



6th Annual Make 'm Smile

Highlights from our FUN day!

Saturday, June 7, 2008



Make 'm Smile is a day dedicated to honoring and celebrating kids with special needs... our VIPs! On Saturday, June 7, 2008 the Orlando community, joined together at Lake Eola, arm and arm and heart to heart, to cheer on, to be "Buddies" and help "Make 'm Smile!" This year's attendance brought in over 6,500 people! This included over 1,000 VIP kids (kids with special needs)!

Some of the highlights were:

- Over 400 volunteers made the event happen, including our set-up crew, mostly from Regal Boats, who worked throughout the night!
- Nearly 5,400 people registered to participate in the Buddy Stroll!
- Contemporary Christian Recording Artists Matthew West and The Goats entertained families at the Amphitheatre.
- Special guest participants included Honorary Co-Chairs Orange County Mayor Richard Crotty and Pam Crotty, City of Orlando's Kathy Russell and Commissioner Samuel Ings, and Orlando Magic's Bo Outlaw. WFTV Channel 9's Martie Salt and Z88.3's Ellis Feaster and Tyler McKenzie participated in the festivities of the day as well.
- Thanks to the generosity of our corporate and individual sponsors, we were able to provide all participants with FREE goodies and entertainment including:
 - 4,000 t-shirts, toys and goodies from Sea World and Universal Orlando,
 - 4,000 Chick-fil-A sandwiches, popcorn and cotton candy from Westgate Resorts Foundation,
 - 2,500 hotdogs, 24,000 bottles of beverage, Frito-Lay chips, 1,200 bags of trail mix, ice cream, sno-cones, etc.
- Once again, Robinson Street was closed to road traffic and was filled with over 150 exhibitors including organizations that serve the special needs community, family entertainment, and other helpful resources.

- Proclamations were issued by Orange County and the City of Orlando proclaiming June 7, 2008 as Make 'm Smile Day!
- Aunt Donna's Butterfly Garden once again sponsored our Hall of Hope Butterfly Release, where families of VIP kids who have passed on to heaven were invited to release a butterfly in their child's memory.
- This fun-filled day included entertainment from over 30 characters including those from major tourist attractions! Face painters, clowns, animals, music, and more wrapped around Lake Eola!



For more pictures of the day visit our online photo album at www.NathanielsHope.org. Plan now to attend our Nathaniel's Hope 7th Annual Make 'm Smile, scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2009!