

# 300th Dream Come True child thrilled after 'Who's the Boss' TV set visit

By Gail Maholick  
TIMES NEWS Staff

Dream Come True has made a special wish come true for 7-year-old Nicole Lucas of Allentown. She met her idol, Tony Danza of "Who's the Boss," television show last month.

Last night, little "Niki" was presented as Dream Come True's 300th dream child at a press conference held at the Sheraton Jetport in Allentown. About 200 attended the gathering and listened as her father described the little girl's delight with her dream.

Dressed in a frilly pink dress, Niki stood before the crowd and gave a heart-warming smile. She said the best part of her dream was meeting Danza.

"Niki" and her family spent a week in California, during which the Lucases visited the show's set and met the entire cast. Niki had autographs signed and had pictures taken with Danza and Judith Light. In addition, the family visited Disney Land, Knotts Berry Farm and Universal Studios, all with free passes which the attractions provided.

Her father, Sam, who accompanied Nicole to the front of the room, helped her carry a large pink bank filled with change that she presented to Judy Lazarus, a Dream Come True volunteer. Niki said she filled the bank so that another child could have a dream come true. She made the presentation to Lazarus because she helped fulfill Nicole's dream.

Nicole's dream was funded by a donation from the Pennsylvania Perimeter Ride. Two of the riders were on hand to hear how much their efforts

were appreciated by the child.

Tony Cerroni of Allentown, a Pa. Perimeter rider, said it touched his heart to see Nicole so happy. "We plan to do it again," said Cerroni. "I'll be taking this information back to the board."

Her father said Nicole watched Danza on television up to three times a day.

"She really likes him a lot," said Mr. Lucas, speaking for the child afflicted with Ataxia Telangiectasia, a multi-degenerative disorder.

"Danza couldn't have been any nicer. Thank you very much for making Niki's dream come true," he said, becoming emotional. "Thank you for making it so special."

Nick Hawkey, president of

Dream Come True, said dreams take a lot of money, but that whenever a child wanted a dream, Dream Come True would do all it could and would somehow find the money to fulfill the dream.

"Some of our money comes in big chunks," said Hawkey. "Other donations come like the one from St. John's Church in Jim Thorpe. The children from the church put money in a cake for their birthday. We'll do all we can with their donation of \$27.85."

Rick Weaver, board member, invited everyone to visit Eleventh and Hamilton streets on Oct. 13 when the Dream Come True Mini Grand Prix will take place.

"We'll have a ball," he said.

"The cars go a top speed of 25 miles per hour. We'll have little contests going on, such as tire-changing. Come see what's going on."

Hawkey said anyone can help Dream Come True by referring a child, becoming a volunteer, making a donation or sponsoring a dream.

Dream Come True was founded in 1984. It's an all volunteer organization which strives to fulfill dreams for chronically, seriously and terminally ill children. Children are between the ages of 4 and 19 and come from all economic levels.

For information how to help or to secure a speaker contact Hawkey at (215) 767-1020 or Gail Maholick at (215) 377-5559.



300TH DREAM CHILD Nicole Lucas met Tony Danza of "Who's the Boss." Her dream was presented by Dream Come True volunteer Judy Lazarus, left. Tony Cerroni, right, representing the Pennsylvania Perimeter riders, funded the dream. (Gail Maholick/TIMES NEWS)