

Hugs for the Mayor from a Fearless Kid

After a long and hard winter suffering from his chronic lung disease Cole visited Give Kids The World Village in Kissimmee, Florida with his mom, 3 siblings, and Nanny and Poppy. He hopped and skipped and ran and even hugged the Mayor, and that's a miracle for this cute kid from New York.

[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.

"Cole had the most magical time, from the moment he was greeted at the airport until he waved goodbye. It was such a break for him to be able to experience life without having the anxiety of doctors' appointments and procedures hanging over his head. He was amazed by every aspect of the village," Cole's mom said. "I remember one night after visiting a park for the day, we were exploring the village. Cole just ran from one place to another. He went into the movie theater and got a snack. He ran off to give the Mayor a hug. He went and laughed at the snoring tree. He ran off and hopped on a ride with his Poppy. He was so excited and happy that he wasn't

complaining of his legs hurting or his lungs burning and just kept hopping from one place to another."

In 2020, the Village closed to wish families like Cole'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. 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 it's part in bringing it back. WCI has organized a Gala event for WCI attendees called "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!"