



TRANSCRIPTS

CNN LIVE TODAY

KAGAN: Over the weekend, the boy wizard worked up a special spell. Some seriously ill children couldn't make it to the book store, so Harry Potter came to them. In our "Your Spirit" segment today, a charity delivered copies of the Potter book to sick children at three hospitals across the U.S.

Allen Goldberg and Laurie Strongin are live from New York to tell us more.

Good morning.

ALLEN GOLDBERG, HOPE FOR HENRY FOUNDATION: Good morning

LAURIE STRONGIN, HOPE FOR HENRY FOUNDATION: Good morning. KAGAN: First let's talk about a special boy besides Harry Potter, and that is your son, Henry. Tell us about him and how he inspires this move.

STRONGIN: Our son, Henry, was born with a rare fatal disease, but despite all of his travails, he had just an incredible attitude and a zest for life, and we came -- you know, the tag line that we sort of attribute to Henry is live well and laugh hard. So Henry was just always able to look on the bright side and embrace everything wonderful about life. And among the things that Henry loved was Harry Potter.

KAGAN: He did love Harry Potter?

STRONGIN: He loved Harry Potter.

KAGAN: And tell us about bringing joy to the children this weekend.

GOLDBERG: Well, what was great was we were able to secure enough copies to take to three different hospitals that we work with, Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, Fairview in Minneapolis and also Hackensack University Hospital in New Jersey, and what we did was we brought the kids the books right -- as early as possible. It was Saturday morning, and we brought them the books, and some of the kids who are too ill to actually focus on the books, we brought them the audio books. And they -- their faces lit up and wide smiles. We actually were able to have one of the children read a chapter to the rest of the kids, and it was just terrific.

KAGAN: That must have been a really special moment. What was it that Henry loved about Harry Potter?

STRONGIN: I think he loved the magic and Harry Potter's resilience and his independence. And I just, I think he just, the whole good versus evil and good winning out was very consistent with Henry's obsession with superheroes sort of generally.

KAGAN: As parents who have lost a child, which is unimaginable to so many, how have you taken that pain and geared it into a foundation that's focussed really on bringing joy to other children? How do you get to that place?

GOLDBERG: Well, a lot of people used to say that Henry was a very lucky kid. They'd see him wheeling around the hospital with his portable DVD player, and I was always confused, how could he be so lucky when he was in a hospital in a wheelchair? But he actually was very lucky. And we realize that that made him happy, being able to watch DVDs, and no matter if he was waiting for a doctor's appointment or for a procedure, and we thought, you know what, we can do the same thing for these other kids. And we can kind of bring Henry's spirit to them, and kind of take them away from the hospital for a little bit, whether it's -- we give them nice consumer electronics products, whether it's XM Satellite Radio, or an iPod or a Gameboy, they're able to escape from the hospital and the medical challenges they face by listening to the music or watching the movie, and you know, it transports them.

KAGAN: Go ahead.

STRONGIN: Our whole goal is to basically bring smiles, and laughter and magic into their lives, as opposed to expecting that they can go out into the world to find it themselves, because often they're having to live in isolation for a long periods of time.

KAGAN: Your Web site hopeforhenry.org?

GOLDBERG: Yes.

STRONGIN: Yes.

KAGAN: Excellent. Well, thank you for sharing your good works. And you're reading the "Harry Potter" at home with your other boys?

GOLDBERG: Yes.

STRONGIN: Absolutely. Yes, we actually listened to it this morning with our oldest son, Jack, so, yes.

KAGAN: Excellent.

GOLDBERG: Thank you, Daryn.

KAGAN: Thank you for sharing your time and your special works.

STRONGIN: Thank you.

KAGAN: Allan Goldberg and Laurie Strongin, joining us today in memory of Henry, a very special boy.