



BEYOND THE MOON offers families with a seriously ill child the opportunity to enjoy a memorable, cost-free vacation in a child-friendly environment and to spend carefree quality time together, far away from hospitals and treatments.



Memories of Disneyland and a Special Little Girl – by Sophie’s parents

Through the generosity of fundraisers, we were afforded the opportunity to go to Disneyland® Resort Paris and spend the last family holiday with Sophie.

Sophie was a bright, bubbly 5 ½ year old who appeared to be a picture of health. Suddenly, after a short period of sickness, she was diagnosed with the Wilms’ Disease, a cancer of the kidney, which was to eventually claim her life. We will never forget Sophie’s face when we told her that she was going to Disneyland® Resort Paris to meet Mickey, Minnie and all of the fairy Princesses. To us as a family it was very literally the trip of a lifetime, because we knew that this would be our last holiday together.

Paris in October was cold, wet and windy, but we saw beyond that. We saw our little girl laughing with excitement at meeting the ‘real’ Cinderella. “Is that really her?” Sophie said to me.

After a year of continual hospital visits with chemotherapy, blood transfusions, scans and the like, those three days away from the intensity of it all were pure magic. We were put forward for the trip because Sophie was classified as critically ill. It was a break from reality, a dream for any little girl had come true. “Yes, you really are going to see Cinderella’s castle”, I told her. It was pure delight to see Sophie being fed by Mickey Mouse. For three days we were in a land of make believe. Through the charitable association BEYOND THE MOON, our final family holiday was made possible.

Sophie had spent many hours, days and sometimes months in a hospital bed, too poorly to do anything but watch videos of her heroes, but now she was finally going to meet them. As a family, we will treasure these memories and photos forever. We can still hear her squeals of delight at the parades and rides, some of which we went on again and again. It didn’t matter, nothing mattered. We were together, spending quality time with our very own Princess in her land of make believe.

We will never be able to fully express the gratitude we have for all those people who worked so hard to make our holiday of a lifetime come true. That is why one of the aims of the Sophie Barringer Trust – established because we felt that we wanted to help – is to send more families with a seriously ill child on their very own holiday of a lifetime with BEYOND THE MOON.



Sophie together with Pluto



www.beyondthemoon.org

BRONZE AWARD 10 BRITISH FAMILIES



On July 2, 2011 Pascale Somers, Founder & Manager of BEYOND THE MOON presented the Bronze Award to Sophie's Appeal:

"We are tremendously grateful for the successful long-lasting partnership that we have worked out together since 2005. We do not take for granted the annual donation we receive on behalf of the Sophie Barringer Trust to offer more British families with a seriously ill child an unforgettable Beyond the Moon vacation. I am thrilled and honoured to hand out the Bronze Award to Sophie's Appeal for having sponsored 10 British families from the Southampton area. Congratulations, on behalf of the numerous families that you have so far made happy and those that you will make happy in the future."

