



**A Message From
JERRY MONTGOMERY
Sr. Vice President,
Walt Disney World Co.**

December 15, 2006



The holidays are off to a great start at the **Walt Disney World®** Resort. First from the business side, The Walt Disney Company reported record earnings, our CEO was nationally-recognized, and our President of Worldwide Operations led a capital campaign for his alma mater. On the community side, **Walt Disney World** Resort kicked-off the holiday season with our annual Candlelight Processional where we welcomed more than 1,400 community leaders to **Epcot®**. This special season is brimming with great reasons to visit our parks and resorts. **Walt Disney World** Resort has been transformed into a winter wonderland, but what makes this time of year even brighter is the opportunity to respond to the needs of our community and Guests. In this edition of *MouseMail*, we showcase some of the recent ways we have made a difference in Central Florida. On behalf of the 59,000 **Walt Disney World** Cast Members, I hope that during this busy season, you take time to celebrate with family and friends.

Warm regards,

🐭 MarketWatch Names Bob Iger CEO of the Year

Walt Disney Company Chief Executive Bob Iger was recently chosen by *MarketWatch* as the CEO of the Year based on four criteria: performance for customers over the last year, performance for shareholders, performance for employees and corporate governance initiatives. The publication uses Disney's \$7 billion buyout of Pixar as an example of Iger's strategic tactics that earned him a great deal of respect and accolades. *MarketWatch* summarizes Iger's role by saying, "In first year, CEO turns around the Dow component and boosts shares. It was clear from the outset of Iger's tenure that he wanted to take Disney in a new direction." To read more, [click here](#):



🐭 Al Weiss Leads Successful UCF Campaign

Al Weiss, president of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Worldwide Operations, led the University of Central Florida's first-ever capital campaign, receiving \$356 million in donations. "The number and variety of donors who invested their money and confidence in our university is testimony to the quality of our institution and its students, faculty and staff," said Weiss. The community's support during UCF's first capital campaign far exceeded expectations as donors responded to the university's vision of improving classrooms and enriching the quality of academic programs. [Click here](#) to read more from UCF.



The Walt Disney Company Reports Record Earnings

In November, The Walt Disney Company reported record earnings. President and Chief Executive Officer of The Walt Disney Company Bob Iger announced, "Disney had a spectacular year, posting record revenues, record net income, and record cash flow. It is a result of the incredible creativity at our company." This year, Disney's Animal Kingdom debuted the Expedition Everest attraction, and The Seas with Nemo & Friends opened at Epcot. To see video highlights of our year, please [click here](#).



Community Leaders Gather for Annual Candlelight Processional

Community and government leaders from across Central Florida gathered at **Epcot** to kick-off the annual Candlelight Processional. Al Weiss, president of Worldwide Operations for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts introduced Marie Osmond who narrated the moving story of Christmas, along with a choir and a 50-piece orchestra. After the Candlelight Processional, community leaders were invited to a reception at the American Adventure Rotunda. "This is a wonderful event to celebrate the holiday season," said Senator Bill Nelson. "Walt Disney World has a unique way of bringing the community together to make the experience magical." [Click here](#) to view more photos.



Central Florida Teachers Get \$245,000 Disney Boost

Outstanding Central Florida teachers and their schools recently received \$245,000 in awards during the 16th annual *Disney's Teacherrific Symposium & Awards*. Looking to recognize and reward programs that support creative curriculum and activities, Walt Disney World Co. gave *Teacherrific* grants to 109 local teachers and their schools from Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk and Seminole counties. "We are proud to be able to recognize and thank Central Florida teachers for all they do to inspire and develop our young people," said Diane Ledder, director of community relations at **Walt Disney World** Resort. Since the *Teacherrific Awards* program began in 1990, Walt Disney World Co. has awarded more than \$2.7 million to Central Florida educators and their schools.



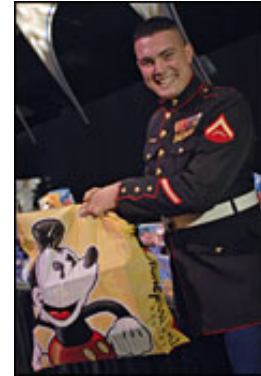
Pine Hills Kids Get Star Treatment, Disney Style

Six special children from the Pine Hills Boys & Girls Club took to the red carpet to watch the premier of their own episode of Animal Planet's *Backyard Habitat*. With the help of **Walt Disney World**, the stars from *Backyard Habitat* made an appearance in Orlando. After weeks of working with television host, Molly Pesce, and the team from *Animal Planet*, Johnathan Hightower, Tyreic Turner, Sharian Surjan, Aubrianna Kress, Brandon Jones, and Darrell Ward created a beautiful Backyard Habitat at **Disney's Animal Kingdom**® and another at Arnold Palmer Children's Hospital. To unveil their colorful landscape, the child "stars" were escorted from their homes via limousine to the Pine Hills Boys & Girls Club where they viewed the episode along with 200 invited guests, Molly Pesce, and the director of the show, Andy Bamberger. [Click here](#) to view more photos of the red carpet.



🐻 Annual Disney Toy Drive to Help 16,000 Families

This week, Marine Corps Reservists arrived at the **Walt Disney World** Resort in their military vehicles to load thousands of new toys for children throughout Central Florida donated by **Walt Disney World** Cast Members. Walt Disney himself designed the original Toys for Tots logo decades ago. To keep the Toys for Tots tradition alive, **Walt Disney World** VoluntEARS expect to assist nearly 16,000 families from Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. In addition to donating toys, Disney Cast Members will have contributed more than 2,300 VountEAR hours to help register thousands of families in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole. [Click here](#) to see more photos.



🐻 Two Disney Cast Members Make Magic for Victims of Home Fire

Wade Hobby and Moriah-Beth Glanovsky, two Cast Members at **Epcot's** Innoventions, were spotted making dreams come true for the Brine Family who recently lost all their belongings in an electrical fire. Wade helped them forget their worries by making new memories playing the robot race game. Moriah-Beth won the family's hearts when she offered to let them "lead the tour" at the House of Innoventions. The Brine Family was so thrilled with the overall charm and personalized service at the park Mrs. Brine wrote a letter commending both of them. Making extraordinary memories for Guests is an experience that Wade enjoys, "I feel fortunate to work for a company that allows us the opportunity to make dreams a reality for Guests of all ages." [Click here](#) to listen to a brief recorded interview of Wade and Moriah-Beth.



🐻 Disney Cast and Crew Clean Up Brevard Coastline

Nearly 450 **Walt Disney World** and Disney Cruise Line VoluntEARS, headed to Brevard County for the third annual Coastal Cleanup at Jetty Park. The Disney Cast, Crew Members and their families collected debris and litter along six miles of shoreline in collaboration with the Ocean Conservancy and Keep Brevard Beautiful. Since 2003, Disney VoluntEARS have collected more than 14,000 pounds of debris from the Brevard County coastline. Last year, Disney VoluntEARS donated more than 440,000 hours of their personal time and participated in more than 1,715 volunteer projects around the world. [Click here](#) to watch a brief video, and [click here](#) to see more photos.



Make-A-Wish Princesses Debut at Christmas Parade

Four little girls from across the country were granted wishes to be a princess for a day. Through a "Year of a Million Dreams," Ava (5), Emily (4), Hannah (8), and Saniya (8), were transformed from little girls into beautiful, sparkling princesses who waved at **Magic Kingdom**® Guests as they passed them on their own float during the pre-taped *Walt Disney World Christmas Day Parade* special, set to air Dec. 25, 2006, on ABC-TV. These special little girls have life-threatening medical conditions and were able to enjoy the parks, stay at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge, and receive magical make-overs to complete their fairy tale dream come true. [Click here](#) to view more photos.



Disney Cruise Line Shares Holiday Magic in Ports of Call

Throughout the month of December, Disney Cruise Line Crew Members are spreading holiday cheer to communities in their Bahamian and Caribbean ports of call. Accompanied by Disney characters and local government officials, Disney VoluntEARS distribute toys and holiday greetings to nearly 2,000 children in the ports of Key West, Grand Cayman, St. Maarten, St. Thomas, Nassau and the Abaco islands. This year, the visits kicked off on the island of St. Maarten where school children at the St. Joseph School got a visit from Mickey and Minnie Mouse and VoluntEARS from aboard the *Disney Magic* cruise ship who delivered gifts. [Click here](#) to view more photos.



Roy Disney Visits Florida and Shares True Life Adventures

Roy Disney visited **Disney's Animal Kingdom** to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first *True Life Adventure* TV series. During an exclusive, hour-long conversation with Dr. Beth Stevens, vice president of **Disney's Animal Kingdom** and Animal Programs, Roy explained to a theater full of 300 Cast Members that many segments of the highly-successful *True Life Adventure* films have been compiled onto a DVD to continue the rich legacy for wildlife conservation that Walt began so many years ago. He told the audience that sometimes the reality of what animals do on a daily basis is often funnier than what animators can imagine. He told Cast Members: "Don't forget we only have one earth and one chance to get it right. It's up to us what we do with it." To view video clips of the presentation, [click here](#) or [click here](#).



🧡 Disney Decks the Halls and Parks

You may think that putting up your holiday decorations takes an effort, but at **Walt Disney World**, decking the halls of the entire property takes **150** tractor-trailer loads of holiday cheer. Here's a sample of what Guests will experience during the holiday festivities: **11.3** miles of garland strung throughout the Vacation Kingdom; more than **300,000** yards of ribbon and bows draping over **1,360** Christmas trees; and 7 million lights hung throughout **Walt Disney World** property. [Click here](#) to view time-lapsed videos of Disney's Grand Floridian Resort and Disney's Wilderness Lodge as they set up for the holidays.



🧡 Expedition Everest to Receive Outstanding Recognition Award

The Themed Entertainment Association (THEA) named *Expedition Everest: Legend of the Forbidden Mountain* at **Disney's Animal Kingdom** winner of the 2006 THEA Award for Outstanding Attraction. Established in 1991, the THEA Awards recognize achievement, talent and personal excellence within the themed entertainment industry and are regarded internationally as a symbol of excellence. Walt Disney Imagineering, the creative organization that designed and developed the attraction, will receive the award during a gala event next March. [Click here](#) to see more images.



🧡 Disney Reservation Center Celebrates 10th Anniversary in Tampa

Ten years after the Disney Reservation Center (DRC) opened its doors in Tampa, it is known as the place where the magic begins. The DRC, Tampa was originally built to handle increasing Guest calls that have resulted from the growth of the **Walt Disney World** Resort, but today it is the center where innovation and pixie dust is paired with efficiency and tailored service. The thousands of calls per day that are processed through the DRC are managed by a Cast of nearly 1,200. [Click here](#) to view more photos. [Click here](#) to view more images.



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MouseMail is a periodic news brief for Central Florida business, community and government leaders, produced by Walt Disney World Co.