



CLEARWATER MARINE
AQUARIUM™

Two Young Fans with Limb Difference to Wish Winter and Hope Happy Birthday

Clearwater Marine Aquarium Celebrates Birthday Bubble Bash with Discounted Admission

CLEARWATER, FL (Oct. 9, 2018) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is celebrating the birthdays of Winter and Hope, the rescued dolphins featured in the *Dolphin Tale* movies. On Wed., Oct. 10 two children with limb differences who have been inspired by the dolphins will help wish them a happy birthday during a special encounter. Media advised to arrive at 11 a.m.

Eight-year-old Addlee from Kentucky and ten-year-old Braedon from New York have been deeply inspired by Winter's story, and inspire others through their own perseverance. Addlee, who was adopted from China at 2 years old, was born with a partial right hand. She doesn't let that slow her down; she loves to swim, zip line, and play sports. Winter reminds her to never give up. Her dream of visiting CMA to meet the dolphins will come true Wed., Oct. 10. Braedon is a dual, below-knee amputee who lost his legs due to a viral infection shortly after he was born. Braedon has deeply identified with Winter's story of triumph for years, stating "she's just like me!" In 2016, he set up a lemonade stand to save up for a trip to meet his hero. With a little help from local media, Braedon raised \$4,000 and his dream of meeting Winter and Hope came true. Braedon will return to CMA on Wed., Oct. 10 to reunite with Winter and Hope and celebrate their birthdays. Addlee and Braedon will help CMA celebrate the dolphins' birthdays with a happy birthday song, playtime, and presenting a "birthday cake."

While no one knows Winter and Hope's true dates of birth, the team at CMA estimates Winter's birthday to be Oct. 10, as she was only estimated to be two months old when she was rescued on Dec. 10, 2005. Hope, also estimated to be about two months old, was rescued Dec. 11, 2010. CMA has been celebrating Winter's 13th birthday and Hope's 8th birthday with Winter and Hope's Birthday Bubble Bash. And starting Thurs., Oct. 11, to help celebrate Winter and Hope's birthday, all Tampa Bay Area Residents will receive \$9.99 admission through Oct. 31. For more information visit seewinter.com.

Media Information:

- On Wed., Oct. 10 at 11:15 a.m. CMA will celebrate Winter and Hope's birthdays by presenting a birthday "cake" with the help of two inspirational guests. Media advised to arrive at 11 a.m.
- Location: Clearwater Marine Aquarium: 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, FL 33767. Parking available in CMA parking garage or St. Brendan's Church Lot
- Photos and video to be available upon request.
- For further information, contact Julia Anderson at janderson@cmaquarium.org or 727.686.3499.

About Clearwater Marine Aquarium:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working marine rescue center dedicated to inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release. CMA is home to rescued dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter the dolphin's story of survival, after an 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 environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of marine life, environmental education, research and conservation.