

Make-A-Wish®

NEW JERSEY

I wish to meet Saquon Barkley of
the New York Football Giants!

Jared, 14
cancer



Summer of Wishes

Transforming lives, one wish at a time.

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Thomas P. Weatherall
President &
Chief Executive Officer

“Keep your face to the sun and you will never see the shadows.”

—Helen Keller

Summertime! It lives in our imaginations throughout the year and its memories warm our souls deep into winter. It’s a time to be a little more laid back, unwind and embrace some extra fun. Beach days, barbeques, boardwalks and plain old-fashioned fun are what summer is all about.

Here at Make-A-Wish New Jersey, we couldn’t wait for summer! In fact, we kicked it off a bit early in April, with a cherished partner of ours, The New York Giants who picked the Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place, our magical and whimsical wish granting facility, to hold their 2019 NFL draft selections. To “score” the inside scoop and read the “play by play” on that, dive into page 3 of the newsletter.

This June, as we do every year, we held our annual gala. It was a night to remember with not one, not two, but four life-changing wishes granted “live” in front of 600+ guests. Bridget’s wish to go to London, Michael’s wish to cook French cuisine in the French alps, Zakhyra’s wish to go to Walt Disney World—revealed to her by a very special guest (find out who in the pages ahead!)—and of course, the hero of the night, eight-year-old Tyler. Tyler had a unique wish, and as it turned

out, his wish helped save the night from taking a perilous turn. You’re not going to want to miss his story in the pages ahead, too! It involves police cars, villains, a super hero and a ton of bravery! ☺

The summer also brings a busy season of wish granting—the busiest, in fact. June, July and August represent the time of year when we grant nearly 50% of our annual wishes. For many of our families, the summer serves as a period when it’s easiest to travel or spend some much-needed quality time together, relaxing and enjoying the reprieve a life-changing wish can bring for their child battling a critical illness.

As we know, illness does not discriminate—not against time of year, age, gender, religion or socioeconomic status. As we enjoy the end of summer, we know that in these past 90 days of sunshine, vacations and day trips, nearly 200 families right here in New Jersey were anxiously awaiting bloodwork, or a CAT scan or MRI. The results they received were devastating—the news that their child had been diagnosed with a life-threatening, critical illness. This is the bad news.

The good news—since our organization began nearly 40 years ago in Phoenix, Arizona, over 315,000 children nationwide

have experienced the life-changing power of a wish—nearly 11,000 here in New Jersey. And our work is not done! We have a vision to reach every eligible child and grant their fondest wish. No matter what your relationship is to us—a doctor, nurse, social worker or child life specialist, or even a parent or family member of an eligible child who we rely on day in and day out to refer your patients or children to us; a donor who has contributed to us individually, through your corporation or organization or through one of our special events; a volunteer who has given hours upon hours of your time to help us through wish granting, as a Welcome Hall volunteer at the castle or out in the community; a wish family that has shared your story as a testimonial of hope, strength and joy so that we may reach more children like your own—you are an essential part of our Make-A-Wish family.

When we ask a child that powerful question, “If you could have one wish, what would it be?,” it is because of **YOU** that, upon the child’s answer, we have the confidence to say, “Your wish shall be granted.”

We wish you a wonderful and healthy end of your summer, and look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events this fall!

Best Wishes,
Thomas P. Weatherall
President & CEO

Big Blue & Make-A-Wish Team Up!

Go Team! For the first time in Make-A-Wish history, an NFL football team descended on a local chapter to broadcast their official draft picks for the **2019 NFL Draft**. The lucky chapter? You guessed it, Make-A-Wish New Jersey. We were honored to host The New York Giants as they announced their 3rd day draft selections on national television. The event took place LIVE from the balcony of our magical and whimsical wish granting castle, the



Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place, surrounded by wish kids and their families during a day filled with games, music, food and fun.

The Giants have been a cherished partner, deeply involved with Make-A-Wish for decades. In 2013, they were celebrated for their commitment to the Make-A-Wish mission and honored with the Chris

Greicius Celebrity Award—a national recognition named after the 7-year-old boy whose experience in 1980 to be a police officer inspired a group of caring volunteers to fulfill his dream and later create the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Draft Day celebration included special visits and live picks from New York Giants' teammates Tight End **Evan Engram**, Offensive Tackle **Nate Solder**, Tackle **Chad Wheeler** and Offensive Guard **Will Hernandez**. The day also saw a surprise wish being granted when 14-year-old wish kid Jared had his one true wish fulfilled to meet his hero, the Offensive Rookie of the Year, Running Back **Saquon Barkley**. Jared and Saquon



were introduced to each other in front of a crowd of hundreds at the Make-A-Wish castle. After high fives, hugs, and cheers, Saquon and the New York Giants shared with Jared that this fall, he will spend an exciting weekend with the team at a practice and a home game—a VIP treatment the Giants have continued to provide to wish children like Jared for years.

THANK YOU, BIG BLUE!

Definitely a Sub Above!

What do you get when you bring together thousands of sub sandwich rolls and nearly 50 wishes? You get the Jersey Mike's Subs annual Month of Giving!



Wish kid Hannah races her Wish Coordinator Jennifer Bennett in a sub making contest with help from Rich MacLachlan of Jersey Mike's Subs during her surprise wish reveal and the campaign kickoff.

Jersey Mike's Subs restaurants across New Jersey joined forces for the third consecutive year with **Make-A-Wish New Jersey** during the annual **Month of Giving**. The campaign raised **\$458,700**, which is already helping to grant 50 life-changing wishes to local children with critical illnesses in and around the Jersey Mike's communities. Since their partnership began in 2017, Jersey Mike's Subs has cumulatively raised **over \$1 Million** for Make-A-Wish New Jersey.

Throughout the entire month of March, customers donated to Make-A-Wish New Jersey at any of the 67 participating Jersey Mike's locations. The major highlight took place on March 27th—the **Day of Giving**—a day when all participating Jersey Mike's locations **donated 100% of sales, not just profits**, to Make-A-Wish New Jersey.

The Jersey Mike's Subs Month of Giving Campaign raised over **\$7.3 Million** for over **200 charities** in 2019. Of this, more than **\$725,000** was donated to Make-A-Wish chapters across the country. Since 2010, Jersey Mike's has contributed more than **\$41 Million** to worthy local charities.

THANK YOU, JERSEY MIKE'S SUBS!



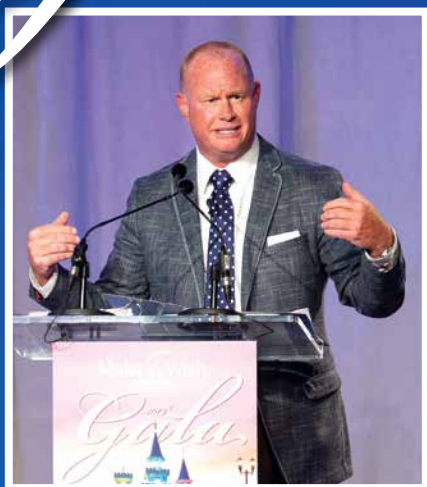
Make-A-Wish New Jersey President & CEO Tom Weatherall (center) with Jersey Mike's Subs Marketing Director Jeff Hemschoot (left) and Franchisee John Helm (right).



John Cancro, local store owner and brother of Jersey Mike's Subs Founder and CEO Peter Cancro, and wish kid Frankie share a laugh at the Point Pleasant Beach location.

2019 Gala

Unprecedented Gala Grants Multiple Surprise Wishes to New Jersey Children



"Our annual Gala is a night to celebrate our seemingly simple but oh-so-powerful mission, and also a night to invite support to continue towards our vision of reaching every eligible child. With the support of our mission shown here tonight by our honorees, our sponsors, our donors, and our friends throughout New Jersey, it gives us the confidence that when we ask a child that powerful question, 'If you could have one wish, what would it be?', upon the child's answer, our response will be this: 'Your wish shall be granted.'"

— Make-A-Wish New Jersey President & CEO Tom Weatherall



The Corporation of the Year award was introduced by John Crowley, Chairman of the Board & CEO of Amicus Therapeutics, former chairman of the board for Make-A-Wish America, and the inspiration for the major motion picture Extraordinary Measures. His daughter Megan Crowley, diagnosed with Pompe Disease, whose wish was granted in 2001 to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort, provided exciting updates to her life since she last addressed the Gala crowd with an inspiring speech last June. Megan has continued to defy the odds and, recently, graduated from the University of Notre Dame. In the fall, she will continue her education and pursue a master's degree in Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



When villains attempted to sabotage the Gala and ran off with the honorees' awards, eight-year-old Tyler was called upon to help save the evening. Tyler, whose wish was to become the first ever Orange Power Ranger, was officially inducted onto the Power Rangers team through a special video message from the Beast Morpher Rangers. He was given his own officially licensed Orange Ranger suit and mask from Hasbro and Party City, and gave chase to the thieves. After an epic battle of good vs. evil outside the Wishing Place, Tyler had apprehended the thieves, returned the awards, and turned the villains over to the Monroe Township Police Department. He was greeted with cheers from the crowd as the hero of the night, and his wish was completed with a special thank you video message from his favorite actor and Power Ranger, Jason David Frank—a moment Tyler will surely never forget.

The Make-A-Wish New Jersey Gala raised over \$1 MILLION to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. Thank you to all who joined in this special celebration!



Among other surprises were the announcements of Michael's wish to learn to cook in the French Alps, and Bridget's wish to see the sights of London—both Michael and Bridget learned, while surrounded by family, that they would depart on the trip of a lifetime in just two weeks. The fourth and final wish to be granted was for 11-year-old Zakhyrah, whose wish was to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort. After a heartfelt speech given by wish alum Shirley Sly, whose wish to have a computer was granted in 2002, the audience learned that Shirley and Zakhyrah were mother and daughter. Shirley surprised her daughter with the news that they were leaving for "The Most Magical Place On Earth" in just six days.



The evening also recognized three pillars in the community for their ongoing support of Make-A-Wish and other humanitarian efforts throughout New Jersey and around the globe. Rebecca A. Burke, Office Managing Partner/New Jersey, Ernst & Young LLP and Monica Ann Hilliard of Bloomberg Philanthropies were presented with the Kathleen H. Murray Award. Goya Foods, Inc. was honored with the Corporation of the Year Award, recognizing extraordinary charitable efforts and an exceeding commitment to community. Peter Unanue, Executive Vice President of Goya Foods, Inc., accepted the award on the company's behalf.



in Houston, Texas to see firsthand what it would be like to become a cardiothoracic surgeon. “I felt like my wish would be something that would really have a big impact on my life and open doors for me in the field of medicine,” Micaela says.

Thanks to the support of Texas Heart Institute, Micaela was given the opportunity to shadow Dr. Ourania Preventza, Attending Cardiothoracic Surgeon at Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center and Associate Professor of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine. Over the course of five days, Micaela was able to share in what most only experience well into medical school. She observed six surgeries, toured revolutionary research labs, studied anatomic artifacts that reflect ongoing stem cell experiments, went on morning rounds with medical residents and attended multiple presentations. Micaela noted that the advice she received from residents, fellows, and Dr. Preventza herself was priceless.

“Whenever we had free time, Dr. Preventza would always talk to me about cases and give me advice on ways to reach where I want to be, to become a cardiothoracic surgeon,” Micaela recalls. “It was such an amazing experience just to see through her eyes for a week.”

Micaela’s wish gave her and her parents the gift of hope in the face of adversity. During her time in Houston, Micaela was able to experience firsthand what her future would look like. “For her to focus on it, to think: ‘I’m going to get through this and I’m going to be able to do anything at all’, to spend time thinking about that itself is a gift,” says Micaela’s father.

Today, Micaela continues to follow her passion by taking immersive science courses during the summer and practicing as an EMT.

The experiences she had and the connections that she made during her wish will be something that will continue to shape Micaela’s professional future. Her wish enhanced the confidence that she already had in her ability to achieve her goals and succeed greatly despite any difficulty she may encounter. She will carry with her all that she saw and learned as motivation to persevere and one day practice medicine alongside her heroes.

A Future Shaped by a Wish

Rich will always remember that moment...the doctors entering the room to give their cancer diagnosis to his 14-year-old daughter Micaela.

In that instant, everything changed for Micaela and her family. The winter of 2017 marked the beginning of a scary and confusing medical journey. By spring, doctors had discovered multiple tumors throughout Micaela’s body. In four short months, she had endured experiences that no child should have to go through—chemotherapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy and additional diagnoses.

Despite the difficulties that came with her illness, Micaela’s focus on her future never wavered. She was still the extremely bright child with very adult career aspirations that her parents were proud to nurture. She had not forgotten her passion for medicine and her dream to one day become a surgeon. Growing up, Micaela had a strong interest in veterinary medicine. After her diagnosis, that focus shifted to human medicine.

When a hospital social worker approached Micaela with the idea that she could be granted a life-changing wish, she immediately began brainstorming ideas. It wasn’t long before the perfect wish entered her mind—**“I wish to be a cardiothoracic surgeon.”**

The power of Micaela’s wish brought her to the Texas Heart Institute (THI) and Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center



Make-A-Wish®
NEW JERSEY

WALK FOR WISHES®

WALK & ROLL EVENT



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

LIBERTY STATE PARK
JERSEY CITY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

SAMUEL & JOSEPHINE PLUMERI
WISHING PLACE
MONROE TOWNSHIP

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Walk & Roll For Wishes® event!

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a team of family, friends
and co-workers.

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Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.



GET INVOLVED!

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