

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



RECORD NUMBER OF WISHES

*Mark Your Calendars
for Gala 2017*

WALK FOR WISHES DRAWS FAMILIES

*A boy's special
wish comes true*

with gratitude from the Board Chairman and CEO



To Our Valued Donors and Volunteers,

During our business year that concluded on August 31, 2016, Make-A-Wish Northeast New York proudly granted a record 101 wishes - meeting (and exceeding) for the first time in its 29-year history its "Wish Potential" of 100 wishes for the year. This is a joyous achievement for the chapter, and a wonderful testament to the commitment, hard work and sacrifice of our volunteers, our professional team, and the hundreds of donors who believe and invest in the "Power of a Wish."



We hope that as you read the stories and profiles featured in this edition of our *Wishmaker* news magazine, you too will be inspired by the Wish children, the volunteers, and the donors right here in our Northeast New York Chapter who are broadening the impact of our great mission locally. Landon's wish to meet and be blessed by Pope Francis at the Vatican is a truly compelling story about hope, faith and joy. We continue to build a strong and visionary Board of Trustees. Long-time volunteers and donors like George Sicard reflect the passion and commitment that allows us to grant the wish of every eligible child in our chapter. Recent celebrations of our volunteers in the Capital Region and the North Country reflect the magnitude of their creativity and dedication to making magical wishes come true for **all** of our Wish Kids and Teens. And we continue to strive for new, creative and more effective ways to engage the community in supporting our Wish Families through great events like *Walk for Wishes* and *Cheers for Wishes*.

We are proud to share their 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 Kids are immensely grateful for your support, as donors and as volunteers. As we look forward with great excitement to the celebration of our chapter's 30th anniversary in 2017, we wish you and your families a joyous holiday season and a wonderful New Year ahead! Thank you for your extraordinary support of and dedication to our Wish Families!

Best wishes always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian V. Hannafin".

Brian V. Hannafin
Chairman of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William C. Trigg, III".

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

this issue

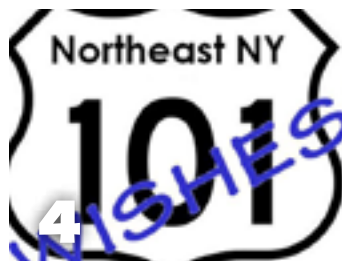
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MAKE-A-WISH®
Northeast New York



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cover photo: Landon meets Pope Francis at the Vatican.



24th annual Adopt-A-Wish campaign begins

Make-A-Wish Northeast NY is ready to kick off its 24th year of the annual Adopt-A-Wish campaign.

Throughout the holiday season in local malls and businesses, and running through to the month of February in local schools, volunteers sell paper star “ornaments” to raise funds to help make wishes come true for kids and teens facing life-threatening medical conditions. Each star features the story of a local wish kid who had his/her one true wish granted by the chapter.

The Adopt-A-Wish Campaign is one of the most well-known and successful fundraising campaigns in the region. More than 200 former wish kids and families, wish-granting volunteers, and volunteers work in the booths at the malls throughout the campaign. All of their work helps to fund the nearly 100 wishes granted by the chapter each year.

The campaign starts in mid-November with a kick-off at Crossgates Mall, and will run through the end of the year in Colonie Center, Viaport Rotterdam,

Wilton Mall, Aviation Mall, and Champlain Centre in Plattsburgh, as well as at branches of Trustco Bank, and many local businesses and schools. The stars cost \$3 each at malls and businesses, and just \$1 at local participating schools.

Stars can also be ordered, or donations made, online at the chapter website www.neny.wish.org, or by phone at (518) 456-9474.

This year’s campaign features

eight Wish Ambassadors: From the Capital area are: Jacob, 12, of Esperance; Nicky, 4, of Brunswick; Faith, 10, of Clifton Park; David, 12, of Selkirk; Christin, 17, of Hudson; and Abigail, 6, of Fonda. From the North Country are: Madison, 11, of Lake Placid, and Connor, 18, of Westport.

This year’s Presenting Sponsor is Trustco Bank, and the Star Sponsor is General Electric.



Upcoming Make-A-Wish events

MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS

NOVEMBER 2016

11/17 Adopt-A-Wish campaign kickoff
Crossgates Mall, Albany

DECEMBER 2016

12/4 Wish Family Christmas Party
12/9 National Believe Day

JANUARY 2017

1/8 Plattsburgh Bridal and Fashion Expo

MARCH 2017

3/25 Make-A-Wish Gala
Hall of Springs, Saratoga Springs

APRIL 2017

4/29 World Wish Day



LOCAL EFFORTS HONORED WITH AWARDS

Make-A-Wish Northeast New York was recently honored with two awards for excellence. The first was from the national Make-A-Wish organization, which presented a Fundraising Achievement Award to the local chapter. The second was a 2016 "Addy" for public service/non-broadcast audio-visual from the Albany Ad Club for the video "Journey of a Wish," produced by *Working Pictures*.

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 1,600 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, our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/makeawishnortheastnewyork, or follow us on Twitter @MakeAWish_NENY!

Local chapter grants record number of wishes

101 wishes completed in fiscal 2016

When the goal is to grant wishes to kids and teens with life-threatening medical conditions, each wish is important, unique, and amazing.

But the cumulative measure of a year's worth of wishes can be a meaningful mark to chart the progress of the organization.

For Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, fiscal 2016, which ended August 31, was a landmark year, with a record 101 wishes granted. That figure brought the total number of local wishes granted since the chapter's founding in 1987 to more than 1,650.

That total of 101 wishes this past year is important for two reasons," said chapter CEO Bill Trigg. First, he explained, "It shows

the successful efforts in areas such as medical outreach and awareness,



as well as operations, which allowed us to manage and complete that record number of wishes."

At the same time, he added, it demonstrates that the need is growing, as more children qualify for wishes and are identified. "Our goal is to ensure that all eligible children and teens are granted a wish, and the growing number of referrals is both a challenge and an opportunity for us," he said.

"I congratulate our volunteer wish granters, who are at the front lines of making these wishes happen," he said. At the same time, he said, "our staff and board of trustees have worked to improve systems and operations, and our donors and supporters have helped ensure the funding so that no wishes are delayed. It's a team effort!"

Board of Trustees Transitions

Brian V. Hannafin recently became the new Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Make-A-Wish Northeast New York.



Mr. Hannafin is the Vice President of Business Development for John W. Danforth Company. He was elected to the Board of Trustees of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York in January 2012

and previously served as the Vice Chairman. He has also served on the board of St. Anne's Institute in Albany and the boards of the M+W Group U.S.

Charitable Foundation and the Museum of Innovation and Science.

Mr. Hannafin succeeds Reid C. Hutchins, who recently moved to New Hampshire with his family. Mr. Hutchins had been a member of the board since 2011, and served as Board Chair for two years.



Jennifer M. Boll, Esq.

The board has also welcomed its newest member, Jennifer M. Boll, Esq.,

who was elected to the Board of Trustees in August.

Ms. Boll is a member of the law firm Bond, Schoeneck & King in Albany, NY, and she is also an adjunct professor at Albany Law School, as well as a lecturer at the University of Albany.

She serves on Siena College's board of associate trustees, on Junior Achievement of Northeastern New York's board of directors, and on the Lung Cancer Alliance advisory board. She is also a co-founder of the Women Partners' Forum of the Capital Region.

Make-A-Wish Gala 2017

**MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS**

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL GALA, SET FOR MARCH 25, 2017. This year's event will mark a major milestone for the chapter: the 30th anniversary since the chapter was founded.

Wish kids and families will be there to share the stories of their wish experiences, and wish surprises will be revealed. Great food, musical entertainment, and many incredible auction items will be some highlights of the gala to look forward to.

Mark your calendars now!



Region's biggest bike rally supports local wish kids



It was smiles by the mile – at least two miles in fact – at the Wack's Ride event July 30.

The 9th annual Wack's Ride for Wishes was the largest motorcycle fundraising event in the North Country, with more than 600 participants and 425+ motorcycles. This year's event raised \$49,000, including more than \$9,000 raised for a "voluntary" haircut and beard trim for organizer Pat "Wack" Nolan.

The event, consisting of a ride through Warren and Washington Counties, awesome raffles, prizes, live music, and a fantastic BBQ was a fun-filled day with friends

and families. Along with the fun is a commitment to the cause, as a number of past Wish Kids and teens attend the event, and each year a Wish family is featured as they share their story.

A planning group works most of the year to set up the route, secure prizes and raffle items, and recruit sponsors. The result is an event that's fast becoming legendary, and one which has helped grant dozens of wishes over the past nine years.



Cheers for Wishes

fundraiser

Guests got a taste of the magic of a wish, along with the taste of local craft beers, spirits, and cuisine!

The newest Make-A-Wish Northeast New York fundraiser, Cheers for Wishes, was an evening of fun for all. Mallozi's hosted the event on September 16, where those in attendance tasted different flavors of the area, with craft beers, spirits, and concoctions that were all prepared locally.

Wish stories were shared and Wish Ambassador, Channa Goldman, spoke at the event, sharing her own story. There was no shortage of entertainment with live music, raffles, and a silent auction that celebrated local businesses, artisans, and experiences.

Local breweries such as Adirondack, Brown's, Brooklyn,

Chatham, Ithaca, Mad Jack, Olde Saratoga, Saranac, and Schmaltz had their craft beers featured at the event, along with wine from Brotherhood Winery, and spirits from Albany, Murray's Fools, Yankee, and Upstate distilleries. Mallozi's provided the food for the soiree.

The evening was sponsored by M+W U.S. Charitable Foundation, BST & Co. LLP and Kingsway Community.





Many people will go the extra mile to show their support, but the third annual Walk for Wishes had participants going three miles. On August 13, Wish Families, volunteers, corporations, schools and community groups met at Joe Bruno Stadium in Troy to participate in the family-friendly walk.

Wish Kids kicked off the event with a "Victory Lap" and were then joined by the rest of the walkers. The three mile route circled the baseball field, and then went through the neighborhood around Hudson Valley Community College. There was also a one mile optional route.

The walk finished back at the stadium, where awards, games, and activities kept the fun lasting for the rest of the day. Participation in the event was free, but walkers were encouraged to raise funds or make donations to help support local wishes.

Three main goals drove participants to keep putting one foot in front of the other: to raise funds to support the mission of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York; to raise awareness in the community of that mission; and to engage Wish Families, volunteers, corporations, schools and community groups to

celebrate the Power of a Wish®.

"Walk for Wishes is a fun family event where community members can learn about the impact Make-A-Wish has on families in our area," said Kirsten Broschinsky, Director of Annual Giving. "It's an opportunity for us to celebrate the lives of our wish kids and families right here in the Capital Region."

In addition to presenting sponsor Trusted Choice® Independent Insurance Agents, other event sponsors included the Tri-City ValleyCats, General Electric, DeLuke Orthodontics, and Taconic Foundation Inc.





▶ **Nathan, 8, from West Sand Lake**

Wish Granters: Christopher Fain and Sabra Venezia

Wish sponsored by the SP Livingston Make-A-Wish Golf Tournament

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

Rhyan, 6, from Ticonderoga

Wish Granters: Jaime Ralston and Erin Duval

Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

Kevin, 11, from Albany

Wish Granters: Linda and Michael Doyle

Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

Isaiah, 3, from Peru

Wish Granters: James and Kristi Moser

Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

Jesse, 3, from Queensbury

Wish Granters: Nancy Citro and Chrissy Shumate

Wish sponsored by Angiodynamics

Sarah, 13, from Queensbury

Wish Granters: Tim Riley and Sharon Fordyce

Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

Evelyn, 11, from Guilderland

Wish Granters: Linda Tepper and Christine Patell

Wish sponsored by Wish Jump 2016

Milana, 6, from Ballston Lake

Wish Granters: Agnes Knott and Amy Zounes

Wish sponsored by Carson's Woodside Tavern

Dakota, 11, from Witherbee

Wish Granters: Rod Mace and Scott Sayward

Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

Arianna, 4, from Scotia

Wish Granters: Nicole Morgan and Joelle West

Wish sponsored by the Kingsway Make-A-Wish Golf Tournament

Saya, 5, from Troy

Wish Granters: Maryann Riviello and Christopher Fain

Wish sponsored by Wish Jump 2016

David, 11, from Selkirk ▶

Wish Granters: Christine Hyatt and Pamela J. Moore

Wish sponsored by Wish Jump 2015



Kati, 6, from Albany

Wish Granters: Sandra Worona and Emily Trombley

Wish sponsored by NYSCOPBA

Madison, 11, from Lake Placid

Wish Granters: Kathy and Joel Steele

Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

Joella, 16, from Malone

Wish Granters: Diane Roberts and Kismet McCormick

Wish sponsored by the 2016 Plattsburgh Bridal Show

Liam, 7, from Constable

Wish Granters: Diane Roberts and Kismet McCormick

Ezra, 6, from Cohoes

Wish Granters: Karen Pelland and Jeffrey Avella

Wish sponsored by CAP COM Federal Credit Union

Jonah, 11, from Canaan

Wish Granters: Christopher Fain and Tanya Haas

Wish sponsored by the Wish Fulfillment Fund

Justin, 15, from Amsterdam

Wish Granters: Nathan Pyne and Kimberly Stahl

Wish sponsored by Dominic and Adiene Wade and the Sauders Family

Gracee, 10, from Saranac Lake

Wish Granters: Loretta Cappiello and Renee Elsinger

Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign



Alaina, 3, from Poestenkill ▲

Wish Granter: Tanya Haas and Christopher Fain

Wish sponsored by the M+W Tech Valley Charity Golf Tournament

Elias, 5, from Ballston Spa

Wish Granters: Cindy DeMarco and Amy Zounes

Wish sponsored by Carson's Woodside Tavern

Kenneth, 11, from Canajoharie

Wish Granters: Jerry Keenan and Katie Krzys

Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

Finley, 6, from Diamond Point

Wish Granters: Jennifer Hutchins and Sharon Fordyce

Wish sponsored by Wack's Ride

Catherine, 9, from Hoosick Falls

Wish Granters: Bill Trigg III and Heidi Skellie

Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

Isiah, 15, from Albany

Wish Granters: Jaime Ralston and Caryn Anatriello

Wish sponsored by GTM Payroll Services



I wish to go to Hawaii

Isabella, 12, from Queensbury

Wish Granters: Chrissy Shumate and Nancy Citro

Wish sponsored by the Jaeger & Flynn Charity Golf Tournament



Mackenzie, 12, from Sloansville
Wish Granters: Brenda Fitting and Emily Trombley

◀ Lucia, 17, of Greenwich

Wish Granters: Caryn Anatriello and Kyle Wixted

Wish sponsored by the NYS Laborers Golf Tournament

I wish to go to New York City for a Lego shopping spree

Nathaniel, 9, from Amsterdam

Wish Granters: Frank Valiante and Kyle Wixted

Wish sponsored by the Kristy

Pollak Memorial Holiday Lights Display

I wish to go on a Disney Cruise

Faith, 10, from Clifton Park

Wish Granters: Sarah McKinney and Lauri Mullen

Wish sponsored by the Wish Fulfillment Fund

Lily, 9, from Schenectady

Wish Granters: Mackenzie Watroba and Thea Yurkewecz

Wish sponsored by the Kingsway Community Golf Tournament

I wish to go to Discovery Cove in Florida to swim with dolphins

Lindell, 10, from Queensbury

Wish Granters: Christopher Fain and Jennifer Kennedy

Wish sponsored by the Dominic Ferraioli Foundation

'I wish to GO'

I wish to go to The Great Wolf Lodge in Pennsylvania

CJ, 11, from Albany

Wish Granters: Cathy Scala and Shannon Cantiello

Wish sponsored by Gala 2016 Fund-A-Wish

I wish to go to Atlantis

Duncan, 15, from Lake Placid

Wish Granters: Scott Sayward and Rod Mace

Wish sponsored by the Naked Turtle Golf Tournament

Amanda, 14, from Rensselaer

Wish Granters: Michelle Arsenault and Jerry Keenan

Co-sponsored by Frank & Tamsen Poore and Joseph & Jessica Nicolla

Jaden, 12, from Troy

Wish Granters: Shaina Reardon and Sabra Venezia

Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

Jamell, 16, from Niskayuna

Wish Granters: Kate Quinn and Kimberly Stahl

I wish to go on a Shopping Spree

Kursta, 15, from Fonda

Wish Granters: Kyle Wixted and Erin Goodfellow

Wish sponsored by Professional Insurance Agents (PIA)

Brandon, 13, from Catskill

Wish Granters: Allison Smith and Anna Oleson-Wheeler

Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

I wish to go on a Wonders of the West Train Tour

Jacob, 12, from Esperance

Wish Granters: Stephanie Battisti and Lindsey Standhart

Wish sponsored by BC Flynn Company and the Hallberg Family



I wish to go to Cape Cod

Mae, 3, from Germantown

Wish Granters: Allison Smith and Kathy Ventura

Wish sponsored by Todd Maddalone

I wish to go camping and fishing with my family

Azaiah, 6, from Schenectady

Wish Granters: Jaime Ralston and Caryn Anatriello

Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

I wish to throw the first pitch at a Houston Astros game

Donald, 17, from Middleburgh

Wish Granters: Stephanie Battisti and Kelly Stang

Wish sponsored by the Tri-City ValleyCats

I wish to go to the Great Escape Lodge during Memorial Day Weekend

Jalynn, 10, from Albany

Wish Granters: Erin Oliver and Karen Paquette

Wish sponsored by Gala 2016 Fund-A-Wish

I wish to go to Australia

Marissa, 16, from Athens

Wish Granters: Allison Smith and Kathy Ventura

Wish sponsored by the M+W Tech Valley Charity Golf Tournament

I wish to go on an island beach vacation

Connor, 18, from Westport

Wish Granters: Renee Elsinger and Martin and Lori Relation

Wish sponsored the Naked Turtle Golf Tournament

I wish to go to EVIKE Airsoft Super Store

Brandon, 15, from Troy

Wish Granters: Leslie Baker and Lori Lubin

Wish sponsored by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

I wish to go to Italy on a College Study Program

Mark, 19, Wynantskill

Wish Granters: Caryn Anatriello and Eryn Foster

Wish sponsored by the Hannafin Family

I wish to go to Alaska

Aidan, 14, from Delmar

Wish Granters: Barbara Jariri and Kandy Terri

Wish co-sponsored by Kyle & Danielle Kinowski and Dennis & Kristin Baldwin

'I wish to MEET'

I wish to meet the cast of "Pretty Little Liars"

Marissa, 13, from Delmar

Wish Granters: Stuart Klein and Pamela Moore
Wish co-sponsored by Christopher & Christine Edwards, Gary & Christine Sancilio, Penelope Fleming, John & Karen Tozzi, and William & Kelly Reickert

I wish to meet and be blessed by Pope Francis

Landon, 11, from Troy

Wish Granters: Alyssa Leckonby and Kirsten Broschinsky

I wish to meet the Kidz Bop singers

Imani, 16, from Albany

Wish Granters: Caryn Anatriello and Kyle Wixted
Wish sponsored by Gala 2016 Fund-A-Wish

I wish to meet Vine Star Cameron Dallas

Alana, 12, from Albany

Wish Granters: Cathy Scala and Shannon Cantiello



'I wish to HAVE'

I wish to have a 'Man Cave'

James, 14, from Mechanicville

Wish Granters: Dena DeLude and Marlene Drobnicki
Wish co-sponsored by the Foy Fund and Sean & Michele Doolan



I wish to have a Pop-up Camper

Sophia, 3, from Schenectady

Wish Granters: Linda Tepper and Christine Patell
Wish sponsored by Albany RV

I wish to have a Teen Clubhouse

Alissa, 17, from Caroga Lake

Wish Granters: Sue and Paul Williamsen
Wish sponsored by the American Legion Post 337 Golf Tournament

I wish to have Sensory Electronics

Christian, 5, from Albany

Wish Granters: Kyle Wixted and Rachel Dymond
Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

I wish to upgrade the Theater at Double H Hole in the Woods Ranch

Kendra, 17, from Saratoga Springs

Wish Granters: Nathan Pyne and Alison Dowdy
Wish co-sponsored by Powmat Ltd. and Neil & Jane Golub

I wish to have a Backyard Treehouse

Charles, 8, from Latham

Wish Granters: Patty Vartigian and Rachael Beaudry
Wish sponsored by Delaware Engineering

I wish to have weekly music therapy sessions

Sophia, 17, from Albany

Wish Granters: Caryn Anatriello and Kyle Wixted

I wish to have a Room Makeover

Richard, 17, from Voorheesville

Wish Granters: Debbie Karius and Alison Dowdy
Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

I wish to have a Room Makeover

Heriberto, 12, from Amsterdam
Wish Granters: Megan Eglin and Karen Schultheis

Wish sponsored by the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

I wish to have a Teacup Yorkie Puppy

Illiana, 9, from Troy

Wish Granters: Cathy Scala and Jared Kingsley

I wish to have a Hot Pink Golf Car

Christin, 17, from Hudson

Wish Granters: Judi and John Melby
Wish co-sponsored by Neil & Jane Golub and Hanley Golf Cars





Halloween made special for Wish Families



More than 200 wish kids and family members attended Southwest Airlines 7th Annual Halloween Spooktacular on October 22. It was an afternoon of Halloween fun, with food, clowns, bounce houses, face painting, pumpkin decorating, crafts, treats, and a parade! The event was held at the Million Air Hangar at Albany International Airport again this year. Southwest and its staff are long-time supporters of Make-A-Wish and are known for making the flights for many of our Wish Kids even more special by announcing them as VIP passengers, having them meet the pilots, and more!

Southwest is also one of the major airlines which allow flyers to donate their airline miles through the Wishes in Flight® campaign to

support Make-A-Wish. Nationally, Make-A-Wish would need more than 2.8 billion miles, or 50,000 round-trip tickets, to cover every travel wish each year.

Every mile donated helps wish kids and their families travel to destinations around the world. Once donated, your miles will never expire and are used to support wishes across the country. This is just one simple way you can help grant a life-changing wish experience. The Wishes in Flight program accepts miles from Southwest, Delta, United, American, and JetBlue. More information is available at <http://neny.wish.org/ways-to-help/giving/airline-miles> or by calling the chapter office at (518) 456-9474.



Landon meets the Pope!

Eleven-year-old Landon LaChance of Troy has been fighting Neurofibromatosis since he was two, but his faith in God has always helped him to have a positive outlook. That faith is what inspired his unique wish – to be blessed by Pope Francis.

In early September, Landon's wish was granted. He and his family traveled to Italy, where they met the Pope and were blessed by him. The local chapter worked with Make-A-Wish Italy to arrange the papal visit, and the event was truly a "once-in-a-lifetime" event, said Landon's mom, Mary.

She said that after a general audience, the Pope came directly over to them, spoke, then held Landon's head and gave him a special blessing. The power of the moment was amazing, she said. "We had planned what we would say to him, but when he was there with us, it was so powerful, we really were speechless," she said

While that was a highlight to



remember forever, the entire trip was amazing, according to Landon and his family. During the week, they had the opportunity to tour

museums, the Coliseum, and Saint Peter's Basilica. The hotel where they stayed was only a few blocks from Vatican City, so Landon, an altar boy in his parish at home, was able to visit the Vatican nearly every day.

Landon said that meeting the pope was a dream come true, and the entire trip was a very spiritual and meaningful experience for the whole family. "It was just an amazing experience," said his dad, Jason.

Now that the family is home, and the media attention subsiding, Landon's mom said that "He's trying to be as normal as he can. He just wants to be free of the tumors and pray for a miracle." His condition causes his skin to change color and causes non-cancerous tumors to form. Landon and his family are hoping that the blessing will help to reduce the tumors. "I think he's just focusing on getting better and being normal," she said.



Landon's trip got lots of media attention.



BUILDING AWARENESS - ONE CRAFT AT A TIME

One key to making certain that wishes are granted to all eligible kids and teens in our area is to build awareness among care providers and families who might have a child that is eligible for a Make-A-Wish. Members of the Mission Delivery team get involved in meeting with physicians, nursing staff, child life specialists, and other providers across the area. From luncheon presentations to distribution of brochures and referral materials, the goal is to help make providers aware of the Make-A-Wish mission, and how they can easily make appropriate referrals.

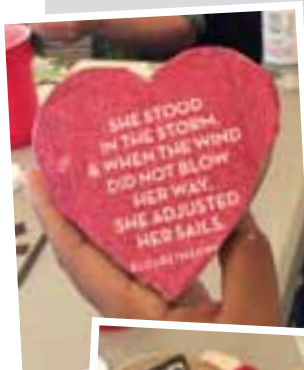
Chapter tunes to Albany's News10 ABC for new relationship, monthly 'Wishes Come True' segments

Make-A-Wish Northeast New York has established a new working relationship with News10 ABC as a broadcast media partner, including a monthly news feature on local wishes.

"This new relationship allows us to share local wish stories with the public, and really demonstrate the power of a wish," said Chapter CEO Bill Trigg. The monthly segment, called "Wishes Come True," airs on the morning news and is hosted by Ryan Peterson, co-anchor of News10 ABC in the morning.

The segment introduces a Wish Kid or Teen, and shares their story, highlighting the impact of wishes on them and their families. "It also shows the process of how a wish happens, as well as how others can get involved in the process, as volunteers or sponsors," Trigg said.

In addition to producing and airing these segments, this partnership is growing, with News10 ABC hosting advertising and promotion for the annual Adopt-A-Wish campaign, and Peterson serving as emcee for the recent Cheers for Wishes fundraiser.



The team also connects directly with prospective wish families through events such as craft sessions at the Bernard and Millie Duker Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center. These sessions offer a fun and non-threatening opportunity to introduce potential Wish Kids, and their families, to the concept of wishes.



According to Caryn Anatriello, CCLS, the chapter's Director of Mission Delivery, building awareness can be key to getting parents to consider a referral for their child. "In these situations, a family may be under considerable stress, and we don't want to add to that," she said. "Events such as craft sessions

allow us to interact and introduce Make-A-Wish in a relaxed way, and let the child and family determine when they are ready to consider a referral. It also gives us an opportunity to work closely with care providers, child life specialists, social workers and nursing staff to help identify children and teens who may be eligible for a referral," she explained.

For more information on referring a child, please visit www.neny.wish.org

Volunteers honored at special events



Perhaps more than any other charitable organization, Make-A-Wish depends upon its volunteers to deliver the core of the organization's mission: granting wishes.

Granting more than 100 wishes this past year takes a team effort, but the volunteer wish granters are the front line, said Chapter CEO Bill Trigg. Many of those key volunteers were honored at Appreciation Events held in the Capital Region and in the North Country.

Volunteers who reached significant milestones in years of service in the past year included:

FIVE YEARS: Stephanie Battisti, Linda Doyle, Erin Duval, Megan Eglin, Evelyn Grassmann, Deborah Greenbaum, Lorraine Heck, Christine Hyatt, Amy Patnaude, Tim Riley, Linda Tepper, Kandi Terry, Frank Valiante, and Thea Yurkewecz

TEN YEARS: Kristen Berdar, Karen Pelland, Allison Smith, Rozanne Summerson, William Trigg, and Paul Williamsen

15 YEARS: Sandy Lashua and Kathy Steele

20 YEARS: Geneva Conway and Sue Williamsen

25 YEARS: Margo Burnell, Pat MacMannis, and Diane Roberts

Erin Goodfellow takes chapter volunteer leadership role



Erin Goodfellow, LMSW is the new Manager of Volunteer Engagement. Erin completed her undergraduate work at University of Vermont with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work. She went on to obtain her Master's in Social Work at SUNY Albany.

Most recently Erin worked at Beacon Health as a Clinical Care Manager, providing support, service linkage and assessments for members to obtain support and meet their goals. She also worked at Center for Disability Services providing social work services directly to individuals with developmental disabilities and training staff on how to best meet the individuals' needs and abilities. Erin also was a social work facilitator at American Cancer Society's HopeClub for the

children's program. She led and trained volunteers in therapeutic support activities for children and teens whose lives were affected by cancer. She also spent many summers volunteering at Camp Special Days and Good Times, organizing camping programs for children with cancer, children who have a parent or sibling with cancer and/or children who have lost a parent or sibling to cancer as well as children with sickle cell anemia.

An avid runner, Erin resides in Troy with her rescue dog, Lola. She has participated in a number of half-marathons, and also enjoys hiking in the Adirondacks.

Erin said that she is excited with the level of commitment that she sees in the Make-A-Wish volunteers, and is excited to be part of the organization. "We have a great group of volunteers, and I look forward to working with them!" she said.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

George Sicard: always up to the challenge

Wish granter, mission supporter, event planner, mountain climber!



He'll usually introduce himself with a smile and say "I'm George from Lake George."

But he might as well change that greeting to "I'm George with Make-A-Wish."

A retired Glens Falls firefighter and EMT and a now Lake George businessman, Sicard is a long-time supporter of Make-A-Wish. He's been granting wishes since 1994, and has long been the "go-to guy" for wishes in the area, said Bill Trigg, chapter CEO.

"If there's an issue in getting a wish done, or in finding the right person to help with an event, the solution is generally a call to George," he said. "George seems to know everyone, and his enthusiasm is contagious."

A big strong guy, George isn't afraid to get his hands dirty if it helps make a wish happen. And he's certainly happy to get his many friends involved as well. "I just happen to know lots of great people who are willing to help support a good cause," he said.

He's involved those friends in lots of ways, from the bikers at Wack's Ride for Wishes to those who support special events around the Lake George area, to donors at a small luncheon fund-raiser at a local restaurant. In fact, though he claims that he would "rather go into a burning building than talk in front of a crowd," he's often been the emcee for events that have raised thousands for Make-A-Wish.

He said that seeing the impact wishes have on kids and families

makes it all worthwhile. "It's all about the kids," he said, with a broad smile under that trademark mustache.

That mustache, like everything about George, leads to a story. His commitment to supporting wishes extended to his shaving that mustache (after 37 years) but only because friends raised \$11,000 for Make-

A-Wish. He said "I was totally humbled that people would step up for the kids like that. It was just unbelievable."

For George, who has a degree from SUNY Potsdam and has built several boat-related

fund-raising are key, but George has had some unusual ways to support local wishes, some of which have taken him far from Northeast New York.

Back in 2000, George was part of a local group which climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa at more than 19,000 feet. Two years later, he was on an expedition to climb Argentina's Mount Aconcagua, the highest mountain in the western hemisphere at over 22,000 feet, when a blizzard stopped them just short of the summit.

Those climbs raised over \$10,000 for Make-A-Wish, and newspapers at the time showed a photo of him at the peak of Kilimanjaro wearing his Make-A-Wish sweatshirt!

George has been involved with a number of other community charities and projects, as well as active in two groups that help the residents of an underserved area of Guatemala. The Glens Falls Medical Mission helps provide basic medical services, while LaMancha, Inc. helped rebuild an orphanage and three one-room schools in that country.

Not without his own challenges, including a bout with bacterial meningitis in 2011, George readily admits "I'm lucky to be here." But never one to step back from a challenge, he continues to be active in Make-A-Wish and other charitable and community pursuits.

He recently spoke to a class at Schuylerville High School about some of his experiences. He told students that "inside each of you is a special talent," but that "no one is going to find it for you... It's up to you to find how you can make a difference."

Just as he continues to do.

...seeing
the power of a wish,
and "how people
step up to get
involved" is
amazing.



businesses on the lake, there's always time to help out on a wish, manage some details for an event, or make a connection that will help make a wish happen or a fundraiser a success.

Just as he knows his way around the lake, he knows how to navigate a wish. "They're all different, and they're all special," he said. Not all wishes come together easily, he said, adding that details can sometimes be a challenge. But seeing the power of a wish, and "how people step up to get involved" is amazing, he added.

Granting wishes and helping with

18th Annual Kristy Pollak Christmas Lights a shining tradition

The Kristy Pollak Memorial Christmas Lights is back for its 18th holiday season in Amsterdam with opening ceremonies on Dec. 2. Events include the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus on a fire truck, the holiday train, and even horseback rides.

Donations will be accepted in lieu of an admissions fee to benefit Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, and help fulfill wishes for local children with life-threatening medical conditions from Fulton and Montgomery Counties. The drive-thru display, located on Lyons Street, will be lit from 5-10 pm each evening through Jan. 1.

The dazzling displays consists of well over 200,000 lights, computerized configurations, and 70 displays, including a 25-foot LED tree with a simulated train around it, and a 35 foot electronic Christmas tree that broadcasts holiday music through vehicle radios to get everyone in a festive mood.

"We appreciate the efforts of Dave Falso and his team who work on this project almost year-round. Their support, and that of visitors who contribute, help make wishes come true for seriously ill local children," said Chapter CEO Bill Trigg.



Subaru's Share the Love® campaign to again benefit Make-A-Wish!

Subaru of America is in its ninth year of the Share the Love Event. From mid-November, 2016 to January 3, 2017, Subaru donates \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle sold or leased to one of four national charities that the customer gets to choose from. The choices are Make-A-Wish, ASPCA, Meals on Wheels America, and the National Park Foundation.

Last year, Subaru donated over \$3 million to Make-A-Wish, which was the highest donation received by the participating charities. Since the partnership between Make-A-Wish and Subaru began in 2011, over 1,200 wishes have been granted nationwide with sponsorship from this campaign.

At a local level, Make-A-Wish Northeast NY has partnered with the Subaru dealerships in the area: Capitaland Subaru in Glenville, New Country Subaru in Saratoga Springs, Bill McBride Subaru in Plattsburgh, Lacy Subaru in Catskill, Carbone Subaru in Troy, North Country Subaru in Queensbury, and Goldstein Subaru in Colonie. These dealerships help to support Make-A-Wish, and have even helped out with some vehicle-related wishes.

This year, there is no cap on the possible donation amount from Subaru. The company hopes to reach a grand total of \$90 million donated to all charities after this year's event.

There's an added element this year as well; one which will be heard loud and clear. Subaru is releasing its own version of the song "Put a Little Love in Your Heart" sung by representatives of the four participating charities. Available on iTunes and Google Music, all of the proceeds from this song will be divided evenly and donated to the charities.

Where does “wishing” happen?

At the start of their Make-A-Wish journey, each child and their family meets with a team of volunteer Wish Granters. The purpose of this initial visit is to get to know each other but also to discover and discuss what the child’s heartfelt wish might be.

This first meeting may take place at the family’s home, which may sometimes be a burden on the family to host, on top of having a very sick child, often other kids, plus jobs and other obligations. Imagine then preparing for a meeting with people you’ve not met, while dealing with all the other daily challenges. Or perhaps the family suggests they meet elsewhere such as a local restaurant, which may be noisy, distracting, and not a great setting for an important discussion. Or perhaps the meeting will be at the Make-A-Wish office, whose white walls and corporate look can remind the child of countless doctors’ office visits.

The Wishing Space is a project designed to address these concerns and add the “magic” for which a Make-A-Wish journey is known to the very start of the experience. Thanks to a very generous donation from Northwestern Mutual and Alex Tronco, the creation of our Wishing Space within the Make-A-Wish offices will become

a reality! Planning is underway to create a bright, inspiring, magical space where a Wish Kid can determine his or her heartfelt wish. This creative space will also be used to celebrate wishes and bring the community in to witness more wish magic.

We are grateful to the Tronco Group for launching this initiative and look forward to hearing from others who want to support the creation of this magical space. If you’d like additional information on this creative project which will help Wish Kids for years to come, contact Margot Anderson, Director of Philanthropy at manderson@neny.wish.org or (518) 456-9474.



A life insurance policy can be transformational — perhaps more than you ever imagined

Do you ever think that you’ll never be able to make a large and transformational gift to your favorite charity? Think again.

Many of us lead busy lives building a career, caring for family, helping our church and community, keeping ourselves healthy. At the end of the day in today’s economy, thinking that you could leave an amazing gift to Make-A-Wish Northeast New York may seem impossible. However, it’s really quite possible!

Maybe you’ve been one of our amazing volunteers. Or someone close to you has personally experienced the power of a wish. Or you’ve seen your community rally around a magical wish experience. One or all of these experiences may have you feeling that you’d like to

support Make-A-Wish Northeast New York in a significant way.

Life insurance is an important part of any adult’s financial plan. It can also be an important part of a charitable giving plan; a creative tool with which to leave a lasting legacy.

There are several circumstances in which Make-A-Wish supporters donate life insurance policies they no longer need. A person may have purchased a policy for business reasons and when the business is sold, the policy is no longer needed. Rather than create a tax event on its surrender value by just cancelling the policy, the policy can be donated to Make-A-Wish Northeast New York. The proceeds may be unrestricted or the donor may restrict that the proceeds be used for something specific at Make-A-Wish.

Purchasing a new or additional policy is another creative, efficient way to make a potentially transformational gift to Make-A-Wish Northeast New York. The donor establishes the policy and funds it each month by writing a check to the chapter, which then pays the premium. This allows the donor to receive the annual tax deduction in addition to creating this legacy tool. When the donor passes, Make-A-Wish Northeast New York receives the face value of the policy.

You can also simply name Make-A-Wish Northeast New York as the ultimate beneficiary of existing life insurance policies which you no longer need. If you would like more detailed information contact Margot Anderson, Director of Philanthropy at manderson@neny.wish.org or (518) 456-9474.

Celebration of **HOPE, STRENGTH, AND JOY**

On August 23, nearly 40 individuals and organizations were honored at the 7th Celebration of Hope, Strength and Joy at CommerceHub in Albany.

This event was an opportunity to celebrate both the mission of Make-A-Wish and the amazing people who help to make that mission a reality. The Societies of Hope, Strength, and Joy are comprised of members whose cumulative support ranges between \$10,000 and \$450,000 per donor or event. More than 200 donors are currently represented in the societies from across the region.

The group, including the evening's honorees and the Board of Trustees, received an update from members of the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York chapter on various projects. Wish Kids and Teens were also in attendance to share the stories of their wish experiences and thank the donors for their support.

Donors were inducted into the Society of Joy, recognizing those donors whose cumulative contributions to the chapter total between \$10,000 and \$25,000. Next honored were those inductees whose cumulative contributions to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeast New York total between \$25,000 and \$100,000, bringing them into the Society of Hope. Finally, those whose cumulative contributions exceed \$100,000 were inducted into the Society of Strength.





Helping wishes happen – one cup at a time

For Demi and her family, Make-A-Wish holds a very special place in their hearts. Demi, the family's youngest daughter at the age of six, last year was granted a wish to Disney World. While Demi was facing a life-threatening illness, her wish gave her hope, motivation, and energy to get through the long days of doctor visits and hospital trips.

Before her wish was even granted, Demi's family, the Suttons, and their friends, the Zaluckys, have been raising money by hosting a lemonade stand for the past three years on their quiet backroad in Wynantskill. All of the money raised went to Make-A-Wish Northeast New York and helped to grant wishes for a child or teen with a life-threatening medical condition.

This year, the Zalucky's youngest, Louis, proposed having a bottle and can drive as well, and the outpouring of community support was amazing. Thousands of bottles and cans were donated even before the event, and hundreds of cups of lemonade were purchased at the stand. As word spread, News10 ABC couldn't pass up the opportunity to visit Demi and the families. "Filling cup after cup, people couldn't say no to her pitch for an ice cold beverage on a 90 degree day. She poured her heart into a cause she's passionate about," reported News10's Trishna Begam.

The lemonade stand, combined with the bottles and cans, helped raise more than \$1,100. This year, the group decided to donate the money to Make-A-Wish through the Bobby Arsenault Endowment Fund. That fund, named after another former local Wish Child, is designed to help provide an ongoing source of revenue to grant wishes each year, forever.

CapCom grants a second wish this year!

For the second consecutive year, CapCom Federal Credit Union has raised over \$10,000 to grant the heartfelt wish of a local child. Their annual charitable Big Benefit Raffle impacts our community in a variety of ways, now including granting a wish! Last year, Avery's wish was to meet the Disney Princesses and after her wish was granted, she visited CapCom to share her story and to help pull the winning raffle ticket.

"This trip gave us something to look forward to after two and a half years of cancer treatments. It was a dream come true," said Avery's mother Erika.

"When we help make these



wishes come true it instills hope and reinforces family bonds so that they are stronger for the journey ahead," said CAP COM President/CEO Paula A. Stopera, chairperson of the Foundation board.

We can't wait to see which wish this year's effort will support. Thanks, CapCom!



PLEASE REMEMBER

to include Make-A-Wish Northeast New York in your estate plans.



Sample bequest language:

"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.

* Make-A-Wish encourages donors to consult with their legal and tax advisors before making a charitable gift.

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

M+W Tech Valley Charity Golf Tournament	\$50,000
Wack's Ride	\$49,644
Kingsway Community Golf Tournament	\$38,175
Jaeger & Flynn Grip It N' Rip It Charity Golf Tournament	\$25,587
Wish Jump	\$25,118
State Police - Livingston Golf Tournament	\$20,600
Bobbie Arsenault Memorial Family Fun Day/Endowment	\$18,714
Naked Turtle Golf Tournament	\$15,200
Robert Lee Walsh Post 337 Golf Tournament	\$11,000
Sarah McKinney's Party with a Purpose	\$3,305
Tonto Invitational Golf Tournament	\$3,200
Loyal Order of the Moose #457 - Poker Run Fundraiser	\$1,000
Styx and the Franklin County Fair	\$907
Ryan's Fishing Tournament	\$690
Pepsi Bottling Company - Latham	\$404



SUNY Albany's entrepreneur class raised funds for wishes.



Steven Hummel raised funds at the Selkirk Fireman's Fair.

KIDS FOR WISH KIDS® and WISHMAKERS ON CAMPUS EVENTS



Kacey Sisco's Paint it Purple Fundraiser	\$5,000.00
Mechanicville School District Fundraiser in honor of Dorian Murray	\$2,480.00
Demi Sutton's Lemonade Stand for the Bobbie Arsenault Memorial Fund	\$1,667.00
Cheshta Prasad's Arangetram	\$1,434.00
College of Saint Rose Student Athlete Advisory Committee	\$1,050.00
In Honor of Casey Wollf's 10th Birthday	\$1,000.00
Saint Pius X School's Basketball Foul Shooting Contest	\$809.74
Tecler School's Pie the Teacher Fundraiser	\$614.00
Steven Hummel's Fundraiser at the Selkirk Fireman's Fair	\$355.95
West Sand Lake Elementary K-Kids Service Club for the Bobbie Arsenault Memorial Fund	\$200.00
Ryan and Matthew Jackson's Birthday	\$113.03
Bethlehem Central Middle School - Mohawk 8 Team	\$100.00
SUNY Albany's BGMT 400 Class Project	\$70.00
Northern Adirondack Central Elementary School's Builders Club	\$61.25

Styx performed at the Franklin County Fair and donated to Make-A-Wish Northeast New York.



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Wish Jump 2016 – commitment takes flight

On July 30, nearly 30 volunteers and supporters took a big step – right out the door of an airplane at 13,500 feet. That feat of courage wasn't just for the thrill of it, but also to support Make-A-Wish Northeast New York.

The sixth annual Wish Jump event took place at Skydive the Ranch, and the participants raised funds through personal and online donations, and even special fundraisers to help support the wishes of local children with life threatening medical conditions. The participants, including many first-time jumpers, included wish teens and parents, volunteer wish granters, chapter staff, and other supporters.

This unique fundraiser was started by Mary Kenney, a volunteer wish granter, in 2011. The idea behind it was to create a fundraiser that provided an adrenaline rush that you couldn't get from your typical bake sale fundraiser. Since its inception, the event has raised over \$170,000, including nearly \$30,000 this year.



As a volunteer wish granter myself, I have seen first-hand the power of a wish," said event organizer Mary Kenney. "I want donors to know that the wishes they make possible are truly healing and life-changing for our wish kids. The impact is real – I can't stress this enough.