart

Universal Orlando

SeaWorld

Perkins Restaurant & Bakery

Gold

Hasbro
IHG
InterContinental Hotels Group
Boston Market
IAAPA

The Peabody

Silver

Sprint
AutoNation
Davidson Hotels & Resorts
Kangaroo Express

MEARS Transportation Group

Coca-Cola
Unilever
American Airlines

Special Friends

Bimbo Bakeries USA
Busch Gardens Tampa Bay
Calvin Klein
Candlewood Suites
Cedar Fair Entertainment Company
Central Moving & Storage
Cisco Systems, Inc.

Del Monte
Dr Pepper Snapple Group
Entertainment Technology Center – Carnegie Mellon University
General Motors Corporation
IHG Owners Association
Kinseth Hospitality Companies

LEGOLAND
MARS, Inc.
MillerCoors
PepsiCo
Procter & Gamble
Sara Lee Bakery
Signature Flight Support

Snyder’s–Lance
Staybridge Suites
T.G. Lee Dairy/Dean Foods
The Sharon D. Lund Foundation
Wheaton Van Lines, Inc.
Wilson Hotel Management Company, Inc.
Give Kids The World’s commitment to accountability and transparency assures supporters that their donation is used in the most responsible and efficient way possible. Our continued focus on these practices has also earned us numerous awards and recognition over the years. We are proud to showcase some of our most recent accolades below.

**BBB Accredited**
Give Kids The World is a BBB Accredited charity that meets all 20 standards for Charity Accountability and is a member of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance.

**Top Ranking from Charity Navigator**
Give Kids The World has been awarded a 4-star rating for sound fiscal management for six consecutive years by Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent evaluator of charities.

**2 Million Volunteer Hours**
Give Kids The World has reached an incomparable milestone in community support — more than two million volunteer hours served in one location for a single organization. This monumental milestone is a rarity among nonprofit organizations — GKTW may be one of only a handful of organizations to achieve this milestone in the United States, if not the world.

Thank you to all of our generous partners and dedicated volunteers whose gifts of time, talent and resources have helped us earn and maintain these outstanding designations.

**Fiscal Responsibility**
In 2010, Give Kids The World was recognized as the #1 most fiscally responsible charity in *Worth* Magazine. The Village consistently maintains an administrative rate of just over 7%, well below the national average for nonprofits. This means 93 cents of every dollar spent goes directly to programs for the children and families that GKTW serves.

**Highest Rated Charity in America**
Give Kids The World has been recognized as the highest rated charity in America by personal finance website MainStreet and also reported by MSN Money. The news website based its analysis on the evaluations of thousands of national charities by Charity Navigator, America’s leading independent charity evaluator. GKTW earned a Charity Navigator score of 69.42 out of 70 possible points, which was the highest of all charities analyzed.

**Sentinel Top 100**
Give Kids The World has been named one of the *Orlando Sentinel*’s Top 100 Companies for Working Families for six consecutive years.

**Florida State Certified Green-Lodging Resort**
Give Kids The World has earned a One Palm certification from the Florida Green Lodging Association. Established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, this program encourages the conservation and protection of natural resources.