

## My Weekend at Give Kids the World

By: Charlotte Moss



This past weekend I participated in the immersion experience to Give Kids the World. I wasn't quite sure what to expect. I had never heard of the organization before, I just knew that they deal with children who have life-altering illnesses. The first day we were at the Disney-like village we set up a pirate and princess party for the children. They had all kinds of activities for them to partake in. There was treasure map making, face painting, tattoos, dancing, and just all around having fun. The girls received a tiara and the boys received a patch and a sword that they could take back with them. All of them were so happy to be there; they laughed and smiled the whole entire time. Then the next day we celebrated Mardi Gras with a large colorful parade and all different sorts of characters going through the main street. The kids again had many activities to participate in including mask making, which I was in charge of. Each child that made a mask brought it to their face and they would leave the table with a look of satisfaction. For the children, these two days were filled with happiness and joy.

Give Kids the World's motto is Kids Rule and I really lived this motto during the time we spent there. I never once thought about myself, it was all about the kids having a good time and listening to their stories. It was their time to not have to worry about any medical concerns. They could have ice cream whenever they wanted and wander the village freely without others looking or staring at them if they were in a wheelchair or had braces on their legs. One parent was so happy to be there just because other children were similar to their own. They were able to talk to the other parents that shared similar stories. Spending time with these kids and families and seeing how happy and excited they were made me realize that I should not take my health for granted and that I should live each day to the fullest.