

A Magical Week for a Princess

Emma Rae still talks about the time she was tucked into bed by Mayor Clayton at Give Kids The World Village in Kissimmee, Florida. This sweet little girl from Georgia and her family stayed at the Village for her wish trip to central Florida. Emma Rae's mom calls the Village the family's "home away from home."

[Give Kids The World Village](#) is an 89-acre, whimsical nonprofit resort, that provides week-long, cost-free wish vacations to critically ill children and their families from around the world who want to visit Central Florida. Families that visit Give Kids The World must be referred by one of more than 250 wish-granting organizations or foundations, such as [Make-A-Wish Foundation](#).



A stay at the Village is much more than a weeklong vacation; it's a chance for these families to laugh together, play together, and create unforgettable memories away from hospital stays and medical treatments.

"Hearing the news that our sweet baby had leukemia was crushing news for our entire family. It was such a stressful time for her as a rambunctious four-year-old, us as parents, and Emma Rae's older brother. So many days were filled with dark news and much uncertainty," Emma Rae's mother said. "But as soon as we drove up to our cottage at GKTW, it was like the cloud lifted and the sun shown like it hadn't since we got the news! It is an absolutely magical place. Emma Rae was treated like she was the only person visiting at that time. And her brother received the same treatment, even though he wasn't the wish kid. We can never repay all the kindness that was given to us during our stay."

Last year, the Village closed to wish families like Emma Rae's due to the global pandemic, delaying more than 6,000 wishes. Despite the closure, the Village created a unique opportunity last December for visitors and donors to experience – Night of a Million Lights. Night of a Million

Lights was designed to raise funds to ensure that the wishes of critically ill children could return bigger and better than ever before once the time was right to reopen. Last year, USA Today named Night of a Million Lights the "Number One Thing To Do in December in Orlando."

It was such a huge success that the Village has decided to do it again this year and the [Workers' Compensation Institute](#) is playing its part in bringing it back. WCI has organized a Gala event "Winter Wonderland" to be held December 11, 2021 in conjunction with GKTW's second annual Night of a Million Lights. For more information about the WCI-GKTW collaboration, [click here](#).

WCI & GKTW's 2021 Winter Wonderland Experience



Bring friends and family along to join us for a magical holiday experience Saturday, December 11. Last year, USA Today named GKTW's Night of a Million Lights the "Number One Thing To Do in December in Orlando!"