



Starlight grants Corah's special wish for a hot tub

Fifteen-year-old Corah-Beth Slaney from Kirkby-in-Ashfield recently had her dearest wish to have her very own all-weather hot tub granted by Starlight Children's Foundation, the UK's leading wish granting charity for children and young people with serious and terminal illnesses.

In 2012, Corah-Beth, or Corah as she is known to her family, was diagnosed with diabetes and epilepsy. This was a huge shock for her and her family and the dual diagnosis turned her life upside down overnight. As a result of the condition, every day is a battle for brave Corah; she has to take lots of medication and she is only able to attend school for two hours a week, which means she misses out on a huge amount, including spending time with her friends.

Corah is treated at Kings Mill Hospital and she was referred to Starlight for a wish by one of the medical staff who looks after her. The charity has been granting wishes for nearly three decades and its team of wish granters said they would be delighted to make Corah's wish come true.

One of the hardest things about Corah's condition is that, due to the time she has to spend away from school, she misses her friends lots. When Corah was choosing what her Starlight wish would be, she decided that she wanted it to be something that would enable her to spend time with her friends at home. After lots of thought, Corah decided to ask Starlight for an all-weather hot tub in her garden, which would give her and her friends a fun activity to enjoy when spending time together at her house.

Corah told Starlight, *"I haven't been in school for a long time so I don't have much contact with my friends. One friend has a hot tub – it's awesome! I wish I could have one in my garden so I could use it all year round and have friends over."*

Corah's mum Lisa said, *"Corah has put a lot of thought into her wish. Initially she couldn't understand why she deserved a wish. She seems under the impression that someone else would be more worthy but from a parent's point of view, it's heartbreaking when you sit back and see what she has and is still missing out on."*

Starlight contacted RotoSpa, a supplier of special hot tubs, and they generously offered a discount on the cost of a Duraspa S380, which is a luxurious all-weather spa that can seat five people (allowing plenty of room for Corah and a group of her friends!). To Corah's great excitement, the spa was installed and her dad Carl and his friends Tony and Barry Jefford built a very smart shelter for it and Corah's godfather Stuart Reynolds did all the electric work free of charge. To the family's surprise, Eric Trompos from a local joinery firm, Jet Joinery, provided all the decking and wood free of charge when they heard about Corah's Starlight wish.

Since its installation, Corah has already got lots of use from her hot tub. It's a great place to relax on her own or with her family and a lovely spot to enjoy some time out with her friends.

After the wish, Corah's mum Lisa said, *"We are truly touched by all the kind people out in our community and the good that Starlight is doing for children such as Corah. Times have been so hard and she continues to battle on with her illness without complaining. We are really grateful to Starlight and everyone else who got involved for making Corah's wish come true."*

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, 92p 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.