

## 30 Local Schools pledge to raise money for Northern Lights

As Northern Lights Children's Charity enters its 25th year of fund-raising to take seriously ill children to Lapland to meet Father Christmas, 30 schools in the area sign up to raise money for this worthy charity. "Having children fund-raise for other children less well off than themselves, through illness, is very special indeed" said Karen Jones, Chairman and a founder member of Northern Lights. Over the last 25 years a number of very special children have raised money for the charity which has taken over 350 children to visit Father Christmas at his home in Lapland. However, in this anniversary year Amanda Powell, Head teacher at The Acorns Primary School in Ellesmere Port has challenged schools in the area to help raise money to allow the charity to take double the number of children to Lapland in December 2012 to celebrate this amazing milestone.



"We started by trying to find 25 schools who would commit to raising £250 each to signify the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, but we have been overwhelmed by the support of these local schools and are now wondering if we can encourage 2 x 25 schools to help us." says Amanda Powell who became a committee member of Northern Lights this year after supporting the charity through its fund-raising events for many years. "We know this is a big target to aim for, but we have been so encouraged to have so many schools already offer their support that we hope to be able to achieve this."

The children who are selected to go on these trips are aged between 6 & 11 and suffer from life threatening diseases. Dr Hilary Jones, the charities



patron, who has visited Lapland twice, recently wrote about the charity "These kids have often spent so long in hospital, with

nothing to see but the four walls of their clinical environment, the drip stand slowly pumping fluids into their veins and the medicines trolley as it arrives with their next batch of unpleasant medicine. They have often endured discomfort, isolation and hair loss as a result of their treatments, and yet they come out to the Arctic Circle and really start to live. The shackles of the hospital environment are for a brief time at least, thrown away, and they can enjoy a normal life as kids again. It was great to witness their energy as they hurled themselves down the snowy slopes on their sleds, and pelted pretty neatly packed snowballs at me. The footage that we captured on film of their activities, and of them sitting mesmerised by Santa Claus surrounded by his elves in his very own house was both moving and astonishing. By far the most emotional filming I have ever been involved in."

We thank all those schools, both teachers and children, who have already pledged their support to Northern Lights and thank them in advance for their fund-raising efforts which will allow us to continue to take children on this very special holiday.

If anyone would like to offer their support and raise money for Northern Lights in this our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, please contact Karen Jones via email - [info@northernlightscharity.org.uk](mailto:info@northernlightscharity.org.uk).