

# Wishmaker

*Serving children in the 15 counties of the 518 area code since 1987*

Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington counties in upstate New York



YEARS OF WISHES

## with gratitude from the Board Chairman and CEO



To Our Valued Donors and Volunteers,

Since the start of our current business year on September 1, 2016, we have enjoyed an extraordinary time of first-ever wishes granted and fundraising records broken! The adventure began last September when 11-year old Landon, of Troy, had his wish granted to meet and to be blessed by Pope Francis in Rome. Then, on January 18, 2017, a nine-year-old girl from Clifton Park became the first Wish Kid in our chapter to meet the President of the United States – President Obama, that is. And literally one day before he completed his eight years in office!



In March, two key events happened. We launched our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Make-A-Wish chapter at the Hall of Springs in Saratoga with a most-ever 500 guests, netting a record \$260,000 for our wish granting program. And then we granted another “wish first” – sending 16-year-old Tyler to Portland, OR to enjoy a NIKE experience and meet world-renowned shoe designer, Tinker Hatfield. And then we granted Wish No. 1,700 in April, sending 17-year-old Cameron on a very special Senior Class trip to Italy and Rome for a European Travel wish. Wow! And the adventure continues!

We are truly blessed to have been able to grant these and so many other incredible wishes since last fall, thanks to the dedication, commitment, and generosity of volunteers and donors who are broadening the impact of our great mission locally. We continue to build a strong and visionary Board of Trustees, as reflected in the profiles of three new trustees elected to the Board this spring: Sharon Phillips of CAP COM Federal Credit Union, Judi Gabler of RealtyUSA, and David O’Leary of the Ayco Company.

We continue to develop opportunities for sustainable growth of the chapter, as we continue to establish and deepen relationships with major supporters like the Price Chopper/Golub Corporation, Green Mountain Electric Supply, C2 Design & Architecture, and Callanan Industries, to name just a few. It is their commitment – and yours – that make magical wishes like Tyler’s and Cameron’s come true!

We are proud to share their exciting stories, as well as the stories of wishes granted in the past six months, and the exciting ways we are engaging our donors and the public to help fulfill our vision of granting the wish of every eligible child in our chapter. We and our Wish Families are immensely grateful for your support, as donors and as volunteers. **Thank you for helping us to transform lives, one wish at a time!** We wish you and your families a safe and relaxing summer season!

Best wishes always,

Brian V. Hannafin  
Chairman of the Board

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

## this issue



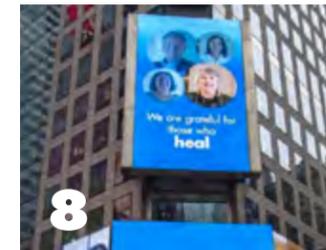
Adopt-A-Wish campaign



Our 30 year history



Gala 2017



World Wish Day



Preview: Walk for Wishes



Wishes



Wish Jump / Wish 1,700



New Board Members



Volunteers Honored



Adopting Wishes /  
Legacy of Wishes



Fundraising Events



Dave & Buster’s continues  
support

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## Adopt-A-Wish campaign marks 24th year with strong local support

Mid-November marked the beginning of the 24th annual Adopt-A-Wish campaign that kicked off at Crossgates Mall and wrapped up in March with final school donations. The tradition continued with the “sale” of paper stars throughout the holiday season, each with a photo and story of a local Wish Kid. In all more than \$167,000 was raised this year!

With support of a small army of volunteers, the Adopt-A-Wish Campaign is one of the most well-known and successful fundraising campaigns in the Capital Region. “Hundreds of volunteers from across the chapter participate in local malls, schools, and businesses to make sure that we raise the needed funds to help grant every eligible local child’s wish,” said Kirsten Brochinsky, Director of Annual Giving. The funds raised are key in granting the nearly 100 wishes that are taken on by the chapter yearly.

This year, stars were available at Aviation Mall, Champlain Centre, Colonie Center, Crossgates Mall, Viaport Rotterdam, Wilton Mall, and branches of Trustco Bank, the campaign Presenting Sponsor.

Star sales at Trustco Bank branches were particularly strong, with more than \$20,000 generated through the branches alone.

Mall campaigns were impressive this year as well with nearly \$75,000 raised throughout the various locations. Schools raised a record amount of more than \$20,500. This included Troy School 14 with just over \$1,500, St. Jude the Apostle school with nearly \$1,000, and Turnpike and Rensselaer Park Elementary Schools that combined their efforts to raise just over \$2,000!

This year’s campaign Ambassadors included:

Jacob, 12, “I wish to go on a Western train adventure”

Nicky, 4, “I wish to go to Atlantis”

Faith, 10, “I wish to go on a Disney Cruise”

David, 12, “I wish to go to Walt Disney World”

Christin, 17, “I wish to have a Golf Car”

Abigail, 6, “I wish to go to Walt Disney World”

Madison, 11, “I Wish to Go to Walt Disney World Resort”

Connor, 18, “I Wish to go on an Island Beach Vacation”

The Ambassadors helped to support the sales of the wish stars, and many could be found at area malls and schools, helping with the campaign and meeting supporters. “These Ambassadors, like all our Wish Kids and Teens, are the real stars! We thank them, our sponsors, and our volunteers for making the campaign a success again this year,” said CEO William Trigg.



## Upcoming Make-A-Wish events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### JUNE 2017

- 6/4 **Ryan’s 20th Annual Make-A-Wish Fishing Tournament**  
7 Mile Waterworks Park, Albany
- 6/5 **Kingsway Community Annual Golf Tournament**  
Mohawk Golf Club, Schenectady
- 6/15 **Volunteer Appreciation event**  
Hilton Garden Inn, Troy
- 6/25 **Set Sail for Wishes**  
Captain JP Cruise, Troy

### JULY 2017

- 7/8 **Team Dame Golf Outing and Barbecue**  
Fairways of Halfmoon
- North Country Flying Togsers Charity Fun Fly Air Show**  
Fort Edward
- 7/19 **Naked Turtle Golf Tournament**  
Plattsburgh

- 7/19 **8th Annual Tech Valley Charity Golf Tournament**  
Saratoga National
- 7/26 **NYS Laborers Golf Tournament**  
Saratoga National
- 7/27 **SP Livingston Golf Tournament**  
Winding Brook Country Club, Valatie
- 7/29 **American Legion Post 337 Golf Tournament**  
Broadalbin
- Wish Jump 2017**  
Skydive the Ranch, Gardiner, NY
- Wack’s Ride**  
Queensbury
- 7/30 **Wish Family Picnic**  
Joe Bruno Stadium, Troy

### AUGUST 2017

- 8/12 **Walk for Wishes**  
Joe Bruno Stadium, Troy
- 8/17 **Play it Forward 518 Golf Tournament**  
Van Patten Golf Course, Clifton Park
- 8/19 **Bobbie Arsenault Memorial Family Day**  
Butler Park, Averill Park
- 8/22 **Board of Trustees Annual Meeting**

## Chapter Facts and Figures

### HISTORY

Make-A-Wish® traces its beginning to one boy’s wish. In 1980, 7-year-old Christopher James Greicius from Arizona was being treated for leukemia. Every day, he dreamed of becoming a police officer. Thanks to the generosity of some caring individuals, Chris was sworn in as the first honorary patrolman in the history of Arizona. Thus, the Chris Greicius Make-A-Wish Memorial – which later became the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America – was born.

### WISH GRANTING

Volunteer Wish Granters are assigned to a child after medical eligibility has been determined. Wish Granters work in teams of two and visit the child and family to determine the child’s heartfelt wish.

Once the wish is approved, the volunteers work with the chapter staff to make the wish come true. Our chapter grants 90-100 wishes each year and has granted more than 1,700 wishes since 1987.

### FUNDING

Make-A-Wish Northeast New York is a non-profit, tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code and does not receive any state or federal funding. All funding comes from individuals, corporations, grants and special events. The average cost of a wish is \$12,000.

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

There are several different ways that individuals and companies can contribute to the Foundation. Individuals can become Wish



Granters, volunteer at fundraising events, help in the chapter office or serve on a committee. Both individuals and companies can organize a special event or make a financial contribution to the chapter.

For more information please visit our website at [www.neny.wish.org](http://www.neny.wish.org), our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/makeawishnortheastnewyork](http://www.facebook.com/makeawishnortheastnewyork), or follow us on Twitter @MakeAWish\_NENY!

# 30 YEARS

## ... 1,700 Wishes

It has been 30 years since the Northeast New York chapter of Make-A-Wish was founded. Since then, it has brought hope, strength, and joy to 1,700 local children and teens. Join us as we follow the steps that were taken to bring smiles to the faces of those children and families.

When local businessman Ted O'Hara saw a video about the Make-A-Wish Foundation back in 1985, he was hooked, he said. He shared the video with some friends, with the idea of starting a local chapter, and by 1987 it was a reality, formally filed with New York State.

The chapter's first wish was for a girl from Amsterdam, whose wish was to visit Costa Rica to visit grandparents she had never met. O'Hara said that those early wishes were challenging, especially as they were breaking ground for a new organization few were familiar with. Now, 30 years later, more than 1,700 wishes have been granted in our local area, with around 100 granted each year.

From Disney World trips to puppies, from treehouses to days spent with rock stars, race drivers, and athletes, wishes spark the creativity in children, as well as in donors and volunteers. Looking back at 30 years of wishes as a great foundation, a future filled with amazing and meaningful wishes is truly something to look forward to for all of us.

▶ **1986** Frederic T. O'Hara, a local insurance agent, invites his friends and business colleagues to his home to discuss the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The first fund-raising event of the chapter is a black tie party held on New Year's Eve.

▶ **1987** The local chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation is formally established, with articles of incorporation filed with the State of New York.

▶ **1989** In its first three years, the chapter has granted more than 15 wishes to local children with life-threatening illnesses.

John and Paula Ross form a volunteer group in the Plattsburgh area.

The chapter's newsletter is created.

▶ **1990** Original board member and now Honorary Board Member Arthur Place and Company provides office space for the foundation.

The wish-granting committee and speakers' bureau are established.

▶ **1992** The Endowment Fund is created through the efforts of volunteer Donald Lussier.

A volunteer core is established in the Tri-County (Warren, Washington, and

Saratoga) area, led by Doris Lohfink and Lou McArthur.

▶ **1993** The chapter conducts the first Adopt An Angel campaign, created by Charters Marketing, with the support of BlueShield of Northeastern New York, WTEN-10, and the Times-Union.

▶ **1994** The chapter's first Executive Director, Sharon Boswell, is hired.

Chapter headquarters are moved to space provided by Matthew Bender & Co. Inc.

▶ **1995** A record 58 wishes are granted.

The first Volunteer Recognition event is held.

▶ **1996** The Corporate Genie Campaign, recognizing businesses and corporations for sponsoring a wish, is established in memory of wish child, Joey.

The chapter celebrates its 10th anniversary by holding a Gala and Silent Auction.

▶ **1997** A Program Coordinator is hired to assist and oversee volunteer wish granters in the wish process.

Advisory Board is established.

▶ **1998** Chapter grants its 300th wish—Joey's wish to visit Walt Disney World and meet Winnie-the Pooh.

Bryan LaVigne, Executive Director, is hired.

▶ **1999** The Board of Directors approves the chapter's first strategic plan.

Make-A-Wish Foundation of America launches its first national public service advertising campaign.

**MAKE-A-WISH**  
Northeast New York

▶ **2000** Make-A-Wish Foundation of America celebrates its 20th birthday and unveils new logo.

Donations to the Adopt An Angel campaign top the \$200,000 mark for the first time raising enough money to grant approximately 40 children's wishes.

▶ **2001** Chapter celebrates its 15th birthday.

▶ **2002** Chapter grants its 500th children's wish when Billy and his family enjoy a Disney Cruise Line Land/Sea Vacation.

Chapter headquarters moves to new office space in Latham.

Adopt An Angel celebrates its 10th anniversary.

▶ **2003** Chapter grants a new record-high number of children's wishes—66 total, for a 61% increase over 2002!

Nationally, a new purpose statement took effect, eligibility for medical professionals and referral sources.

▶ **2004** Collaborated with over 35 other community organizations to bring our message of hope, strength, and joy to over 10,000 people.

Granted chapter's 600th wish to 8-year-old Lashanna from Schenectady. Chapter also reaches another milestone, with second year in a row of record-high wish totals.

▶ **2005** America's Greatest Brands features the Make-A-Wish Foundation as one of only three non-profit organizations recognized as among "America's Strongest and Most Trusted Brands."

Granted our 700th children's wish to 6-year-old Benjamin of Glenville. Volunteer wish granter Toni Cowie was responsible for granting this milestone wish, in addition to milestone wishes 500 and 600.

▶ **2006** Chapter hires new CEO, William C. Trigg, III, PhD.

Chapter kicks off 20th Birthday Year of Celebration with World's Largest Ice Cream Social at local Cold Stone Creamery stores.

20th Birthday celebration is held at Hall of Springs in Saratoga Springs, featuring Kevin Sharp and Linda Bergendahl-Pauling.

800th wish granted to Gary Selner from Leeds, whose wish for an adaptive hobby room came true in February.

▶ **2007** Launched *Night of Exquisite Tastes*, an event that featured networking, music, great food, and fine cigars at the Saratoga Polo Club.

Make-A-Wish Idol karaoke event raised nearly \$18,000.

▶ **2008** Adopt An Angel campaign marks 15th year.

Lindsay from Colonie became the chapter's 900th wish, as she became a published author. Her wish included publishing of her book, "Cracked Up," complete with a book signing and reception.



▶ **2009** The local chapter's 1,000th wish was granted, with nine-year-old Zachary being "slimed" at the Nickelodeon Hotel and Studios in Florida.

Kids for Wish Kids® program launched, enabling students to

support Make-A-Wish through their own fundraising projects.

New chapter website launched at [www.neny.wish.org](http://www.neny.wish.org).

▶ **2010** Local Wish Kids who had wishes to visit Walt Disney World® Resort were invited to a "Princess for a Day" event held at the Glens Falls Civic Center.

"Racing for Wishes" Celebrity Bartending Event raised more than \$70,000.

Milestone 1,100th wish granted, with Kaitlin from Corinth receiving a customized bicycle and swing.

▶ **2011** Local Wish Child Justice White Sloan collected more than 31,000 letters to Santa to benefit the chapter through the Macy's "I Believe" campaign.

More than 150 poker players participate in "All in for Wishes" Charity Poker Tournament.

Wish Teen Julia was granted the 1,200th wish from the local chapter, as she and her family enjoyed a trip to the Jersey Shore.

▶ **2012** Chapter kicks off Silver Anniversary Celebration with the annual "A Wishful Evening Gala" at the Hall of Springs in Saratoga Springs.

Megan, an 18-year-old from Wynantskill, and Melissa, a 16-year-old from Schenectady, each picked a shopping spree experience, and the pair together marked the milestone 1,300th wish granted by the chapter.

Events to mark this milestone year range from sharing a 25-foot-long ice cream sundae to a skydiving event featuring 25 Make-A-Wish supporters who were committed to "Leap for Wishes!"

▶ **2013** An Albany International Airport celebration upon the return of Wish kids Christopher, Austin, Zachary, and Emily and their families from Disney marked the Chapter's 1,400th wish.

200 poker players attend "All in for Wishes" for an exciting 12 hours of play.

Chapter starts "Wheels for Wishes" campaign seeking donations of old cars to help sponsor wishes.

▶ **2014** Chapter kicks off the First Annual "Walk for Wishes" event, raising more than \$40,000.

Wish Jump 2014 exceeds fundraising target of \$40,000.

Chapter offices move to new location at 3 Washington Square in Albany.

▶ **2015** Wish Teen Hannah was granted the chapter's 1,500th wish sending her to Los Angeles for the People's Choice Award show.

Channa's Israel wish is granted, and she and her family travel to what she considers her homeland.

The Tri-City ValleyCats hosted a "PhilanTropic" Wish family picnic night at Joe Bruno Stadium for a night of baseball and fun.



▶ **2016** The Chapter grants their 1,600th wish to Lucia whose wish was to visit Hawaii and swim with sharks.

Chapter grants a record number of wishes, as 101 wishes were completed in fiscal 2016.

"Wack's Ride" became the largest motorcycle fundraising event in the North Country with more than 600 participants and more than 425 motorcycles.

Local Wish Kid, Landon, is sent to Italy to meet and be blessed by Pope Francis.

▶ **2017** Marks the Chapter's 25th annual Adopt-A-Wish campaign.

Chapter's 30th anniversary celebrated.

Looking forward to many more years of memorable wishes!

1987

1992

1997

2002

2007

2012

2017

# Biggest Gala ever marks 30th anniversary of local chapter

*On Saturday, March 25th, Make-A-Wish Northeast New York celebrated the chapter's 30th anniversary at the sold-out 2017 Gala at the Hall of Springs.*

The Gala was an opportunity to share amazing Wish Stories, celebrate the record 101 wishes granted last year, as well as all the 1,700 wishes granted over the past 30 years. The evening marked the chapter's biggest Gala yet, with more than 500 guests joining in the celebration.

The night featured delicious food, great music, and inspiring stories. This year's Wish Ambassadors were Landon, 11, of Troy; Hannah, 5, of Schenectady; Kacey, 18, of South Glens Falls; and Gannon, 5, of Ballston Spa. Those four helped with the official send-off of a wish child who headed

out for his wish on a Disney cruise just two weeks later. Cameron, 5, of Indian Lake, NY, was presented with a captain's hat from a real boat captain, J.D. Ellingsworth, while the ambassadors presented him with cruise essentials such as Disney swim trunks, binoculars, and a set of "floaties" as all the guests wished him "bon voyage!"

Linda Pauling, the featured speaker, shared her story of being the first "wish mom" and co-founder of Make-A-Wish, and how she never could have predicted the impact her son's wish would have on creating awareness for children with catastrophic illnesses around the world.

Also speaking was Wish Ambassador Landon, who fearlessly stood at the podium and told his story of traveling to Italy to be blessed by the Pope. The night also included silent and live auctions, a "Fund-A-Wish" segment, an outstanding dinner, as well as dancing into the night. This year, guests bid on silent auction items via their smartphones, which allowed even those at home to get involved with the fun.

"The evening was a fitting celebration for our 30th anniversary and the 1,700 wishes we have granted to local kids and teens," said Chapter CEO Bill Trigg. He added that the night was a special opportunity to join with donors, supporters, and the community to "celebrate how wishes transform lives, while looking ahead to an exciting future."



## AN INITIAL INVESTMENT OF \$37.76

We were honored to welcome Linda Pauling as our VIP guest at the 30th Anniversary Gala in Saratoga Springs on March 25, 2017. Linda is a co-founder of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America and mother of Chris Grecius – whose wish to be a police officer for a day was the inspiration for the creation of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

In her remarks to the gala audience, Linda held up an envelope containing \$37.76. She explained that when the original Make-A-Wish Foundation Board of Directors assembled for the first time, the members emptied their pockets of that amount as the starting fund for the newly-established charity. She presented the envelope to CEO Bill Trigg as a symbolic gift of support to the chapter in honor of its 30th anniversary.



## World Wish Day celebrates granting of the first wish - and all those since!

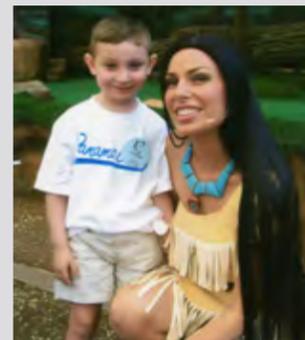
Happy World Wish Day! While there aren't yet any official Hallmark cards for this holiday, Make-A-Wish Northeast New York joined other chapters around the nation and the world in marking April 29 in memory of the very first wish that helped found what became Make-A-Wish!

The Northeast New York Chapter, itself celebrating 30 years and more than 1,700 local wishes, marked World Wish Day with a

breakfast for medical professionals from the Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center on April 27. According to chapter CEO Bill Trigg, it was a chance to recognize medical professional and referral sources, as well as to recognize all the supporters who fuel the wish granting movement by giving their time and resources. The worldwide day of thanks acknowledges that it requires "wish granters" of every type - including doctors,

social workers, donors, child-life specialists, volunteers, sponsors and wish families - to transform lives one wish at a time.

Since its beginning 37 years ago, Make-A-Wish has expanded from granting a handful of wishes a year to granting a wish every 17 minutes worldwide, on average. One highlight this year was the high visibility Make-A-Wish messaging featured on the giant screens at Times Square in New York City!



### Then and now

It's déjà vu all over again for former Wish Kid Dakota, from Mooers Forks, in Clinton County. Back in 2007 when he was just four years old, he got his wish for a trip to Walt Disney World, where he had his photo taken with Pocahontas. Now 14, he was recently back at Disney World for a visit, and made sure to get an updated photo!



**Make-A-Wish Northeast New York will hold its fourth annual Walk for Wishes on Saturday, August 12 at Joe Bruno Stadium in Troy.** This community-wide celebratory event invites all: family, friends, clubs, corporations, schools; to walk together to help raise funds that will go towards granting the wishes of local children in the Greater Capital Region facing life-threatening medical conditions.

This year's walk will offer both a three mile and one mile option that are both handicap-accessible so participants can choose the option that best suits them. In-person registration will begin at 8am and last until the walk kick-off at 9:45am. There will be a very special opening ceremony, a "Victory Lap" led by Wish Kids and their families, as well as fun, food, and games following the walk.

There is no charge for participants to walk, but to help enrich the lives of local Wish children and contribute to the Make-A-Wish mission, walkers are encouraged to create a fundraising

team of friends and family and begin raising funds today! This year's walk is presented by Upstate Chevy Dealers in honor of Team Hustle for Hannah formed in support of Wish Child Hannah!

Top fundraising teams will each have their official team photo taken at the event, with the top three teams to be featured in promotional materials! Additionally, those who donate or raise just \$100 or more will receive a Walk for Wishes 2017 T-shirt. The more money raised the more prizes available to win, all while helping make a difference in the lives of children facing life-

also for the opportunity for the entire Make-A-Wish family to come together in support of our mission. The response from Wish Families, in particular, has been enthusiastic and generous as we all work together to ensure that we grant the wish of EVERY eligible child. We are grateful for the strong participation and look forward to seeing this event continue to grow!" said Kirsten Broschinsky, the chapter's Director of Annual Giving.

This event is an opportunity to support Make-A-Wish's efforts, and to celebrate our Wish Kids and families right here in the Capital Region. So dig out your sneakers and mark your calendars to join us at this nationwide Make-A-Wish® fundraiser that celebrates more than 270,000 wishes that have already been granted, while raising funds for future wishes.

For more information visit the official walk for Wishes 2017 website <http://site.wish.org/walknny>.



threatening medical conditions.

"Walk for Wishes is quickly becoming an integral part of our chapter - not only for its vital fundraising, but

wish.org/walknny. On the site, participants can join or create a team, view the donation total, make a donation, and view participating teams. A wish experience can truly change a child's life, so register today!



◀ **Callen, 5, from Leeds**  
Wish Granters: Christine Hyatt and Jaelyn Ready  
*Wish sponsored by Wack's Ride*

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

**Jack, 11, from Watervliet**  
Wish Granters: Danielle Sanzone and Joel Cantiello  
*Wish sponsored by 2017 Gala Fund-A-Wish Donors*

**Elijah, 5, from Queensbury**  
Wish Granters: Caryn Anatriello and Kyle Wixted  
*Wish sponsored by Green Mountain Electrical Services*

**Gannon, 5, from Ballston Spa**  
Wish Granter: Deborah Greenbaum and Cary Hickey  
*Wish sponsored by M+W Group's Tech Valley Charity Golf Tournament 2016*

**Elias, 5, from Ballston Spa**  
**Hannah, 5, from Schenectady**  
Wish Granters: Heather and Ryan Watroba  
*Wish sponsored by Alex and Gina Tronco*

**Catherine, 9, from Hoosick Falls**  
Wish Granters: Bill Trigg and Heidi Skellie  
*Wish sponsored by SP Livingston Golf Tournament 2016*

**Nibal, 6, from Albany**  
Wish Granters: Erin Goodfellow and Kirsten Broschinsky  
*Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Campaign*

**Gavin, 4, from Albany**  
Wish Granters: Nicole Morgan and Erin Oliver  
*Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Campaign*

**Anthony, 15, from Gloversville**  
Wish Granter: Frank Valiante  
*Wish sponsored by Post 337 Golf 2016*

**Cassidy, 9, from Malone**  
Wish Granters: Kismet McCormick, Diane Roberts, and Jocelyn Recore  
*Wish sponsored by 2017 Gala Fund-A-Wish Donors*

**Will, 3, from Niskayuna** ▶  
Wish Granters: Jeremy Rockmacher and Karen Pelland  
*Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Campaign*

**Isabella, 5, from Castleton-On-Hudson** ▼  
Wish Granters: Eileen Berlanti and Kristin Mihalko  
*Wish sponsored by Commerce-Hub and John & Patricia Hinkle*

**Emma, 3, from Johnsonville**  
Wish Granters: Agnes Knott and Rachael Beaudry  
*Wish sponsored by Trans-Border Global Freight Systems, Inc.* ▶



## 'I wish to GO'

◀ **I wish to go on a Disney Cruise**

**Claire, 9, from Olmstead**  
Wish Granters: Tim and Kathryn Riley  
*Wish sponsored by Wack's Ride 2016*

**Cameron, 5, from Indian Lake**  
Wish Granters: Caryn Anatriello and Kyle Wixted  
*Wish sponsored by Ken and Patricia Raymond*

**I wish to go to Nike Headquarters in Oregon**  
**Tyler, 16, from Greenwich**  
Wish Granters: Bill Trigg and Heidi Eustis  
*Wish sponsored by Cole's Collision Centers*



**I wish to see the Northern Lights in Alaska**  
**Audrey, 17, from St. Johnsville**  
Wish Granters: Lorraine Heck and Nicole Heck  
*Wish sponsored by Kristy Pollak Memorial Lights Display 2016*

**I wish to go to the Beaches Resort in Ochos Rios Jamaica**  
**Kaiden, 13, from West Chazy**  
Wish Granters: Toni and Pete Cowie  
*Wish sponsored by Wish Jump 2016*

**I wish to go to a Clemson football game**  
**Matthew, 13, from Scotia**  
Wish Granters: Toni and Pete Cowie  
*Wish sponsored by Wish Jump 2016*



◀ **I wish to go to a Giants game**  
**Schylar, 18, from Wesport**  
Wish Granters: Scott Sayward and Diane Duquette-Burl  
*Wish sponsored by Todd & Angelique Maddalone and The Pickett Family Foundation*

**I wish to have weekly sessions with a Music Therapist for a year**  
**Sophia, 18, from Albany**  
Wish Granters: Caryn Anatriello and Kyle Wixted  
*Wish sponsored by Jaeger & Flynn Golf Tournament 2016*

**I wish to have an adaptive stroller/car seat combo**  
**Fleura, 5, from Albany**  
Wish Granter: Kyle Wixted  
*Wish sponsored by 2017 Gala Fund-A-Wish Donors*

**I wish to have an iPad**  
**Zeus, 10, from Granville**  
Wish Granters: Jesse Matteson and Russell Matteson  
*Wish sponsored by Tonto Memorial Charity Golf Tournament*

**I wish to have a sensory room makeover**  
**Izabella, 6, from Albany**  
Wish Granters: Caryn Anatriello and Kyle Wixted  
*Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Campaign 2016*



▲ **I wish to go to a Houston Texans game and meet players**  
**Benjamin, 14, from Jay**  
Wish Granters: Kathy and Joel Steele  
*Wish sponsored by Naked Turtle 2017 Golf Tournament*

**I wish to go to a Golden State Warriors game**  
**Kevon, 16, from Rensselaer**  
Wish Granters: Caryn Anatriello and Jared Kingsley  
*Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Campaign*



## 'I wish to BE'

**I wish to be the boss for a day at Nickel City Arcade near Chicago**  
**Gabriel, 8, from Tupper Lake**  
Wish Granters: Patricia MacMannis, Diane Duquette-Burl, and Amy LaDue  
*Wish sponsored by Softball on Snow 2017*



**Antonio, 9, from Mechanicville**  
Wish Granters: Patty Vartigian and Kelly Ayotte  
*Wish sponsored by Team Dame*

**Bridgette, 4, from Schenectady**  
Wish Granters: Karen Schultheis and Jeremy Rockmacher  
*Wish sponsored by 2017 Gala Fund-A-Wish Donors*

**Katelyn, 3, from Valley Falls**  
Wish Granters: Caryn Anatriello and Kyle Wixted  
*Wish sponsored by Wack's Ride 2016*

**Jocelyn, 14, from Troy**  
Wish Granters: Nicole Pickel and Maryann Riviello-Brennan  
*Wish sponsored by Wish Jump 2016*

**Antonio, 14, from Mayfield**  
Wish Granters: Linda and Michael Doyle  
*Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Campaign and Nathan Littauer Foundation*

**Kamdon, 10, from Troy**  
Wish Granters: Joleen Bruyette and Kailee Danford  
*Wish sponsored by Wish Jump 2016*

**Camden, 8, from Malone**  
Wish Granters: Diane Roberts, Kismet McCormick, and Jocelyn Recore  
*Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Campaign* ▼



## Local student enjoys class trip to Europe as wish 1,700 marked



17-year-old Cameron became the 1,700th Make-A-Wish Northeast New York wish recipient when he joined 48 of his Columbia High School peers on a 10-day adventure to Europe. The high school senior, who is nearing the end of treatment for a brain tumor, wanted the

ultimate trip with his friends.

So with the help of family, teachers, and friends, Make-A-Wish was able to surprise him with a sendoff celebration, complete with European-themed banners and cupcakes, before departing on the school trip to Italy and France.

"I'm really surprised. It's a once in a lifetime thing and I'm very excited," Cameron said. The students had an amazing time, experiencing Europe and visiting many historical sites such as the Eiffel Tower and Leaning Tower of Pisa.

## Wish Jump 2017 to launch July 29th

### You can support them – and local wishes!

Wish Jump 2017 is back for its seventh year as the Capital Region's most exciting fundraiser, and will have dozens of brave souls jumping for a good cause this summer. On July 29th, the skydiving fundraiser will have courageous participants stepping from a plane to help raise funds for Make-A-Wish Northeast New York. The fundraiser will be held at Skydive the Ranch in Gardiner, NY.

The unique fundraiser idea was proposed by volunteer wish granter, Mary Kenney, who was looking to launch a fundraiser that offered "a bit more adrenaline than a bake sale." Since its inception in 2011, it has drawn over 140 participants who have raised more than \$170,000 in all! For the seventh annual 2017 event, the goal is to raise \$30,000 in celebration of the chapter's 30th anniversary.

This year participants will range from experienced jumpers and adrenaline junkies to many first time jumpers. Expected among the jumpers are some wish teens and parents, as well as volunteer wish granters, chapter staff, and other supporters. Kenney has said that participants are inspired by the wish children, who bravely face their challenges as they cope with, and most often overcome, their life-threatening medical conditions. All participants are raising funds through online donations and any and all support

is welcomed and encouraged.

"This is an exciting way to help fund wishes for local kids, and the goal of \$30,000 could not be more appropriate in honor of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York's 30th anniversary" said Make-A-Wish local chapter CEO William Trigg III. "We appreciate the efforts of everyone who supports this event, and helped make it such a success." As a Wish Jumper himself, he said, the support of so many people "really inspires us to take that leap of faith - right out of the plane!"

Participants are inspired to courageously jump the 10,000+ feet to the ground by the wish children and their families who bravely face their life threatening medical conditions daily. The Wish Jumpers are now actively raising funds to help make wishes come true, and you can help support the event or individual jumpers by visiting [www.wishjump.com](http://www.wishjump.com)



## Three Business Leaders Join the Board of Trustees

*On March 21, 2017, the Board of Trustees elected three Capital District business leaders to join its ranks:*

### JUDITH C. GABLER

Judith "Judi" Gabler is an Associate Real Estate Broker and owner of the Gabler Team at RealtyUSA in Delmar, NY.

A graduate of SUNY Fredonia with a Bachelor's Degree in marketing and communications, Ms. Gabler started her career in real estate marketing, but quickly moved to becoming a real estate broker. She joined RealtyUSA in 2011. She has been honored for her top producer status year over year by the Women's Council of Realtors and by RealtyUSA. In 2016, she was nationally recognized as a member of the National Association of Realtors "30 Under 30."

Ms. Gabler is a member of the National Association of Realtors, the NYS Association of Realtors, and the Greater Capital Association of Realtors. She also chairs the Young Professionals Network of Realtors, a group of agents who give back to the community and support future real estate brokers.

Ms. Gabler is married and resides in Delmar, New York.

### DAVID O'LEARY, ESQ.

David O'Leary is Vice President of the Ayco Company, LLP, in Saratoga Springs.

He is responsible for national marketing and distribution of annuity products and insurance-based products to clients. He previously served in various management capacities at AXA Distributors.

Mr. O'Leary holds both a Bachelor's Degree and MBA from Boston College, and graduated with his Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School. His charitable endeavors include serving on the Young Professional Committee of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Boston, and as a volunteer teacher and architect of the volunteer teaching program at St. Mary's Catholic School on the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Mr. O'Leary is married with two children and resides in Loudonville, New York.

### SHARON PHILLIPS

Sharon Phillips is Vice President of Marketing & Public Relations for CAP COM Federal Credit Union in Albany, NY. She has been with CAP COM for 30 years, previously serving as head of its charitable foundation.

Being a cancer survivor herself, Ms. Phillips is quite familiar with Make-A-Wish, even more so since CAP COM began partnering with our chapter two years ago to sponsor a wish annually. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Capital District Chapter of the American Cancer Society, including the officer positions of Board Secretary, Vice Chair and Board Chair. She is also a member of the American Marketing Association, and the Capital Region Chamber's Women's Business Council.

Ms. Phillips is married with three sons and lives in Latham, New York.

**We welcome Ms. Gabler, Mr. O'Leary, and Ms. Phillips to their new leadership positions in the chapter and thank them for their commitment to advancing the Make-A-Wish mission throughout the 518 area code.**



## Margot Anderson retires from fundraising post

Margot Anderson, Director of Philanthropy for Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, was honored at a staff luncheon on Wednesday, May 10, marking her retirement. "Margot's efforts at Make-A-Wish were meaningful and important," said chapter CEO Bill Trigg. "Her fundraising skills, as well as her development experience at United Way of the Greater Capital Region and Siena College, generated new donor relationships, and greater support for our wish granting program. Her contributions are sincerely appreciated, and we wish her the best in retirement!"

# Volunteer Week is time for thanks

National Volunteer Week was marked in April, and was a great opportunity to thank our many volunteers who help make wishes happen. We depend upon our volunteers granting wishes, manning an Adopt-A-Wish Booth, helping with events, raising funds, or spreading the joy of Make-A-Wish! This year, some of the major volunteer “categories” were noted, with outstanding volunteers honored.

## VOLUNTEER CATEGORY: AIRPORT GREETER

### Honoree: Sabra Venezia

Airport greeter is one of those wish granter responsibilities that, while rewarding and extremely helpful to the wish families, also often entails

being at the airport during some odd hours. On many travel wishes, flights are early in the morning or late in the evening, during work or hours that are not ideal. Sabra Venezia is specially

nominated for her enthusiasm and dedication to welcoming and sending off wish families, most often not her own. She is quick to take on a last minute airport greet early in the morning or quite late at night. Though a new wish granter herself, she particularly stands out with her vibrant personality, welcoming presence and genuine enjoyment in meeting new families.

As an airport greeter, Sabra guides families through the airport (often as their first time) calming nerves and building excitement as they wait for boarding. She herself has flown in from Florida late in the evening and was right back at the airport the following morning to welcome back a family. Since becoming a wish granter, she has accompanied 10 airport greets since May 2016 (in addition to her own wish family trips).

Sabra goes above and beyond her commitment as a wish granter and to our wish families. So thank you Sabra!

## VOLUNTEER CATEGORY: ABOVE AND BEYOND (Adopt-A-Wish campaign)

### Honoree: Diane Budesheim

Diane Budesheim is nominated by Kirsten Broschinsky, Director of Annual Giving, as an outstanding volunteer for her incredible dedication to the success of the Adopt-A-Wish Campaign.

Diane began volunteering in 2006, shortly after her son’s Wish to go to Disney World was granted. She wanted to become a volunteer for the Adopt-A-Wish Campaign because she

saw it as an opportunity to give back and raise needed funds so that other children could have an experience that, like her son’s, “had him smiling all week!” Sadly, Diane’s son Jakob passed away in 2014, but she continues to dedicate her time and efforts to Make-A-Wish to honor his memory. When it comes to the campaign, Diane is always one of the very first to volunteer and will volunteer for more shifts than anyone!

She takes great care with the booth and ensures it is clean and organized. She works with many new booth volunteers to help them get started and learn about Make-A-Wish and advocate for the organization during the campaign.

## VOLUNTEER CATEGORY: TRUSTEE VOLUNTEER

### Honoree: Brian Hannafin

Did you know, all board members are volunteers?

Brian V. Hannafin is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York and leads the Board with passion and enthusiasm.

Brian began his volunteer service as a Trustee in January 2012, serving on the Resource Development Committee, then as Vice Chair in 2015, and was elected Board Chair in May 2016. Brian has led the 19-member board in their fundraising efforts to grow the chapter’s revenues 41 percent over four years, from \$1.7 million to \$2.4 million.

With a firm belief in our mission, Brian is always willing to step forward to help, whether through his personal generosity, his time, or helping reach out to other business and community members that can help make wishes come true! Brian, his wife Erin, and their daughters, have sponsored several wishes, including a young man’s wish for a college semester in Italy.

Brian epitomizes volunteer leadership, having served on the board of the M+W Group U.S. Charitable Foundation, and previously on the boards of the Museum of Innovation and Science in Schenectady and St. Anne’s Institute in Albany.

We are grateful to Brian for his guidance and support, as well as his humor and energy that help to inspire the Board, the staff, and the extended Make-A-Wish team. Thanks to Brian for being a volunteer on our Board of Trustees!



and she would be leaving soon as all of the children read the banner aloud to her! The students all received monkey masks and took pictures with Emily and Ivan. The class celebrated with a snack of mini bananas and cupcakes and watched videos from the monkey sanctuary website.

This wish announcement was such a memorable moment for Emily and her classmates, who have seen their friend go through so much in the last two years. Emily’s parents said that she was on a “high” all week and was so excited for her wish! Her classmates all shared in her joy and understood why this is important for her and her family. This wish reveal was amazing for her wish granters, family, classmates and Emily!

The creativity behind the wish announcement was truly creative and unique, so thank you Karen and Dena!

## VOLUNTEER CATEGORY: NUMBER OF WISHES GRANTED

### Honoree: Toni Cowie

One veteran wish granter tops the list since she started granting wishes 20 years ago! Toni Cowie has granted 46 wishes over that time, in recent years often teaming up with her husband Pete.

Dedicated, committed, and still enthusiastic about each and every wish, Toni remembers an amazing number of details from wishes over the years.

Toni said that she loves to see the excitement that builds for a wish child as a wish approaches. She stressed that each wish is unique, and each touches a special place in her heart.

For anyone thinking of becoming a wish granter, Toni urged them to get involved. “There is nothing quite like being able to do something fun and special for a wish child and their family,” she said.

So a big THANK YOU to Toni for her 46 wishes and beyond! We appreciate everything that you do for our wish families!

It is also important to note other veteran wish granters who have also devoted countless hours to our wish families:

Allison Smith: 19 wishes with 11 years of service

Karen Pelland: 17 wishes with 12 years of service

Katie Krzys: 16 wishes with 7 years of service

Volunteers are an essential part of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York and we cannot achieve our mission without all that you do! We want to make sure that you are recognized for all that you have done – past and present! You are all very special to us!

*\* Please note: records like these are from our database, established in 2009, but we recognize that the data may not be perfect. If you feel that we have incorrect or missing information about your volunteer experience, please let us know, so we can update the system!*

## VOLUNTEER CATEGORY: CREATIVITY SPOTLIGHT

### Honoree: Dena DeLude and Karen Kaufman-Wachs

Wish granters Dena DeLude and Karen Kaufman-Wachs worked with Emily’s school, family and classmates to recreate an incredible experience Emily missed due to her treatment.

Emily’s parents and siblings came in under the guise of “mystery readers” in the classroom, while Karen and Dena, along with Ivan the gorilla, snuck around the outside of the school and surprised the class. The wish granters entered the classroom and explained that Ivan had a special message for Emily. They rolled out a banner announcing that her wish is granted



## Veteran Adopt-A-Wish Campaign Volunteer is honored with the Executive’s Volunteer Award

**Claire Brandt has been a dedicated volunteer with the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Chapter for the past 18 years.**

As a grandmother of a wish child, Claire promised herself she would give back to the community that supported her and her family through her grandson Josh’s illness. Since her grandson’s recovery, she has volunteered her time, energy, and passion for almost two decades as a Booth Coordinator for the Adopt-A-Wish Campaign.

This past April, her dedication, compassion, and whole hearted eagerness to go the extra mile for Make-A-Wish was recognized as she was honored with the Albany County Executive’s Volunteer Award. Claire was one of six to be honored, recognizing her as an

exceptional volunteer who has gone above and beyond to make her community a better place. Claire was presented with the award by Albany County Executive Daniel McCoy at the April 24, 2017 ceremony.

Family and friends were in attendance, including Claire’s daughter and mother of wish child, Josh. They were able to share in the ceremony that could not have honored a more fittingly kind, compassionate, and personable volunteer than Claire.

“We simply wouldn’t be able to accomplish our mission without the devotion, enthusiasm and passion Claire radiates as a volunteer,” says Erin Goodfellow, manager of Volunteer Engagement at the chapter.

## Price Chopper Adopts a Wish



Winter got a little warmer when Price Chopper decided to adopt a wish! After several weeks of fundraising by (and from) staff at the main office, Price Chopper employees reached their goal to grant their first wish. A Hawaiian-themed wish celebration party, complete with flower leis and Hawaiian music, was held at the office for Wish Kid Kacey. Kacey has endured a very long battle to get well and looks forward to her wish, a trip to Hawaii, with great excitement. The Price Chopper staff at the wish celebration shared her excitement and got to spend some time with Kacey and her parents. Kacey's inspirational story helped those assembled to all truly feel the *power of a wish!*



## Green Mountain Electric Services is Adopting Wishes!

Green Mountain Electric Services has partnered with Make-A-Wish to adopt up to three wishes each year! Their first wish was recently adopted and celebrated in their Queensbury location. With each wish, staff work creatively to raise half the amount needed to grant a wish, while the other half is funded by GMES' corporate match program. The Wish Kids they adopt will rotate through their three main locations, in upstate New York, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Their first wish celebration was for Elijah and his wish to visit Legoland. GMES staff went to great lengths to decorate their offices with Elijah's favorite themes and colors and served his favorite foods for lunch. The wish celebration was a great opportunity to celebrate Elijah's wish journey!



## Join the Legacy of Wishes Society and grant wishes into the future

Make-A-Wish Northeast New York is doing more than just granting the wishes of today's seriously ill children: It's preparing to bring joy to future generations when they need it most. You can be part of this effort by including us in your estate.

By naming Make-A-Wish Northeast New York as a beneficiary, you will create a legacy that brings hope, strength and joy to children facing life-threatening medical conditions.

Typical bequest language is:

"I give the sum of \$\_\_\_\_(or \_\_\_\_% of estate) to Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, 3 Washington Square, Albany, NY 12205, Tax ID# 14-1703503, to be used or disposed of as its Board of Trustees deems appropriate in its sole discretion."

Each year, over 27,000 children are diagnosed with life-threatening medical conditions. Our goal is to grant the wish of each eligible child, and your help is essential.

If you've already named Make-A-Wish Northeast New York in your estate plans, we'd like to recognize your gift through our *Legacy of Wishes Society*. By joining, we are able to recognize your generosity today. Go to [www.neny.wish.org/ways-to-help/giving/planned-giving](http://www.neny.wish.org/ways-to-help/giving/planned-giving) to join the society or to learn more about the many planned giving vehicles available. If you prefer to speak to someone directly, call us at (518)456-9474

Thank you for all you do to *share the power of a wish®*.

## Raising funds locally for local wishes

*We thank the following individuals, groups and organizations for the wide range of fundraisers they conducted to benefit our wish program.*

### COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

Kristy Pollak Memorial Lights in the Park	\$7,104
Softball on Snow	\$5,490
Plattsburgh Bridal Show by Laura's Bridal	\$3,470
Hudson Zumbathon!	\$2,508
Lake Placid Wine for Wishes hosted by Andrew Weibrecht	\$2,075
Adirondack Shelby Mustang Club - 25th Annual Dealer Day Car Show	\$1,400
Carson's Woodside Tavern SuperBowl Party	\$1,300
Pepsi Bottling Company - Latham	\$608
The Cornerstone Community Church of Lansingburgh, goodwill offering by the ecumenical choir	\$583
Alpha Rayne Pione Club Valentine's Day Cookie Sales	\$200



Wish Teen Bella joined with the team at Brooks Brothers in Lake George for their annual fundraising event



Siena College students formed a Wishmakers on Campus chapter and raised more than \$7,600

### KIDS FOR WISH KIDS® and WISHMAKERS ON CAMPUS EVENTS



Siena College Wishmakers on Campus	\$7,600
Schalmont Ghostly Gallop 5k	\$3,819
Troy Public School 14	\$1,539
Rocky's Mini Jam in memory of Tyler Coyne	\$1,150
Malone Central School District - JV Football Concession Proceeds	\$659
Saint Pius X School's Fundraiser	\$537
Boght Hills Elementary's K-Kids Annual Hoop-A-Thon	\$500
Claire Tolan's "Bake-A-Wish"	\$250
Kiwanis Club of Norwood, NY	\$100



Troy Public School 14 donated more than \$1,500



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## Dave & Buster's continues support

Since Dave & Buster's became a national partner in 2012, the restaurant chain has raised over \$5.5 million in cash for Make-A-Wish and have donated an additional \$700,000 through graciously hosting wish families and various Make-A-Wish events in their stores across the US and

Canada, including at their Crossgates Mall location in Albany. While the local site hosts a variety of seasonal efforts to support Make-A-Wish, it also has an unusual way to collect funds, one coin at a time. This classic Pac-Man game sits near the outside main entrance, decked out with Make-A-Wish colors and logo. It's the only game on site which actually takes coins, which become a donation to Make-A-Wish. Chapter CEO Bill Trigg and restaurant General Manager JP Patton showed off their skills recently – all for a good cause!

