

N E W S R E L E A S E

Make-A-Wish® Eastern North Carolina Finds Creative Way to Grant Jones County Child's Wish for Backyard Playset

*2 ½-year-old girl to receive a wish with surprises including a driving parade of supporters;
parade begins at 4:00pm, on Tuesday, July 7, 2020.*

RALEIGH, N.C. (July 7, 2020) – 2 ½-year-old Layah from Jones County, who has cancer, wished to have a backyard playset. Her wish will be revealed, thanks to generous support from Raleigh-based business **Backyard Playground**, on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 beginning at 4:00pm. Layah's wish celebration has a different look due to the gathering restrictions from COVID-19. Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina and a community of volunteers and supporters will join for a driving parade to help celebrate with Layah and her family. The Jones County Sheriff's Department has assisted coordinating participation from police officers and the fire department along with local Make-A-Wish supporters. Several surprises for Layah and her family are planned as well. ***This event will maintain safe social distancing. All media are invited to attend the wish delivery celebration.***

This event is part of the national Make-A-Wish "Messages of Hope" campaign, focused on sharing encouragement and support with wish kids waiting during the COVID-19 restrictions. "Messages of Hope" gives supporters and the general public alike a fun, easy way to support children with critical illnesses by writing, recording, or photographing themselves delivering messages of encouragement. Through this, Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina aims to build support for the wishes currently on hold due to COVID-19 because wishes can improve a child's quality of life and produce better health outcomes. More than ever before, wishes need the support of community to grant the wish of every eligible child. Learn more about Messages of Hope and ways to support: <https://eastnc.wish.org/content/coronavirus>

WHAT: Layah's Wish Reveal

WHERE: **PARADE DESTINATION LOCATION:** 106 Buckskin Drive, Pollocksville, NC 28573

WHEN: Tuesday, July 7, 2020; Parade will begin at 4:00pm;

Media interested in covering Layah's Wish Reveal should contact Jackie Jordan at (919) 635-8691 (o), (910) 297-3246 (c) or via email at jjordan@eastnc.wish.org

Contact:

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Make-A-Wish® Eastern North Carolina creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illness. We serve all medically eligible children who reside in the 49 counties east of the Orange / Alamance county line. Our chapter operates solely through generous donations of individuals, corporations and foundations. With the help of more than 350 volunteers, including our Board of Directors, Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina has granted more than 3,800 wishes since its inception. More information is available on our chapter website at eastnc.wish.org. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).