



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

MEDIA ALERT

10-year-old girl meets a rescued sea turtle who shares medical procedure

Family inspired to see daughter feel “normal”

Clearwater, FL (February 10, 2017) – Ten-year old Emily Wallace visited Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) last summer and heard that a number of CMA’s rescued animals utilize TPN (Total Parenteral Nutrition), a method of feeding that bypasses the gastrointestinal tract. Emily has mitochondrial disease, and as a result is on TPN. Fresh out of the hospital, Emily visited CMA today and watched Yeti, a CMA rescued turtle while he received TPN, just as she does. Emily said seeing Yeti made her feel normal. Emily was receiving her TPN via her special backpack while watching Yeti receive his TPN.

Emily has had two brain surgeries, spinal surgery and seven major abdominal surgeries, yet despite the constant hospital stays, medications and doctor appointments, she goes to overnight camps, dances in ballet and generally lives an overcoming lifestyle. She never gives up and feels kinship to Winter and CMA’s rescued animals.

Media broll of the event is attached. Please credit CMA for footage use.

Contact David Yates at DYates@cmaquarium.org or 727-409-6282 for questions and follow-up.

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About Clearwater Marine Aquarium:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working marine rescue center dedicated to preserving our marine life and environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release. CMA is home to rescue dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter, the dolphin’s story of survival after injury that caused her to lose her tail, has impacted millions of people around the world. A major motion picture, *Dolphin Tale*, highlighted her life story in 2011. The sequel, *Dolphin Tale 2*, was released in September 2014 and features the incredible story of Hope, a young resident dolphin of CMA. The mission and potential to change people’s lives differentiates Clearwater Marine Aquarium from any other aquarium in the world.

WE BELIEVE in preserving our marine life and environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation, and release.

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