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Starlight Foundation Donates Nintendo Wii Fun Centers to CRMC

There isn't much room for fun and laughter when you have a sick child in the hospital. That's where the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation comes in. The foundation recently gave Cortland Regional Medical Center four new Fun Centers for the Emergency Department and Operating Room suite as part of its Pediatric Hospital Support Program.

The Fun Centers are interactive entertainment units that include a Sharp Aquos flat-panel screen, a DVD player with a variety of movies and the popular Nintendo Wii System. These portable units can roll right up to any child's bedside, so even children who cannot move can still play.

"Starlight's mission is to help seriously ill children and their families cope with their pain, fear and isolation through entertainment, education and family activities," stated Elaine Silver, Executive Director of Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation of NY, NJ and CT. "This program is designed to aid children services in hospitals such as Cortland Regional. We are confident it will help restore some of the happiness that an illness takes away and make a children's hospital experience more pleasant – and when possible, more fun." This year the Pediatric Hospital Support Program has supported 61 tri-state area hospitals with an estimated value of programs totaling more than \$1.7 million.

Whether nervously awaiting surgery, or feeling lonely in their hospital room, Fun Centers help children cope with their feelings of fear, loneliness and anxiety. "We have been using the Fun Centers in the recovery room," said Karen Marsh, Nurse Manager of the Operating Room

and Ambulatory Surgery Unit. “The children seem to enjoy it and it helps to calm and distract them.”

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