

Reid Found Unexpected Fun

When Iowa native Reid was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer, he was just 27 months old. After a challenging six-month chemotherapy regimen, including three rounds of high dose chemotherapy with stem cell transplants, Reid celebrated his third birthday at Give Kids The World Village in Kissimmee, Florida. Although Reid enjoyed Marc's Dino Putt and the mini bowling at GKTW his mom says Reid also LOVED taking the garbage out to the curb each morning. Some people are born to service.

[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.

"We called GKTW 'toddler heaven' for Reid and his little brother, Brady," their mom says. "The boys had so much fun on this trip and it absolutely sparked our love of Disney and GKTW. Unfortunately, Reid relapsed about a month after his wish trip. He then endured radiation, and many different types of chemotherapies to try to cure him." Reid's mom told us the family got to visit Disney and GKTW five more times "and let him enjoy just being a kid" before Reid lost his battle to the disease in October 2020. "We miss him so much, and cherish the memories we had with him on his wish trip and his many return trips as an alumni family."

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