

## CHILDREN'S HOSPICE INTERNATIONAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CHILDREN'S HOSPICE INTERNATIONAL AND UNITED AIRLINES EMPLOYEES PARTNER FOR 13<sup>TH</sup> "FANTASY FLIGHT" HOLIDAY EVENT

CHI and United Airlines Employees to Host Party for Children with Life-threatening Conditions at CHI Headquarters

**Alexandria, VA—December 1, 2003**—Children's Hospice International (CHI) announced that it will host the 13<sup>th</sup> "Fantasy Flight" for children with life-threatening conditions and their families on Saturday, December 6, 2003 at its headquarters. The event will take place from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm in the atrium of 901 N. Pitt Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Approximately 100 children from area hospitals and health care organizations and their siblings will participate in the festivities, receive presents from Santa, enjoy food and refreshments, face painting, and other children's entertainment.

A team of United Airlines employees volunteered to assist CHI in the planning of the event, marking the 13<sup>th</sup> year that CHI and United Airlines employees have partnered together for "Fantasy Flight." United Airlines employees have also contributed toys and gifts to be distributed to the children at the event. "We are so glad to be able to continue this time-honored tradition and provide some holiday cheer for the children and their families. CHI is grateful for the ongoing support and generosity of United Airlines employees, as we know how much this special event means to these children," stated Ann Armstrong-Dailey, Founding Director, CEO of Children's Hospice International.

Children from the following local organizations and facilities have been invited to attend the event: Believe in Tomorrow, Baltimore, MD; Children's National Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; Fairfax Oncology, Fairfax, VA; Georgetown Pediatric, Lombardi Center, Washington, D.C.; Hospital for Sick Children, Washington, D.C.; NIH Children's Inn, Washington, D.C.; Parents with Children Fighting Cancer, Fort Belvoir, VA; Special Love, Winchester, VA; and the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. Thirteen-year-old *New York Times* best-selling author Mattie Stepanek, author of *Heartsongs* and other poetry collections, and his mother Jeni will also participate in this year's "Fantasy Flight."

The Radisson Hotel Old Town, Alexandria, VA, where CHI recently held its 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress, will be contributing the food for the event.

For more information about this event or to participate, please contact K. Steele at Children's Hospice International, 703.684.0330 or email steele@chionline.org.

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## Children's Hospice International

Children's Hospice International (CHI®) is an Alexandria, VA-based non-profit organization founded in 1983 to promote hospice support through pediatric care facilities providing community-based programs and resources for children with life-threatening conditions and their families. CHI also provides education, training and technical assistance to healthcare professionals who care for this patient population. Information on pediatric palliative and hospice care, as well as an international directory of children's hospice, palliative and end-of-life programs and organizations can be found at CHI's website, www.chionline.org.

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