

Mateo's Story

Like other kids his age, young Mateo loves pizza and ice cream cake and riding around on his scooter! This fun-loving little boy likes nothing better than to entertain his family and make them laugh, but it was no laughing matter when his family received the difficult news that he had cancer in his right eye. Shortly thereafter, he had surgery to remove the eye and was eventually fitted with a prosthetic. He continued with numerous treatments including radiation, laser and cryotherapy to save his only eye. It was a difficult and scary time in Mateo's life.

Needing something positive to look forward to, Mateo decided on a wish to a Florida theme park. Mateo, his parents and brothers Lucas and Marcus jetted off for a week-long vacation in Orlando. Home for the week was Give Kids The World, a whimsical non-profit resort only available to kids with critical illness. Mateo enjoyed the many activities at the resort and even got tucked into bed one night by Mayor Clayton, the resort's mascot.

Mateo loved exploring the theme park, meeting his favourite characters and experiencing the rides. It was a stress-free week, which gave everyone a chance to relax and focus on fun.



*I wish to go to a
Florida theme park*

Mateo, 5
cancer



believe
in the **POWER** of a
wish