

## GOOD NIGHT LIGHTS

# Idea that clicked marks its 3rd year

Children at Hasbro Children's Hospital watch as lights signaling 'we care' are directed at them from afar

By Donita Naylor Journal Staff Writer



Supporters gather at the entrance of Collier Point Park in Providence on Tuesday night to wave flashlights, Christmas lights and even a Christmas tree as they participate in the third anniversary of Good Night Lights. [THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG]

PROVIDENCE — The message came across loud and clear — well, more crackling than loud but much brighter than usual, to patients at Hasbro Children's Hospital on Tuesday, the third anniversary of Good Night Lights.

“We care.”

That's the message received by many children at Hasbro from the phenomenon that occurs every night at 8:30, as synchronized by the cell phones of all participants.

The signal is four flashes, one for each syllable of “Goodnight Hasbro.”

Patients answer with two flashes, “Thank You,” from flashlights they are given when they arrive and that they will take home when they leave. Sometimes, whole rooms become the light that flashes twice.



Faith Avilla, 8, of West Warwick, in her room at Hasbro Children's Hospital after watching the third anniversary, extra bright Good Night Lights with fireworks. She especially liked the fireworks.  
[THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / DONITA NAYLOR]

Because Tuesday was a celebration, more signalers turned out than usual. At Collier Point Park, about 70 people in private vehicles showed up, many of them organized by Frank Picozzi of Warwick, who has a large Facebook following from his elaborate holiday house displays.

Providence police vehicles ran emergency lights at India Point Park, and a huge tugboat directed its searchlight at the hospital.

The Hot Club flashed its neon rooftop sign off and on four times, and patrons signaled with flashlights donated by COAST, the company that made the flashlight lashed to the handlebars of Steve Brosnihan's bicycle, the flashlight that started the whole thing in 2010.

Lights on some buildings downtown and on the Brown University campus are on timers to flash every night, without fail.

In East Providence, residents of the Tockwotton on the Waterfront senior living facility signaled with their donated flashlights, and almost the entire second shift of the East Providence Police Department lined up at an overlook to run their emergency lights.

It was beautiful.

Then a surprise. Fireworks!

Faith Avilla, 8, of West Warwick, liked the fireworks best. Inside the hospital, they could hear a crackle. And she got the message behind the message.

"Wow, people really care so much," she said. "They get flashlights and they show they care."

For the first five years, Brosnihan, the resident cartoonist for 10 hours a week, courtesy of the Tomorrow Fund, signaled from his bicycle as part of his trip home to Bristol. Then he got the idea of enlisting businesses and first responders to build a community of caring for Hasbro patients and their families.

He said it started when he said goodbye to a teenage patient who would be leaving the next day. He told the patient to look out the window in a few minutes, and he would send one last goodbye from near the Point Street Bridge. The patient responded by turning his room lights off and on, signaling with the rectangle of his window.

Brosnihan's job is to visit with patients and draw fantastic creatures from their imaginations. Faith said he drew her a horse turtle. He volunteers his time to organize the community of lights.

Of the things she likes at Hasbro, Faith said she likes Good Night Lights the best.

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