

DJ LAZ-PRICELESS

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. For Radio Lollipop, this picture is worth a whole lot more – 17,000. That's the amount of dollars Miami's own DJ Laz helped raise during a radio-a-thon, in August. Loyal listeners of his morning show on Power 96 FM opened up their hearts and their wallets to help keep Radio Lollipop on the air. Despite the huge donation, DJ Laz remains modest. "I'm just the messenger."

DJ Laz and his buddy, Latin Hip-Hop artist, Pitbull, made a very special appearance at Radio Lollipop's country western showdown to celebrate the organization's tenth birthday. With country western tunes blaring from the speakers, this dynamic duo signed autographs, and posed for pictures with both kids and adults.

Lazaro Mendez spent many of his childhood years as a patient here at Miami Children's Hospital. It's no wonder then when two of the things he held dear in his heart came calling – the hospital that saved his life and the music he loves – he answered the call. "The fact that it's a radio station in a hospital is the coolest thing in the world," he recently told me.

Even though the children are in the hospital, "they get to be kids again...and not worry about what they're going through."

DJ Laz has made Radio Lollipop his second home. He routinely visits the studio spinning tunes and getting kids excited about dancing and participating in on-air contests. This energetic soul with a huge heart never comes empty-handed. Whether it's a truckload of toys or a generous donation from his Power 96 listeners, he always comes through – in a big way – for his favorite charity. "If I can be the voice of Radio Lollipop forever," he said, "that's what I'll do."

You can't put a price tag on that kind of commitment. For Radio Lollipop, DJ Laz is priceless.

by Roxanna Romero



RADIO LLOLLOP VOLUNTEERS FIRE UP SOME FUN

As Radio Lollipop began to celebrate a whopping ten years of service at Miami Children's Hospital, Wacky Wednesday's own George Guerra and Nicholas Bright decided to mark the occasion by hosting a Birthday BBQ in honor of all our dedicated volunteers and their families.

Just as we're serious about volunteering, the Radio Lollipop volunteers are just as serious about partying...so while George sorted out the music and Nicholas sparked up the BBQ, volunteers and their families were looking to Martha Stewart for inspiration.

The event gave the volunteers time to remember why they are all committed to Radio Lollipop...celebrating ten years of providing care, comfort and entertainment to the children at Miami Children's Hospital. All in all, we had a blast!

Radio Lollipop is not just a place where we go once a week to volunteer. It's a big family and a place for fellowship. It's a place where life-long friendships are made.

by George Guerra



TEN YEARS...AND COUNTING



When Nora decided to volunteer at Radio Lollipop back in 1996, she had planned to stay the required six months. Instead, she found it so rewarding, she decided to stay longer.

Now, ten years later, you can find her on "Terrific Tuesdays" entertaining the kids with her funny voice impersonations. Aside from presenting, Nora is also a big part of Radio Lollipop's management team, which includes Education and Birthday committees.

When "Nutty Nora" is not working or volunteering, she designs very elaborate hats, which she often wears and gives away to her friends at Radio Lollipop.

Ken "The Wildman" Wilder, is great about encouraging the kids to request their favorite songs. The "Terrific Tuesday" volunteer served as the chairperson for the Miami management team for 2½ years, as volunteer coordinator, and worked on the Education Committee.

For Ken, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing a Miami Children's Hospital child with a smile.



"Marvelous" Marc has been a member of the "Thrilling Thursday" team since Radio Lollipop began in August 1996. He can always be found with a deck of cards in his basket which he uses to entertain and baffle the kids and their families with his tricks.

Not only was "Marvelous Marc" designated Radio Lollipop Miami's first chairman, but he was also selected to represent us at the American Hospital Association's Conference when Radio Lollipop was honored – among 1000 applicants – as the "best in service hospital program" in 1997.

The "Thrilling Thursday" team member has also been instrumental in raising funds for Radio Lollipop.

Iris Cicero, "The Big I", loves to work with children. Ten years ago, Iris decided to volunteer for Radio Lollipop. She liked the idea of being part of an organization whose belief was "the healing power of play." Radio Lollipop was something she just couldn't pass up.

"The Big I" is still making a difference in the lives of those she touches. You can find "The Big I" on Super Saturdays in costume, making children's hospital stay a little brighter.

by Roxanna Romero



SUPER SATURDAY TURNS ONE

Radio Lollipop's Super Saturday celebrated a milestone this past June. This vibrant morning team of volunteers welcomed its first anniversary amidst smiles and laughs. Patients and their families have very little to do on the weekends and find it very comforting (and of course fun) to have Radio Lollipop volunteers visit their rooms and put on a great live on-air show. Not only does a Saturday program benefit our audience, but it also gives those who can't volunteer Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday nights the chance to be part of a great organization!

Super Saturday has proven to be a great success, although the show itself may have a different feel to it since it is a morning show. The Radio Lollipop Team still manages to always create laughter, smiles and happiness across not only Miami Children's Hospital, but around the world as well.

by Pilar Alvarez



LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

If laughter is the best medicine, then Radio Lollipop volunteers are a real healthy bunch. Back in April, the gang got together with the Fundraising Committee, for a night full of laughs in Coconut Grove. Magic 102.7 FM, Laughing Gas and the Improv generously donated their time and talents to make all this possible. They had us literally rolling in our seats. Radio Lollipop's friends and family were on-hand to make the night especially memorable. In fact, it was standing-room only. At the end of the night, Radio Lollipop walked out \$17,000.00 richer, thanks to ticket sales and the silent auction. The funds will help Radio Lollipop continue its mission to provide care, comfort and entertainment for the patients at Miami Children's Hospital.

We enjoyed the event so much, we're hoping to do it again in 2007. Thank you to everyone who donated silent auction items, who organized and took part and also to everyone who came to the event. We couldn't have done it without you!

by Nicholas Bright

RADIO LLOLLOP GOES HOLLYWOOD

First it crossed the Atlantic and disembarked at Miami Children's Hospital. Then it slowly headed west and made its way to Texas Children's Hospital. Now, Radio Lollipop has again embarked on a cross-country escapade and touched down in Children's Hospital Orange County (CHOC). September 22, 2006, CHOC became the third Radio Lollipop in the United States to offer kids that special dose of care guaranteed to make its patients smile. Living up to its star-studded image, California put on one heck of a show! American Idol's own Ryan Seacrest kicked off the grand opening (appropriately enough) with the Black-Eyed Peas *Let's Get It Started* shortly after 10:00 AM to a standing-room audience.

Patients, their families, hospital staff, the newest recruits for CHOC's Radio Lollipop as well as volunteers from Miami and Texas all joined in on the fun. Hedley Finn, Radio Lollipop's founder, also made the long trek from England. CHOC is the newest addition to a great big Radio Lollipop that spans more than three continents and six countries, including the United States, Australia, United Kingdom and New Zealand.

by Marcina Manraj



THANK-YOU...from the bottom of our hearts

On behalf of Radio Lollipop USA, I would like to thank our many sponsors, who, over the past ten years have made it possible for us to fulfill our mission of bringing care, comfort, play and entertainment to sick children in hospital. Without the generous donations of companies, individuals and foundations throughout this past decade, we would not have been here for the children at Miami Children's Hospital. Our success has made it possible for us to build this charity and bring it to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston and most recently to Children's Hospital of Orange County in California. Radio Lollipop at Miami and Texas have both received the "HAVE Award" for excellence in volunteerism, a milestone of which we are very proud.

Thank you again to everyone who has made this possible, and with your support, we will continue building on this success.

by Donna Huck, Chairman RADIO LLOLLOP USA

