



Ruby is a front row fashionista in the Big Apple!

Seventeen year old Ruby Lynch from Clevedon recently had her dearest wish to go to a fashion show in New York granted by Starlight Children's Foundation, the UK's leading wish granting charity for children and young people with serious and terminal illnesses.

In 2009, Ruby was diagnosed with a life-threatening condition called acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. To fight the disease, Ruby had to endure an intensive and lengthy course of chemotherapy treatment and spend lots of time in hospital, which was very difficult for her and her family.

Despite these challenges, Ruby was very brave and faced her treatment at Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children with real determination. Ruby loves textiles and her dream of working in the fashion industry helped her stay positive during the long stays in hospital. The class that Ruby missed most when she was too poorly to attend school was textiles and therefore when she was referred to Starlight it came as no surprise that the wish she chose was related to fashion!

As one of the world's most fashionable hotspots, New York has always been a dream destination for Ruby. She wrote to Starlight and said, "I have always wanted to go to New York to experience the city lifestyle, sightsee and shop."

Starlight organised a trip of a lifetime for Ruby and her parents Steph and Patrick and her younger sister Nancy, aged 15. The charity arranged for the family to visit New York during its celebrated Fashion Week in September, which was an opportunity for Ruby to combine her dream of exploring New York with her interest in fashion.

The family was staying at trendy midtown Manhattan hotel, The New Yorker, from where they could visit all the best shopping districts and the most famous sights. They made the most of their visit and packed as much in to their days as possible!

Hoping to give Ruby an unforgettable experience, Starlight had contacted world renowned designer Jenny Packham to see whether she could accommodate Ruby at her New York Fashion Week show. Invitations to the exclusive Ready To Wear Catwalk show were hugely sought after but the designer and her team were delighted to help and generously offered front row seats for Ruby and her family.

Ruby was so excited to be invited to the show and she and her family felt like superstars as they took their seats on the front row! They had a brilliant view of all the gorgeous clothes and it was a dream come true to meet Jenny Packham herself after the show. She had also invited them to the show's after party and here the designer introduced Ruby to lots of exciting contacts from the fashion world, all who offered to help Ruby should she continue to pursue a career in the industry!

The trip to New York was a dream come true for Ruby and, after such a tough few years, it gave her and her family some very special time away together. Getting to attend such an exclusive show really was the icing on the cake for Ruby and it will be a very happy memory for her and her family to treasure!

Information

To refer a child for a wish or to make a donation, please go online at www.starlight.org.uk. For every £1 you donate, 93p goes towards helping Starlight's very ill children.

For more information, please contact Henny Vere Nicoll at henny@starlight.org.uk / 020 7262 2881 # 231.

Starlight grants once-in-a-lifetime wishes for seriously and terminally ill children, restoring the magic and fun of childhood and giving the whole family happy memories to share, whatever the future holds.

Starlight also creates entertainment in every hospital and hospice throughout the UK. Sick children go to Starlight parties, laugh their way through pantomimes, go out on Starlight Escapes, play games and watch films on the Starlight Fun Centre, and enjoy the toys and puzzles of the Starlight Distraction Box. Happy children respond better to treatment and Starlight helps children to forget about their illness and simply have a bit of fun.