

Make-A-Wish®
NORTHEAST NEW YORK

Wishmaker

VOL 28 ISSUE 2 / FALL/WINTER 2019

... when you get
to be part of these
*wishes ... it helps
balance*
things out.

Our *family*
will carry this
incredible
wish in our
hearts *forever*.

... *thank you*
for all that you have
done for him and
countless
others.

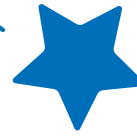
It is humbling,
*a triumph of
the human spirit*
realized for all
to witness.

Make-A-Wish was
there for us, and
*words cannot
express*
how *thankful*
I am ...

The Power of a Wish ...
In Their Own Words

With gratitude

from the Board Chair and CEO



To Our Valued Donors and Volunteers,

Thank you for helping us to transform lives, one wish at a time!

One of the most gratifying aspects of our involvement with the Make-A-Wish® Foundation is the wide range of people who generously give of their time, talent and treasure to help make magical wishes come true for children and teens with critical illnesses. In this Fall/Winter issue of *Wishmaker*, we celebrate the beauty of that colorful spectrum of people and organizations who are part of our Make-A-Wish® Northeast New York family. As our Director of Marketing & Communications Mark McGuire so wisely notes: Nothing speaks to the power of a wish better than the testimony of those who are directly engaged in making the wish magic happen.



Sarah A. McKinney
Board Chair

In this issue we present to you, in their own words, several beautiful and compelling first-person reflections. Among them: Wish mom Noelle recounting her daughter's wish experience in Florida; the family of wish alum Jordan Waner speaking to the impact of his wish as he graduated from high school; wish alum Joe Watroba's wish journey that led him and his family to establish a prestigious charity golf tournament to benefit the chapter and the Albany Medical Center Children's Hospital; pediatric oncologist and Board member Dr. Lauren Weintraub explaining the genuine impact of a wish on her patients and medical colleagues, and wish sibling and chapter intern Rachel Gilsenan relating how her sister's wish experience positively affected her entire family.



William C. Trigg, III, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

We are also proud to highlight some truly remarkable wishes granted since last fall. They include: Carlie's wish for an adaptive stroller; Logan's wish for a magical trip to Hawaii, and George's wish to meet his favorite New York Giant, Saquon Barkley, featured on ESPN's "My Wish" series in July. All these wishes, and more, were made possible thanks to the creativity of our wish granters, the dedication of our Mission Delivery Team and other staff members and the generosity of our donors.

As this issue of *Wishmaker* goes to press, we are planning our 27th Annual Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign that will launch Nov. 14 in the Capital Region and Nov. 21 in the North Country. We are grateful to Trustco Bank for renewing its support as our Presenting Sponsor of the campaign, as well as to WRGB CBS6 as our television media sponsor and Albany Broadcasting Company as our radio sponsor.

We are proud to share this exciting progress, as well as the stories of wishes granted in the past six months and the ways we are engaging our donors and the community to partner with us **in granting the wish of every eligible child** in our chapter. Our wish families join us in thanking you for your support and engagement as donors and as volunteers. We wish you and your families a safe and relaxing holiday season!

Best wishes,

Sarah A. McKinney
Board Chair

William C. Trigg, III, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer



in this issue

- 4 In Their Own Words
- 7 A Doctor's View
- 9 Giant Wish
- 10 Major Award
- 11 Royal Visit
- 12 Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign
- 14 Wishes
- 16 Going for a Walk
- 19 Summer of Fun
- 20 Room to Wish
- 22 Staff News
- 23 A Wish Charts a Path

Wishmaker is published twice a year by Make-A-Wish® Northeast New York

3 Washington Square
Albany, NY 12205
518.456.9474 (WISH)
Fax 518.782.0618
neny@neny.wish.org
www.neny.wish.org

ON THE COVER: Wish kid Logan Hazen on her Hawaiian wish.

Make-A-Wish®
NORTHEAST NEW YORK

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sarah A. McKinney, Chair
Microsoft Corporation

Lisa M. Clifford, Vice Chair
Key Private Bank

Jennifer M. Boll, Esq., Treasurer
Bond, Schoenack & King, PLLC

David A. Druzynski, Jr., Secretary
Auto/Mate Dealership Systems

Kristen D. Berdar, CPA, CMA
BST & Co., LLP

Sean M. Doolan, Esq.
Hinman Straub P.C.

James Giordano
Latham Pool Products

John Hinkle
CommerceHub

Kyle Kinowski
The Ayco Company, L.P.

Steven Kuring
GE Power

Michael P. Lasch
Pine Street Capital Partners

Laura Mazzara
Pioneer Bank

David O'Leary, Esq.
The Ayco Company, L.P.

Robert Roemer
CAP COM Federal Credit Union

Leah Slocum
PEAK Partners Team Realty

Chris Walton
Total Facility Solutions/Exyte, Inc.

Andrew Weibrecht
*U.S. Olympic Ski Team (ret.)/
Mirror Lake Inn*

Lauren Weintraub, M.D.
Albany Medical Center

STAFF

William C. Trigg, III, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Robert E. Bullock
Chief Operating Officer

Kirsten Broschinsky
Director of Development

Abby Connor
*Manager of Medical
Referral Outreach*

Jennifer Cullen
Development Manager

Karen Dominguez
Wish Coordinator

Raymond Gawlak
Manager of Volunteer Engagement

Scott Liloia
Senior Manager of Wish Granting

Mark McGuire
Director, Marketing & Communications

Mackenzie Watroba
Manager of Operations

*‘Our family
will carry this
incredible
wish in our
hearts forever’*

By Noelle Gentile

Wish mom Noelle of Albany writes of her daughter’s recent wish that could have ended in sadness, only to be made even more gratifying ...

Thanks to Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, our family just had the journey of a lifetime.

Our 7-year-old daughter, Isla, who has refractory epilepsy, swam with the dolphins at a special dolphin sanctuary, Island Dolphin Care, in Key Largo, Florida, that, along with physical therapists, works with children with different abilities. The joy it brought our daughter was like nothing we’ve ever witnessed.

But on our trip our greatest fears came true: Isla endured a prolonged seizure and had to be transported from a hospital on Key Largo to a children’s hospital in Miami. We were devastated not only by her seizure, but that her wish was interrupted and potentially ended.

But in one of our most challenging moments came some of the greatest love we’ve ever received. Make-A-Wish Northeast New York wrapped us in love.

They went above and beyond to extend our trip so that Isla could return to the dolphins, rearranging all our travel plans as well as making sure we were still able to visit the turtle hospital. They made sure that Isla’s trip remained magical.

Make-A-Wish is a reminder of all that is good in this world. Our family will carry this incredible wish in our hearts forever.

Note: Make-A-Wish® Southern Florida assisted on this wish.



A Gift from a King

Our Make-A-Wish Northeast New York wish kids and families amaze and humble us. Consider this letter, dated July 28:

Jordan Waner was a 2011 Make-A-Wish recipient. His wish was to meet Lightning McQueen from the movie “Cars”. Make-A-Wish sent Jordan and his family to Disney’s Hollywood Studios for this meet and greet when Jordan was 10 years old. Jordan is now 19, was chosen as Prom King by the seniors of Fort Plain Central School and graduated from High School. In lieu of gifts at his graduation celebration, Jordan accepted donations for Make-A-Wish.

Jordan would like to present donations totaling \$2,000 to Make-A-Wish Northeast New York in honor of his accomplishments and to thank you for all that you have done for him and countless others.

Sincerely,
The Waner Family
(Jordan, Debbie & Jeff)

*“... thank you
for all that you have
done for him and
countless
others.”*

A Movie Inspires a Wish

By Logan Hazen

This summer, Make-A-Wish Northeast New York wish kid Logan wrote and delivered these remarks at the 11th Annual Tech Valley Charity Golf Tournament at the Saratoga National Golf Club in Saratoga Springs:

Hi, everyone! My name is Logan Hazen and I am 11 years old. I have cystic fibrosis.

Cystic fibrosis is a disease that you are born with. It can affect your lungs, and your digestive system. Ever since I saw the movie 'Moana,' I have wanted to go to Hawaii. I wanted to swim with the dolphins, go to a luau, and learn how to hula dance.

I was able to do this with my family last February.

Thank you, Make-A-Wish, for making my wish come true.

Logan is one of the wish ambassadors for the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign.

“Ever since I saw the movie ‘Moana’ I have wanted to go to Hawaii.”



Paying It ‘Foreward’

By Joe Watroba

The power of a wish begins the moment you find out you are eligible for one. It is revealed during a vulnerable moment in your life, but provides you immediate hope a time will come you'll no longer get poked and prodded and be in and out of hospitals.

My wish experience started when I met with my wish granters. My treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma took place during the spring and summer of 2007. At that point, golf was my only viable physical activity, so it was natural my wish would revolve around the sport. Golf helped me feel normal and allowed me to escape my reality, if only for a short time.

Knowing that I could have a Make-A-Wish gave that 16-year-old me hope and allowed me to dream — to think of something I really wanted to experience. It helped me envision a time when I would feel good again. I dreamed about my wish for nine months before ending treatment in September 2007.

My wish in August 2008 was to play TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, home of The Players Championship. The weeklong trip with my family — golfing multiple times wedged between jet skiing, parasailing and touring the golf Hall of Fame — felt like I was on the PGA Tour. Just as importantly, it felt like the final act to my illness.

That's why my family and I started Play It Foreward 518. The not-for-profit foundation holds an annual golf tournament in August as well as smaller events during the year, with the proceeds going to both Make-A-Wish of Northeast New York and The Bernard & Millie Duke Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center. Since our inception five years ago, we have eclipsed the \$100,000 mark in net proceeds and have sponsored four wishes. Being able to see the joy on the faces of the children we help serve puts life in perspective, both looking back and looking forward.

Joe Watroba is a wish kid and president of Play it Foreward 518.

Giving Back with Time

By Sandi Worona

Over a decade ago, engulfed in the greatest adversity our family ever faced, Make-A-Wish Northeast New York provided respite and calm.

Shortly after our youngest daughter had been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer, we were contacted by wish granters who offered love, support and an opportunity to briefly disconnect from the terror we faced. For her wish, our daughter chose to go on a beach vacation. Our time away proved purely magical.

During this time, I decided to become a wish granter and assist families finding themselves in a similar situation. I determined when I retired as a special educator, serving on a more full-time basis would be my next true calling.

I received my training, and learned the volunteers and staff were selfless and altruistic warriors. I found comfort in people devoted to doing good without

need for praise or accolades. I saw that in this deeply divided political world, where almost all subject matter is ripe for argument, the Make-A-Wish family is united in purpose to provide kindness and love to people in need.

The wish granters I've had the privilege to work with have been inspiring. Just as uplifting are the wish families in their courage and determination to see their children healthy and happy.

Assisting such families at the most stressful point in their lives also provides a meaningful gift to wish granters. I know my life is made more worthy of purpose in working as a wish granter. After more than a decade in the role, I've been asked what drives me to continue. I suppose the simple

answer is, I'm hooked.

I'm hooked knowing that although we cannot ever guarantee a family that their children will regain their health, we can promise there are people I am honored and humbled to work with who stand ready to provide comfort and a healthy reprieve.

My own family's story had a happy ending: Our daughter not only survived her health crisis but is thriving. Make-A-Wish was there for us, and words cannot express how thankful I am to be able to give back the most precious commodity I can: my time.

Sandi Worona, a wish granter and wish mom, was this year's recipient of the chapter's Wish Champion Award for her volunteer work.



A Wish, and a New Perspective

By Leah Slocum

I was familiar with Make-A-Wish but didn't fully comprehend its impact. I did love the mission, and contemplated becoming a wish granter, but thought it was hard to find the time. I kept it in the back of my mind.



The fall of 2017 changed everything. My adorable 4-year-old niece, Brianna, a true warrior princess, had been battling a very rare disease since birth. She braved daily pills and injections, and tests and hospital visits. My brother and sister-in-law endured frantic 911 calls, ambulance rides and constant fear. Brianna's disease consumed every aspect of their lives, and the mental exhaustion was beginning to show.

In the fall of 2017, Brianna's doctor recognized my family's need for a break, and referred Brianna for a wish from Make-A-Wish Northeast New York. Brianna knew exactly what she wanted: A Disney wish to dance and eat hot dogs with Belle! She also wished for her Aunt Leah to come along.

That wish experience changed my family's life and perspective. For an entire week the focus wasn't on Brianna's disease. It was on ice cream and amusement park rides. It was on

family time, special gifts delivered to our hotel villa and deep bonds formed with other wish families. That wish inspired me to share that life-changing experience with everyone I knew.

On our trip, Brianna asked me why every sick child didn't get to experience a wish. I promised her that I would help her pay it forward. I immediately became a wish granter, and later a Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Board member. I still wanted to do more.

I spoke to my PEAK Partners Team at Keller Williams. They unanimously agreed they wanted to use funds and help Brianna pay it forward. We committed to sponsoring a wish: The checks are presented at our community event, PEAKFest, each fall.

The look on Brianna's face when we present that check inspires me to do more and think bigger. Make-A-Wish is now always in the front of my mind.

Leah Slocum is a wish granter and a member of the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Board of Trustees.

To See a Hurting Child Smile

By Dr. Lauren Weintraub



A patient I had has a great, caring family. Her sister came to a lot of the appointments. They were very close in age; the patient was seven, the sister six.

We did the patient's Make-A-Wish reveal here at The Melodies Center. It was a Disney wish. The sister was so excited, you'd think she won the lottery! It is something so special to be able to give them — not only to the wish kid, but also the sibling who was going through this illness with her.

I regularly give kids and families such heavy news. For the nurses and doctors, to be

part of a wish means we get to witness happiness re-enter the lives of these children and parents. When you're forced to see these kids suffer so greatly, then get to watch them get excited about a wish, it helps. It helps them. It helps us.

That family we did the Disney reveal for was in such a dark place after receiving the diagnosis, and then had to jump right into treatment. But when they got back from the wish trip there was a lightness — a light. Because the family got to watch their kid be a kid again for a week. And that meant everything.

There is a lot of tough stuff in my field. But when you get to be part of these wishes and observe and feel the joy, it helps balance things out. These amazing, strong kids and their families are boosted by these wishes. And we in the medical community surely benefit from their smiles.

Dr. Lauren Weintraub is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Albany Medical College and a pediatric hematologist/oncologist at The Melodies Center for Pediatric Cancer and Blood Disorders at Albany Medical Center. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York.

*“(W)hen you
get to be part
of these
wishes ...
it helps
balance
things out.”*



Being a Family Again

By Rachel Gilsenan

Being a sibling to a child with cancer is no easy task. My family of five went from being always together to just seeing each other in passing. My brother and I were left to spend nights at cousins' houses while my parents rotated shifts with our sister Nicole at the hospital. This was hard for 13-year-old me, because I felt like I was excluded and unimportant at a crucial point in my life.

Then Make-A-Wish came. From the moment the wish granters showed up at my house, I could see Nicole's gears turning about what she could wish for to make the five of us feel like one again. She set her sights on a Disney Cruise.

I remember telling Nicole, “It's not what we want to do, it's what you want to do.” The day Make-A-Wish® Metro New York came to talk about her wish, mom asked repeatedly if she was sure this is what she wanted. Nicole, all of 11, was emphatic:

“Everyone likes vacation. This is my wish and I want everyone to enjoy it. This is what we are doing.”

Soon the five of us were flying out to Florida to board *The Fantasy*. Every horrible thing that we felt or experienced within the last year faded as the shoreline disappeared on the horizon.

Thanks to Make-A-Wish, the five of us were able to be a family again. We spent the week appreciating the time we finally had together. My parents relaxed, a rare sight at the time. My brother and I felt we belonged. And Nicole was just happy that the five of us were in the same place at the same time.

“It was nice to finally all sit down and relax after the whirlwind we were thrown into,” mom said recently. “I'm grateful for Make-A-Wish, because without them this wouldn't have been possible.”

I have never experienced another vacation like this, nor will I; there was so much meaning behind it. The five of us needed something to bring us back to each other.

That was seven years ago. Nicole is now a college sophomore, I'm a senior. And our family remains as close as ever.

Rachel Gilsenan, a senior at the University at Albany from Staten Island, is a marketing and communications intern for Make-A-Wish Northeast New York.

It's About More than Raising Money

By Chris McKenna

When we help people in need, we gain so much more than we give. Together, we can see the positive impact of our actions. Just as importantly, we can feel it.

I am fortunate to lead an organization that fulfills its mission by providing life-enhancing services throughout the Capital Region. CAP COM's focus on service enables us to understand the challenges people face, so we can provide practical solutions with friendly guidance.

On a summer day, strolling with some of our favorite people in Troy, New York, is one way we march forward together. At the Walk For Wishes, dozens of CAP COM employees and their families raised money for a great cause and we also celebrated the success of our raffle benefiting Make-A-Wish Northeast New York earlier this year. Plus, we had a blast!

We love supporting Make-A-Wish to help transform the dreams of children struggling with critical illnesses into

memorable experiences. The lengths to which this organization goes to create magical moments for children is an inspiration.

When a child's face lights up with a smile, all is well with the world. Each time I meet a Make-A-Wish child, I marvel at how so much innocent joy can coexist with such courage.

As you can imagine, requests from kids to Make-A-Wish run the gamut, ranging from toys to travel and everything in between. Five-year-old Carlie Santiago of Amsterdam is one of the kids whose wish we helped support. Carlie came to CAP COM headquarters recently and "test drove" her wish. It was a custom-built stroller, designed to help her get around more comfortably. (Editor's Note: See

story below.)

The daily realities of these kids and their families put our own challenges in perspective. There wasn't a dry eye in the house that day (though some wouldn't admit it).

It's one thing to raise money for a cause. When we leap into action together, we share so much more. Being there for each other is what really matters. I believe that's what community is all about.

Chris McKenna is the CEO of CAP COM Federal Credit Union and Chair of the CAP COM Cares Foundation.



"It's one thing to raise money for a cause. When we leap into action together, we share so much more."

Carlie Has a Hot New Set of Wheels



Carlie now has the sweetest ride in Montgomery County.

Thanks to a sponsorship by CAP COM Federal Credit Union and the CAP COM Cares Foundation, along with the craftsmanship of 4x Heaven of Gloversville, the 5-year-old Make-A-Wish Northeast New York wish kid

from Amsterdam got her wish for a new customized adaptive stroller granted.

The stroller comes not only with pinstriping but also speakers, Bluetooth and a charging station. 4x Heaven transformed the carrier into a one-of-a-kind piece of functional art.

Wish mom Elsa originally discussed a Disney wish for her daughter, who has a form of epilepsy, but decided she may not enjoy it.

"I know that she loves wheels, everything wheels," the mom said. "And I said, 'Let's get her a stroller that she can feel comfortable and she can enjoy herself.' And that way it will last her a long time and it will be better for her."

CAP COM Cares Foundation sponsored the wish, as well as a raffle that benefited Make-A-Wish in which the grand prize was \$10,000. This is the fifth wish sponsored by CAP COM since 2015.

"At CAP COM, we believe in the importance of community and people helping people," Paige Rueckert, the Community & Youth Advocate for the credit union, said at the wish reveal/raffle at the CAP COM Financial Center in Albany. "Make-A-Wish Northeast New York embodies those same values, and that is why we are honored to once again have them as our BIG Benefit Raffle beneficiary."

The wish reveal and announcement of the raffle winner was attended by dozens of CAP COM employees, the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York staff, media, and Carlie and her family.

"We at Make-A-Wish Northeast New York are very grateful to the employees and members of CAP COM FCU for the generous and continued support of our mission and wish families," chapter CEO William C. Trigg, III, said. "Our partnership with CAP COM is helping us fulfill our vision of granting the wish of every eligible child in our region."

Chapter Featured at National Conference

The Make-A-Wish Northeast New York team spent a week in Phoenix in October for the Make-A-Wish America Annual Leadership Conference, where we underwent training and were inspired by scores of uplifting wish stories.

The conference, which brings together chapters large and small from across the country, provides valuable technical information, while also allowing different Make-A-Wish entities to share their experiences.



Make-A-Wish Northeast New York CEO William C. Trigg, III, Make-A-Wish America co-founder Tommy Austin and Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Board member Andrew Weibrecht.

Senior Manager of Wish Granting Scott Liloia served as one of the awards presenters during an awards show. During that show, the chapter was among those cited for fundraising and wish granting successes.

Most importantly, we returned home more energized and dedicated than ever to granting life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. The best is yet to come.

The Northeast New York chapter, though far from the largest, got its chance to shine.

Southern Florida wish kid Tiago, who had never seen snow but wished to go bobsledding and came to Lake Placid, was featured in a conference-wide presentation that included CEO William C. Trigg, III, and Board member (and former Olympian) Andrew Weibrecht.



George's Giant Wish

Make-A-Wish® and ESPN® teamed up for the 14th consecutive year for the annual “My Wish” series intended to showcase life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses that included George, a wish kid from Cohoes.

George is a 15-year-old with cancer who wished to meet 2018 NFL Rookie of the Year Saquon Barkley of the New York Giants. George's wish is one of five inspirational sports stories in the summertime series on *SportsCenter* presented by Dove Men+Care.

George's story kicked off the series on Saturday, and re-aired multiple times in various editions of *SportsCenter*. The piece was also the weekend's *SC Featured*, and available on ESPN.com.

ESPN cameras captured each wish in its entirety, beginning with the initial surprise when a child was told their wish would be granted, all the way through the unforgettable experience they shared with the athlete. Over the years, the series has featured best-in-class professionals, including global superstars, world champions, gold medalists, hall of famers and MVPs.

Emmy-winning reporter Chris Connelly brought these stories to life for the 14th consecutive year through insightful and compelling interviews with the wish kids and their families.

“It's beyond inspiring to help tell the stories of these kids who have endured incredible hardships, and yet have the biggest smiles on their faces on the day their wish comes true,” said Connelly. “When you see a child's eyes light up when they actually see and meet their favorite athletes, you understand the importance of these wishes and the positivity and healing that they provide.”

Make-A-Wish Northeast New York extends its thanks to Disney and ESPN for their support of the “My Wish” series as part of The Walt Disney Company's philanthropic and outreach initiative, Disney Team of Heroes, delivering comfort and inspiration to families with children facing serious illness. Beyond assisting with this year's series, Disney — which owns ESPN — has been a steadfast friend of Make-A-Wish for 39 years and has helped the organization grant more than 130,000 Disney-related wishes, including the first official wish in 1980.

Chamber Honors Trigg with Leadership Award

The tireless efforts of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York CEO William C. Trigg, III, have not gone unnoticed, as the Capital Region Chamber has bestowed Trigg its 2019 Nonprofit Executive Leadership Award.

He will be among those honored at a Nov. 22 luncheon at The Desmond Albany.

The 2019 Nonprofit Executive Leadership Award recognizes a “nonprofit leader whose distinguished achievements have resulted in significant progress toward improving a community issue.”

In overseeing the day-to-day and long-term operations of the chapter, Trigg is as comfortable with the smallest of wish kids and the biggest of donors. He is willing to jump out of an airplane, get into a dunk tank or even get slimed if it means helping the Make-A-Wish® mission of granting

life-changing wishes to local children with critical illnesses.

Trigg has been the CEO of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York since February 2006, making him the longest-tenured chief executive since the chapter's beginning in 1986. He has overseen milestone changes in the chapter, including a significant increase in the number of wishes granted per year, the start of the chapter's Walk For Wishes® and the establishment of a 20-member pediatric Medical Advisory Council at Albany Medical Center. This past year has seen a significant increase in referrals, and growth in the chapter's exposure and signature events such as the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign and Wish Gala.

“For going on a generation, Bill Trigg has been the face of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York,” Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Board of Trustees Chair Sarah A. McKinney said. “He has a singular focus in advancing our mission and serving our local wish kids and families — and he has done so with distinction year after year. The Board is so pleased to see him receive this appropriate recognition.”

Trigg in large part credited those around him for the award.

“It is a tremendous honor to have been selected by the Capital Region Chamber,” Trigg said. “I am keenly aware

that it takes a team to be a successful nonprofit executive. I have been particularly blessed to work with an outstanding Board of Trustees, a dedicated group of volunteers, and very talented professional colleagues at Make-A-Wish Northeast New York.

“For me, this honor is as much theirs as it is mine.”

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Trigg holds a doctorate in criminal justice from the University at Albany. From 1984-2005, Trigg served as CEO of the New York State Trooper Foundation, where he helped to establish and fund programs benefiting the New York State Police, including the NYSP Disaster Relief Fund, the Trooper Foundation Scholarship Fund, and the State Police Survivors Program.

“The past year has been transformative for the chapter. Through the efforts of each of our staff members under the extraordinary leadership of Bill as CEO, we are poised for great growth,” Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Chief Operating Officer Robert Bullock said. “We congratulate Bill on this honor and his 14 years of accomplishment, and we look forward to his continued leadership in the years ahead.”

Trigg resides in Stillwater, New York, and has two daughters, Genevieve and Amelia. He is engaged to Heidi Eustis.



“Thank you, Mr. Trigg for all the years of hard work and caring about our kids. My daughter Daniella is a Hodgkin Lymphoma survivor and took the trip of a lifetime to Spain thanks to Make-A-Wish N.E.N.Y. It marked the end of the chemo treatment and all the worries and helped us both start anew with an appreciation of Life and the kindness of strangers. It helped her to realize her path in life and went on to obtain her Master's



Degree in Iberian Studies. While at the University she taught Spanish and went on to meet the man of her dreams who is a US citizen from Peru. She is expecting her first baby in October.”

– Wish mom Joanne Beatrice, via Facebook

The Royal Visit of Princess Trinity



Once upon a time there was a kid named Trinity. She wished to have a royal experience — to be a princess, and meet a queen, and visit a castle and such.

So the Middleton, Wisconsin, wish kid and her family set off on a journey that was many a mile, to a faraway kingdom known as Upstate New York. There she saw jousts, met her queen — twice — and even stayed and feasted in a castle.

In all ways, Princess Trinity was treated like royalty.

Thanks to Make-A-Wish® Wisconsin with an assist from Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, 8-year-old Trinity fully immersed herself in her wish, along with 7-year-old sister Felicity and parents Katrina and Brooks.

“I thought, ‘What is the most fun thing for me that I could think of?’ And I came up with this,” said Trinity, who has cystic fibrosis. “It was a vision in my head. ... A humongous castle ... Very nice ball gowns.”

After arriving in New York, Trinity and her sister went royal gown shopping — princesses must be properly attired. It was important to the family that Trinity’s sister received an equally royal experience, a testament to the fact wishes impact not only the wish kid, but entire families. The next morning, the family had a deluxe spa treatment, before going on a horse-drawn carriage ride.

They were later feted at the New York Renaissance Faire in Tuxedo Park, where they met Queen Elizabeth. The family took part in all the frolic the 16th Century English village offers, including jousts, and meeting knights, a falconer and fairies.



Go to Make-A-Wish Northeast New York’s Facebook or YouTube page to see the video of Trinity’s wish.

A cruise on scenic Lake George followed, where a royal herald invited the princess and her entourage to a feast at the behest of Queen Elizabeth.

They disembarked in Bolton Landing for Highlands Castle — an actual castle — where they stayed and were honored with a sumptuous eight-course feast with all resplendence and medieval entertainment befitting royalty.

The wish experience was capped by the special dinner at The Inn at Erlowest on Lake George, where the sisters dined on their favorite dish, lobster, while sitting on royal thrones.

“People from Wisconsin, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and much of New York state — particularly the Hudson Valley, Capital Region and Lake George area — helped craft a majestic wish based on Trinity’s imagination,” Make-A-Wish Northeast New York CEO William C. Trigg, III, said. “This magical experience will be a lifelong gift to this family.”

The parents, who like their children donned period clothing, were overwhelmed. This wish received more than \$40,000 in in-kind donations and services.

“We are so grateful — so grateful — for Make-A-Wish, who has made this better than I could ever have planned,” mom Katrina said. “A special thank you to the people who gifted us things that we didn’t even ask for.”

Trinity’s mom said she was careful not to make a lot of promises beforehand to her daughter, not knowing what to expect. But having experienced her wish, Trinity has a royal decree for other kids waiting for their wish:

“Trust me: This is going to be amazing.”

“I Wish to Have a Royal Experience.”



Capital Region Adopt-A-Wish ambassadors (from left) Cole, Logan, Jaxon, Giada, Alexis and Sammy pose with Alyssa Caroprese of CBS 6 Albany.



A Holiday Tradition Returns

This November marks the 27th year of the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign, Make-A-Wish Northeast New York's longest-running fundraising event and an annual tradition throughout the 15 counties we serve.

This vitally important fundraising campaign kicks off Nov. 14 with a celebration at Crossgates Mall and runs through the holidays. It is highlighted by paper stars featuring wish kid ambassadors who were granted wishes during the past year. For the second year, the campaign will include a Day of Wishes Telethon on CBS 6 Albany, followed by an Evening of Giving, at Colonie Center on Thursday, Dec. 5.

Acting on feedback from our donors, stars will again be available at three different prices: \$1, \$3 and \$5 — and you will still be able to get all six stars for \$15! Trustco Bank has generously renewed its role in the campaign as the Presenting Sponsor, and we are thankful for its support and making stars available at all area Trustco branches. In addition, NYSOPBA will return as a Wish Champion Sponsor.

Along with Trustco branches, stars will be available at Crossgates Mall, Colonie Center, Wilton Mall, Aviation Mall, Champlain Centre and various businesses and schools throughout the region.

"The Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign is unique among Make-A-Wish chapters, most notably for its longevity and the generosity of the volunteers, donors and sponsors in the region we serve," Make-A-Wish Northeast New York CEO William C. Trigg, III, said. "The campaign not only highlights our ambassadors and their imaginative wishes, but the overwhelming support we receive in our mission to grant life-changing wishes to all eligible local children with critical illnesses."

We hope you'll accompany us for the campaign kickoff and meet our incredible ambassadors! You can join us at Crossgates Mall in Guilderland on Thursday, Nov. 14, at 5 p.m. (corridor across from Regal Cinemas), or at Champlain Centre in Plattsburgh on Thursday, Nov. 21, at 5 p.m. (main corridor, near food court).

This campaign is made possible by the hundreds of volunteers throughout the chapter who generously donate their time to staff our booths. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Director of Development Kirsten Broschinsky at kbroschinsky@neny.wish.org or 518-456-9474.

The Ambassadors Featured on This Year's Stars

Logan, 10, Saratoga Springs
"I Wish to Go to Hawaii"

Sammy, 8, Castleton-on-Hudson
"I Wish to Meet Cizzorz the YouTube Gamer"

Cole, 6, Glens Falls
"I Wish to Meet The Transformers"

Alexis, 18, East Greenbush
"I Wish to Go See 'Be More Chill' on Broadway"

Giada, 3, Johnstown
"I Wish to Go to Walt Disney World® Resort"

Jaxon, 4, Amsterdam
"I Wish to Go to Walt Disney World® Resort"

Alyssa, 16, Lewis
"I Wish to Give Back to the Third Age Adult Day Center"

Samuel, 4, Brushton
"I Wish to Meet 'Cars' Characters at Disneyland®"

2020 Wish Gala

A Night of Elegance, a Night of Wishes



The tuxes and gowns will come out, the lights will go down and the auction paddles will go up at the annual Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Wish Gala on Saturday, March 28.

Join us at the Hall of Springs in Saratoga Springs for our signature black-tie evening, a night of elegance and inspiration in which we celebrate the more than 1,900 wishes granted since our founding.

"The Wish Gala is an important evening for the chapter," said Make-A-Wish Northeast New York CEO William C. Trigg, III. "Not only does it serve as a means of raising funds, but it's a way for us to thank our supporters for their essential role in granting heartfelt wishes to local children with critical illnesses as we celebrate the transformative power of a wish."

Guests will have the opportunity to see our mission in action and meet and hear from wish kids and families, who will share their moving stories. The 2020 event will also feature great food, live music and dancing, and both silent and live auctions, with Tom Stebbins returning to emcee the lively bidding action. Auction items are sure to appeal to a broad spectrum of tastes, and those unable to attend in person can still bid via smartphone or online.

Look for more information in the coming weeks, including how to buy tickets, on our website at neny.wish.org and our social media channels.



Upcoming Events

**Thursday, Nov. 14: Adopt-A-Wish
Holiday Campaign Kickoff**
Crossgates Mall, Guilderland

**Thursday, Nov. 21: Adopt-A-Wish
Holiday Campaign Kickoff
(North Country)**
Champlain Centre, Plattsburgh

**Thursday, Nov. 21:
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
(North Country)**
Butcher Block, Plattsburgh

**Thursday, Dec. 5: Day of Wishes
Telethon (CBS 6 Albany)**
Colonie Center, Albany

Thursday, Dec. 5: Evening of Giving
Colonie Center, Albany

**Friday, Dec. 6: National Macy's
Believe Day**

Saturday, Jan. 11: Zumba Fundraiser
Hudson High School, Hudson

March: Softball On Snow
Malone, New York

**TBD: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
(Capital Region)**
TBD

**Saturday, March 28: Make-Wish
Northeast New York Annual Wish Gala**
Hall of Springs, Saratoga Springs

*Be sure to check our calendar
on neny.wish.org as events
are added*



'I wish to go to Walt Disney World® Resort'

Jaxon, 4, from Amsterdam

Wish Granters: Ray Gawlak and Frank Valiante
Wish sponsored by Franklin Plaza Christmas Party

Jaiden, 11, from Albany

Wish Granters: Joel and Shannon Cantiello
Wish sponsored by 2018 Tech Valley Charity Golf Tournament

Karma, 14, from Schenectady

Wish Granters: Lori DeBrino and Bonnie DiGirolamo
Wish sponsored by 2018 Kingsway Community Charity Golf Tournament

Tracker, 10, from Johnstown

Wish Granters: Melissa Hally, and Michelle and Rob Iannacone
Wish sponsored by Ben and India Adams

Sydney, 4, from Clifton Park

Wish Granters: Dena DeLude and Kate Bukowski
Wish sponsored by Dave and Nanda O'Leary

Gabriella, 8, from Cadyville

Wish Granters: Pat MacMannis and Diane Duquette-Burl
Wish co-sponsored by Gusta Miller, Jackie Hutchinson, and Bob and Ann Bullock

Lawson, 6, from Rock City Falls

Wish Granters: Erica Bienick and Michelle Arsenault
Wish sponsored by 2019 Wish Gala Fund-A-Wish Donors

Emily, 3, from Saratoga Springs

Wish Granters: Stevie Church and Cary Hickey
Wish sponsored by Carrie Speshock, and Shawn and Amy Seagroatt

Kendall, 2½, from Ballston Spa

Wish Granters: Ray Gawlak and Melissa Murphy
Wish sponsored by 2019 Adopt-A-Wish Campaign

Aleyna, 2½, from Gloversville

Wish Granters: Megan Eglin and Melissa Hally
Wish sponsored by 2019 Adopt-A-Wish Campaign

'I wish to MEET'

I Wish to Meet Saquon Barkley of the New York Giants

George, 15, from Cohoes

Wish Granters: Brenda Fitting and Jessica Gallo
Wish sponsored by 2019 Team Dame Golf Tournament

I Wish to Meet Rob Gronkowski of the New England Patriots

John, 11, from Whitehall

Wish Granters: Eileen and Michael Dashnaw
Wish sponsored by 2019 Adopt-A-Wish Campaign

'I wish to BE'

I Wish to Be a Carolina Panther

Xzavier, 8, from Fort Plain

Wish Granters: Ray Gawlak and Nicole Calmes
Wish sponsored by Brian and Erin Hannafin



'I wish to GO'

I Wish to Go on a Disney Cruise

Zion, 16, from Albany

Wish Granters: Christopher Fain and Tanya Haas

Wish sponsored by Kyle and Danielle Kinowski

I Wish to Go to Universal Studios

Keianna, 14, from Albany

Wish Granters: Rachel Dymond and Erin Vickers

Wish sponsored by Lotus Automation, Inc.

I Wish to Go to Legoland

Izayah, 7, from Albany

Wish Granters: Leslie Baker, Amanda Zullo and Lori Lubin

Wish sponsored by 2019 Adopt-A-Wish Campaign

I Wish to Go See "Be More Chill" on Broadway

Alexis, 18, from East Greenbush

Wish Granters: Eileen Berlanti and Kristle Mathison

Wish sponsored by John and Sara Smack, and 2019 Wish Gala Fund-A-Wish Donors

I Wish to Go to Morgan's Wonderland Theme Park, Texas

Elijah, 6, from Hudson

Wish Granters: John and Judi Melby

Wish sponsored by The Richard and Terez Abatecola Foundation

I Wish to Go to Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

Evan, 10, from Gloversville

Wish Granters: Frank Valiante and James Cole

Wish sponsored by Performance Contracting, Inc.

I Wish to Go to the Outer Banks, North Carolina

Michael, 15, from Gloversville

Wish Granters: Nathan Pyne and Jeff Avella

Wish sponsored by 2019 Adopt-A-Wish Campaign

I Wish to Go to New York City with My Friend from Ohio

Josmarie, 16, from Albany

Wish Granters: Andrea and Jared Kingsley

Wish sponsored by 2019 Adopt-A-Wish Campaign

I Wish to Go to Discovery Cove and Swim with Dolphins

Stephanie, 16, from Lanesville

Wish Granters: John and Judi Melby, and Christine Hyatt

Wish sponsored by 2019 SP-Livingston Golf Tournament

I Wish to Go Swimming with Dolphins at Island Dolphin Care

Isla, 7, from Albany

Wish Granters: Sandi Worona and Jessica Gallo

Wish sponsored by 2018 Play It Forward 518, Inc., Golf Tournament

I Wish to Go to Atlantis Paradise Island Resort

Kamal, 17, from Albany

Wish Granters: Linda and Michael Doyle, and Peter Luzinas

Wish sponsored by Sean and Michele Doolan, Bob Curley, and Michael and Alicia Lasch

I Wish to Go to Hawaii

Ali, 8, from Albany

Wish Granters: Lori Lubin and Leslie Baker

Wish sponsored by GTM Payroll Services

Lauryn, 18, from Schenectady

Wish Granters: Karen Schultheis and Susan Weiss

Wish sponsored by 2018 Kingsway Community Charity Golf Tournament

'I wish to HAVE'

I Wish to Have a Shopping Spree

Zachary, 17, from Ravena

Wish Granters: Sandi Worona and Lauren Schlenker

Wish sponsored by Midwest Steel, Inc.

Erika, 17, from Amsterdam

Wish Granters: Michelle and Rob Iannacone

Wish sponsored by 2018 Wish Jump

I Wish to Have a Camper

TiaMarie, 6, from Ballston Spa

Wish Granters: Agnes Knott and Debbie Greenbaum

Wish sponsored by 2019 Adopt-A-Wish Campaign

Greyson, 2½, from Glenville

Wish Granters: Debbie Greenbaum and Lori DeBrino

Wish sponsored by Albany RV

I Wish to Have a Custom and Decorated Wheelchair

Carlie, 5, from Amsterdam

Wish Granters: Nicole Calmes and Ray Gawlak

Wish sponsored by CAP COM Federal Credit Union's Big Benefit Raffle

I Wish to Have an Outdoor Store Shopping Spree

Trevor, 15, from Chazy

Wish Granters: Pat MacMannis and Diane Duquette-Burl

Wish sponsored by 2019 Naked Turtle Golf Tournament





Make-A-Wish®

2019 **WALK**
FOR WISHES®

Hundreds Walk the Walk

Hundreds of wish families, supporters and volunteers came out in force, radio personalities and bosses were dunked, and funds for at least 11 wishes were raised this August at the Sixth Annual Walk For Wishes® at Joseph L. Bruno Stadium in Troy.

The Walk featured kids from around the chapter on star necklaces representing types of wishes that can be granted: “I Wish to Go,” “I Wish to Be,” “I Wish to Have” and “I Wish to Meet”.

This year’s Walk proved exceptional when wish kid Logan sang the National Anthem. Logan wished for a pool when he was 5, and now he is 18, ready to start college! The Walk also featured wish kid Kamal learning that his wish to go to Atlantis was going to be granted. He even got to show off some of his sweet dance moves in front of the whole crowd!

The Walk welcomed a record number of teams — 52 — and 642 walkers. We raised more than \$122,000 and counting to grant the heartfelt wishes of children right here in the 518 and 838 area codes.

A special thank you to our top fundraisers: David Bloom, Hope Yager and Sean Childs; and our top fundraising teams: David’s Dream Team, B95.5 and Kevin’s Angels. David’s Dream Team raised more than \$12,000 — enough to grant a wish for a child with a critical illness!

Thank you to all who came out to the home of the Tri-City ValleyCats and/or supported the event at The Joe.

Thank You, Sponsors

A special thank you goes to all our sponsors, without whom this event would not be possible.

Presenting Sponsor
Upstate Chevy Dealers

Strength Sponsors Adirondack Beverages, CAP COM Cares Foundation, Latham Pools, Inc., Regeneron

Hope Sponsors Appollo Heating, Community Resource Federal Credit Union, McNamee Lochner, P.C., Townley & Wheeler Funeral Home/Matthews Children’s Foundation

Star Sponsor Alpin Haus

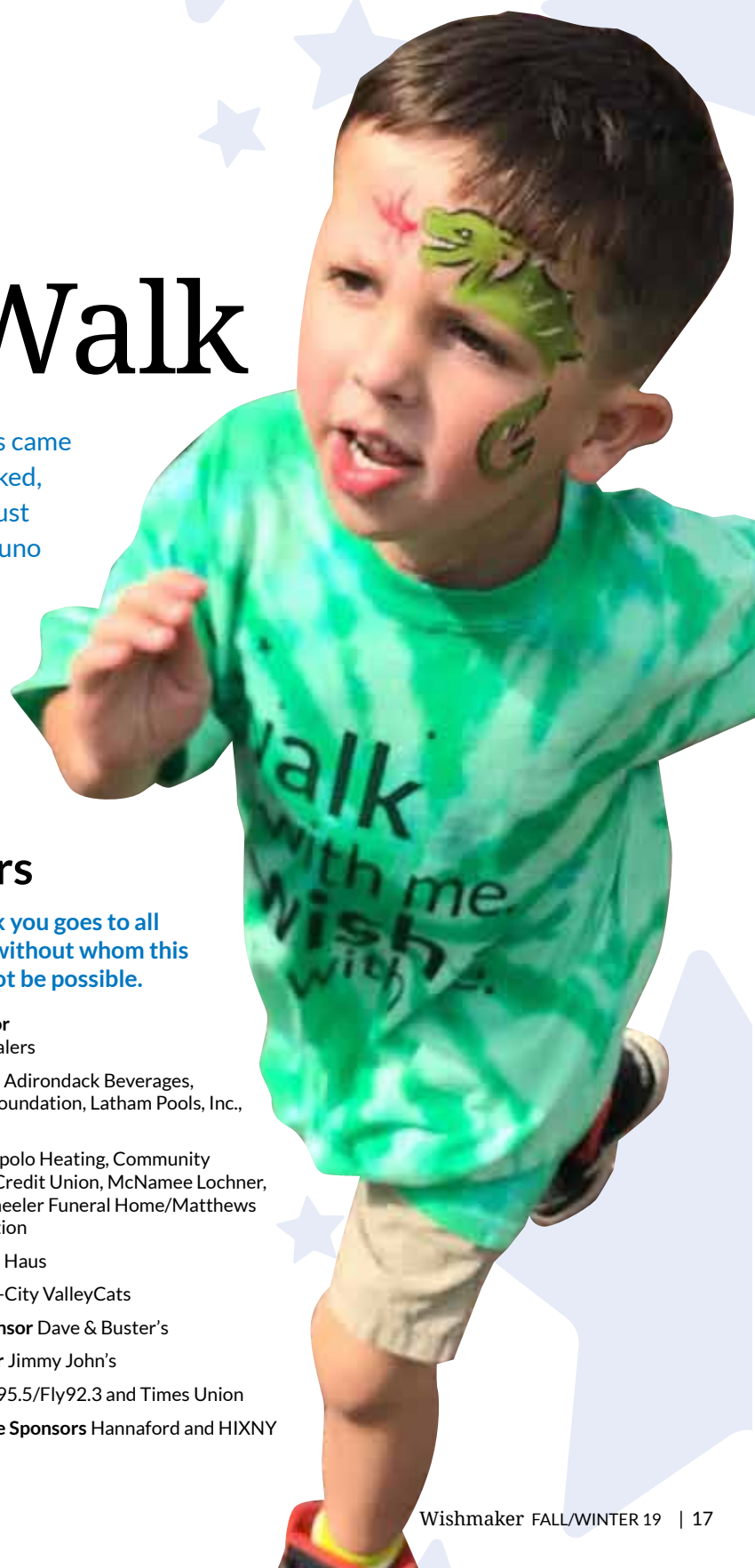
Venue Sponsor Tri-City ValleyCats

Team Captain Sponsor Dave & Buster’s

VIP Lunch Sponsor Jimmy John’s

Media Sponsors B95.5/Fly92.3 and Times Union

Food and Beverage Sponsors Hannaford and HIXNY





Riding for Wishes

The North Country again rumbled and roared for Make-A-Wish Northeast New York.

With the start of the 12th Annual Wack's Make-A-Wish Ride, hundreds of motorcyclists took off from The Wayside in Queensbury for a 150-mile ride through Vermont, ending up back in the North Country at the Adirondack Bar & Grill.

The late July weather was perfect for the estimated 350 participants on more than 300 motorcycles. The ride raised more than \$42,000, which will be able to fund nearly four wishes for children in the chapter. Through the years, Wack's has raised nearly \$400,000 — enough to fund approximately 33 wishes.

The event organized by Pat “Wack” Nolan and George Sicard would not be possible if not for many dedicated volunteers. Multiple guests were in attendance, from wish kids — including 7-year-old wish ambassador Cole from Glens Falls — to wish families, riders and supporters. Everyone enjoyed live music, BBQ, various raffles — including a four-wheeler donated by local business Pilot Knob Marina — and a live auction for a 1980s snowmobile.

“Wack's Ride is an institution in the North Country and for Make-A-Wish Northeast New York,” chapter CEO William C. Trigg, III said. “It's people like Wack, George, all their volunteers and the hundreds of riders who turn out each year who make heartfelt wishes for local children possible.”

Cole's mother, Jessica, addressed the bikers after their ride about the power of a wish.

Thanks to Our Partners

“Cole's wish was the best thing that happened to Cole,” she said. “He has so many memories that he talks about every day along with his siblings. The best thing about AFTER the wish being over is that it's not really over.”



A Day in the Park

The Tri-City ValleyCats has long been a dedicated partner of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, and this summer was no different. The 2018 New York-Penn League champions hosted our Wish Family Picnic at Joseph L. Bruno Stadium in July, during which wish kid Jubilee threw a first-pitch strike! The ValleyCats also wore Harlem Globetrotters-themed jerseys for its “Swishes for Wishes” promotion that raised more than \$3,000 for the chapter.



Rise of the Empire

Wish kid George poses with wide receiver Malachi Jones of the Albany Empire before a game this past season at Times Union Center. A Make-A-Wish Northeast New York wish kid served as an honorary Empire captain for each regular season home game this year. Coincidentally or not, the Empire — in just its second year in existence — won the Arena Football League title in convincing fashion.



A Summer to Remember

The holidays are fast approaching, but let's take time to take a quick look back at just some of the many events this spring and summer that benefited Make-A-Wish Northeast New York. It's fundraisers like these put on by volunteer supporters that make granting wishes to children in our 15-county chapter possible. Together, you raised more than \$400,000 to make wishes come true. Thank you, all!



Wish Fest



North Country
Flying Tigers
Model Airplane
Club Funfly



Tech Valley Charity
Golf Tournament



Pie the
Teacher
Day

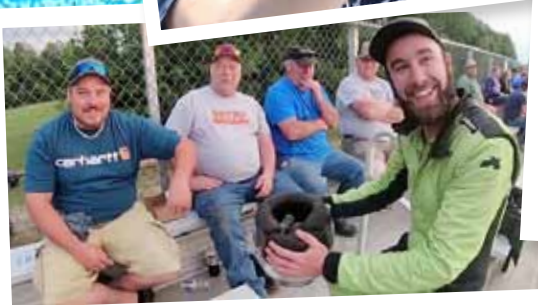
William B.
Tecler
Elementary
School



Robert Lee Walsh
American Legion Post 337
Golf Tournament



Kingsway Community
Annual Golf Tournament



Make-A-Wish Night at
Plattsburgh Airborne Speedway



Naked Turtle Golf Tourney



Bobbie Arsenault Memorial
Family Fun Day



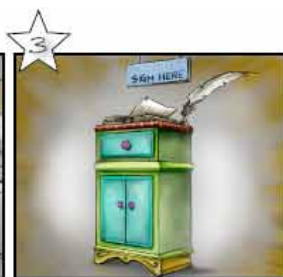
Make-A-Wish Day
at Great Escape &
Hurricane Harbor



Receiving your Wishing Ticket



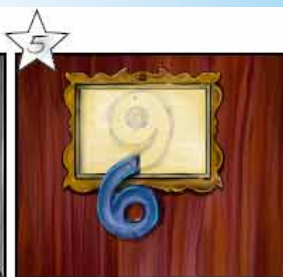
Arriving at the Reception Area



Signing the log book



Walking down Anticipation Hall



"Am I at the right room?"



Entering the Wishing Space



The Wishing Cabinet



Making your wish



A magical transformation!



Your wish is granted!

Room to Wish

The Wishing Space Initiative objectives:

Journeys of the imagination always seem to help us to overcome adversity, to be strong for others who need us, to make life better and, especially, to do more and be more than anyone thought possible! Experiencing the power of a Make-A-Wish® wish is just this kind of journey.

How that journey begins is vitally important to how impactful the wish is to everyone involved ... which is precisely the reason for **The Wishing Space Initiative**.

The Wishing Space Initiative will feature special effects, props, technology and costumes to transform portions of the chapter office space into a very special and unusual setting in which children and teens who qualify for a wish will be invited to think about their wish (or wish options) in ways that will excite their imaginations, spark their enthusiasm for adventure and opportunity and fill them with joy as they consider the possibilities for their wish.

This transformation into a mission-centric, magical setting has the potential to inspire not only our wish families, but also many other key stakeholders — from donors to vendors, wish granting and fundraising volunteers to the media and the pediatric medical community to the greater business community.

The idea of a Wishing Space has been embraced by other Make-A-Wish chapters in various forms — from brightly decorated rooms suited to doing a wish announcement or reveal (Make-A-Wish®

Utah) to the construction of a Wish Castle complete with outstanding special effects (Make-A-Wish® New Jersey). The goal: to heighten the magical quality of the wish experience from the very start, so that wish kids, their families, donors and others realize that something life-transforming is about to take place.

"The Wishing Space Initiative can make the magic of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York more fun and amazing than ever," CEO William C. Trigg, III, said. "One of the driving forces behind the success of the Make-A-Wish Foundation is our commitment to continuous improvement. Nowhere is that commitment more important than with respect to the wish granting process itself."

This effort is inspired by: (a) the idea that every aspect of the wish granting process should harness the imagination of and inspire hope, strength and joy in our wish kids and their families; (b) the generosity of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, the Tronco Group of NML in Latham, New York, and its president Alex Tronco, and; (c) the chapter CEO's recommendation that the chapter headquarters can and should be reconfigured to be a place where wish families and donors can experience the wonder of imagining a wish come true.

The chapter engaged the creative help of Adirondack Studios of Argyle, New York, to develop the Wishing Space concept further and to design the space.

Transform portions of the physical location of the chapter office in Albany in such a way as to excite the imaginations of wish kids and teens, their families and wish granters during the initial phase of the wish granting process;

Inspire wish kids, their families and wish granters to imagine greatly during the first phase of the wish-granting process/journey;

Create an experience that enhances appreciation for the magic of the wish process among wish granting volunteers, donors, members of the media and medical community and other stakeholders in the Make-A-Wish mission;

Include eligible children and teens who are homebound, hospital bound, or living in the outer areas of the chapter's 15-county region in this key segment of the wish journey by way of remote, real-time access to the space, and;

Expand the vision and the aspirations of the Board, management and staff, and the donor community to build an Adirondacks-themed Wishing Lodge that will serve as the focus of greater, more inspiring, more magical programmatic and fundraising initiatives.

Local Funds, Local Wishes

We thank these individuals, groups and organizations for their fundraisers on behalf of our wish program.

Community Fundraisers Amount Raised

Tech Valley Charity Golf Tournament	\$134,101
Wack's Ride	\$42,780
Kingsway Community Charity Golf Tournament	\$36,385
Wish Jump	\$28,381
SP-Livingston Charity Golf Tournament	\$26,200
Naked Turtle Golf Tournament	\$18,170
Wish Fest	\$14,965
Community Auctions	\$11,636
Play it Forward 518, Inc., Golf Tournament	\$10,100
Robert Lee Walsh American Legion Post 337 Golf Tournament	\$10,000
Team Dame Golf Tournament	\$9,200
Bobbie Arsenault Memorial Family Fun Day	\$7,275
2019 Spyderquest	\$5,526
2019 Bowl-A-Thon, organized by Carol and Steve Carpenter	\$5,000
Double D's Café Make-A-Wish Fundraiser in memory of Aiden Jay Henry	\$4,511
Make-A-Wish Family Picnic and Tri-City ValleyCats Jersey Auction	\$3,609
James Dupuis Memorial Golf Tournament	\$2,000
Adirondack Shelby Mustang Club Fundraisers	\$1,780
Ryan's Fishing Tournament	\$1,596
Sarah McKinney's Party for a Purpose	\$681
Babbling Brook RV Park	\$380
Fonda Speedway Make-A-Wish Night	\$291
Albany Empire Fan Donations	\$79

**Figures as of Oct. 28, 2019.*



Kids for Wish Kids

Amount Raised

In Honor of Jordan Waner's high school graduation	\$2,000
Emerson and Everett Austin	\$819
Tecler Elementary School's Annual Pie the Teacher!	\$543
Siena Wishmakers on Campus Easter Egg Hunt	\$451
Bell Top Elementary School's lemonade stand and bottle collection for Mrs. Gigliello	\$395
Girl Scouts of NENY #1300 cookie sale donation	\$330
All Saints Catholic Academy's 8th grade Tiny Saint charm fundraiser	\$150
Mayfield Jr./Sr. High School Fun Run	\$130
Shaker Senior High School's SOS Club	\$30
Castleton Elementary's 5th grade class charity of choice for Mr. Reischer	\$10



Staff News

Mazzara Joins Chapter Board of Trustees

Laura Mazzara is Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer for Pioneer Bank.



She enthusiastically joined the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Board of Trustees in 2019, committed to the mission of providing uplifting support to those facing the challenges of critical childhood illnesses.

As the parent of a teenaged cancer survivor, Ms. Mazzara brings a real-life understanding and true empathy to her role. An outpouring of positivity and emotional support from friends, family, coworkers and community was instrumental in getting her family through the most difficult times of her daughter's treatment. Today four years cancer-free, her daughter thrives as a student in Boston with a bright future.

Ms. Mazzara is proud to represent Pioneer Bank, a longtime supporter of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York. With 25-plus years of experience in banking, internal controls, regulatory compliance and risk management, she is well-positioned to participate in providing active oversight. Additionally, she embraces the opportunity to become a trained wish granter and participate directly in making a child's wish come true.

A graduate of Siena College, Ms. Mazzara subsequently pursued career opportunities in Albany and Boston. Ultimately settling back in the Capital Region, she lives with her husband in Averill Park, where she enjoys spending time with friends and family.

Cullen Added to Development Staff

Jennifer Cullen has joined the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York staff in the new position of development manager.

The development manager is responsible for the management

and growth of: donor stewardship program and services; the Kids for Wish Kids® and Wishmakers on Campus® programs; the chapter's direct mail program, and all external fundraising events. Cullen will also provide administrative support to the director of development for all internal fundraising events.

Cullen previously served as board liaison/development assistant at Proctors, where she had worked since December 2014. In her role, she managed contact with boards and committees for both Capital Repertory Theatre and Proctors, as well as with donors.

Cullen also served at the Coalition for Fair Game and the Goshen Public Library and Historical Society.

A native of Siler City, North Carolina, who grew up in Goshen, New York, Cullen has a Bachelor's degree in creative arts from Siena College. Her heartfelt wish is to be a presenter at the Tony Awards.



In the Field

Here are some moments capturing Make-A-Wish Northeast New York staff members spreading hope, strength and joy in our chapter.





Mitchell's Wish A Natural

Mitchell's wish was to head west — specifically to Yellowstone National Park. And that wish changed the direction of the then-15-year-old's life.

Through Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, Mitchell visited the majestic national park that straddles Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

"It was the best week of my entire life," Mitchell said. "It was all under the biggest, clearest sky I had ever seen. It was really amazing, and I got to share it with my family."

The youth, who plans to study environmental engineering, would return to the natural treasure.

"I was so inspired by Yellowstone, when I got back I immediately went online and applied for a job for teenagers," he said. "To my surprise, they offered me a job ... in the Youth Conservation Corps."

Thanks to a referral to Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, Mitchell's heartfelt wish was granted.

Do you know of a potentially eligible child who would benefit from a life-changing wish? Head to md.wish.org to review our referral guidance sheets, and refer a potential wish kid today.

*"It was
the best
week of
my entire
life."*

— wish kid Mitchell



A Tropical Adventure

Trevor is an energetic 15-year-old who loves an adventure, as well as the great outdoors. After a couple of visits with his wish granters, Trevor knew that he wanted to experience a "tropical adventure" with his family.

Costa Rica was just the place to go for everything he imagined.

Trevor's adventure took place in the northwest section of the country over the course of six days. He and his family went white water rafting, rock climbing, and walked a series of hanging bridges over the jungle while photographing monkeys and other wildlife. The family traveled near the majestic Arenal volcano to do more hiking and horseback riding.

Then there was a day at the ocean to swim, find sea turtles, snorkel, jet ski and enjoy a beautiful sunset tour on a catamaran. And let's not forget the jungle tour on ATVs, ziplining in the hills overlooking their resort hotel and the ocean and enjoying exotic foods.

Trevor's wish trip was indeed a different adventure every day. He and his family may have arrived home mildly exhausted, but filled with special memories to be treasured for a lifetime.





3 Washington Square, Albany, NY 12205

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

ALBANY, NEW YORK
PERMIT NO. 549

In Their Own Words

In the Glow of Power

By Mark McGuire

In three-plus decades as a journalist, I witnessed the miracle that was the New York Giants' winning Super Bowl XLII, breathed in the horror of Ground Zero in the aftermath of 9/11, and plied access to the powerful of Albany, Washington and Hollywood. I experienced first- and second-hand the best and worst of humanity.

But nothing truly prepared me for what I would see and feel when I joined Make-A-Wish Northeast New York in September 2018.

The hope in the eyes of kids learning their heartfelt wish is being granted.

The strength of wish families, moms and dads and siblings who manage to smile and stay optimistic through the most trying of times.

The joy and confidence of children following their wish experience, empowered by what will be a lifelong gift.

The giving nature of volunteers, donors and doctors, generous in their time, dedication and dollars.

These pages are filled with their accounts, in their own words. For three decades I have been paid to craft articles, but these people can relate their story better than anyone.

All I can add is that the power of a wish is real. It is humbling, a triumph of the human spirit realized for all to witness. And it is like nothing I have ever seen.

Mark McGuire, a former newspaper reporter, columnist and editor, is director of marketing and communications for Make-A-Wish Northeast New York.



“... the power of a wish is real.”