

Chrissy's Special Birthday Celebration

Chrissy was a beautiful little girl from Maryland who went to Give Kids The World Village in Kissimmee, Florida when she was nine years old. Chrissy died in 2016, but not before she became the first patient to receive genetic therapy. Her decision to be first enabled her doctors to study the full effects of the treatment and advanced gene therapy by five years, saving countless lives, including that of her sister.

[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.

"She went to GKTW right around her birthday. Everyone she saw made it so special," Chrissy's mom said. "The Gingerbread House restaurant was the best part of the morning. The ice cream parlor was definitely her favorite part of the resort. The Santa visit was probably the brightest she smiled the whole time, when Santa led everyone in a chorus of Happy Birthday for her. She loved every minute of her trip at GKTW."

Last year, the Village closed to wish families like Chrissy'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!"