

Starlight Children's Foundation™ to benefit from 'Astellas Aspire'

Astellas Pharma Canada employees are the driving force behind newly launched corporate social responsibility initiative

MARKHAM, ON, June 27, 2011 – Astellas Pharma Canada, Inc. is proud to announce its new partnership with Starlight Children's Foundation™ Canada through its new 'Astellas Aspire' initiative.

'Astellas Aspire' is an employee-driven commitment to help children with health challenges by lifting their spirits at a time when they and their families need it most.

Starlight was chosen by an Astellas committee because it is an organization that helps seriously ill children and their families to cope through entertainment, education and activities.

Astellas is already widely known as a company with a strong focus on giving back. Through its Changing Tomorrow Day, Astellas affiliates worldwide participate in social action programs related to health or the environment.

"This year we didn't want to limit the concept of 'Changing Tomorrow' to just one day," says Michael Tremblay, president of Astellas Pharma Canada. "We wanted to make it much bigger. Corporate Social Responsibility is something that I take very seriously and I strongly believe it touches on every aspect of our operation."

Over the next year, Astellas employees and Astellas corporate will jointly sponsor three Great Escapes™ events (in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal) and grant as many Starlight Wishes as possible. Funds will be raised over the next year through various employee events and activities, as well as through corporate matching of employee donations.

A Starlight Wish provides a special once-in-a-lifetime experience to seriously ill children and gives families the chance to spend quality time together outside of the hospital setting. Great Escapes are relaxing, fun-filled events that provide Starlight families with the chance to connect with others in similar situations and spend family time together.

In addition, Astellas employees will have the opportunity to become directly involved as volunteers at Starlight events, such as a **Pirate Adventure** on Canada's largest Tall ship, The Empire Sandy, docked in the Toronto Harbour.

"It is so refreshing to find a company that believes it takes more than money to truly make a difference," says Trevor Dicaire, Director of Development, Starlight Children's Foundation Canada. "Astellas is set to bring its expertise, drive, time and determination to this partnership

and we are excited to utilize these energies to bring programs and services to seriously-ill Canadian children and their families.”

Volunteerism is deeply entrenched in the Astellas culture as each full-time employee is given up to five days paid time off to provide volunteer support to charitable organizations.

Astellas’ social and ethical conduct can also be seen on a daily basis through the nature of its business and professional relationships, in broader engagements at the local, regional and national levels, as well as in the development of innovative and award-winning community-based educational initiatives.

-30-

About Astellas Pharma Canada, Inc.

Astellas Pharma Canada, Inc. is a Canadian affiliate of Tokyo-based Astellas Pharma Inc., a pharmaceutical company dedicated to improving the health of people around the world through innovative and reliable pharmaceutical products. Astellas was formed in 2005 through the merger of two companies – Fujisawa and Yamanouchi. Astellas Pharma Canada has an intense focus on five key therapeutic areas – Infectious Disease, Immunology, Cardiology, Urology and Dermatology – and is considered a leader in these fields. Additional corporate information is available at www.astellas.ca

About Starlight Children’s Foundation Canada:

For more than 20 years, Starlight Children’s Foundation has been dedicated to improving the quality of life for children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses and life-altering injuries. Through a broad array of in-patient, out-patient and online resources, Starlight works hard to support seriously ill children and their families from diagnosis through the entire course of medical treatment and beyond. Whether it’s a trip to the zoo, a toy-filled playroom or an exciting sporting event, Starlight’s mission is to bring fun, joy and giggles right where they are needed the most!

For further information:

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