

WISHES

Make-A-Wish®
NEBRASKA

Official Newsletter of Make-A-Wish® Nebraska

Spring 2019



*I wish to meet
the Denver Broncos*
Raef, 16
cancer

Letter from the President

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Dear Friends -

Facing and fighting a critical illness is scary for anyone. The pain, the invasive treatments, the uncertainty - it can be overwhelming and scary. For a child, those fears are often multiplied.

That's where a wish comes in.

Currently we have our highest number of kids in Nebraska waiting for wishes - over 160 children! We continue to work tirelessly to reach our goal of granting the wish of every eligible child.

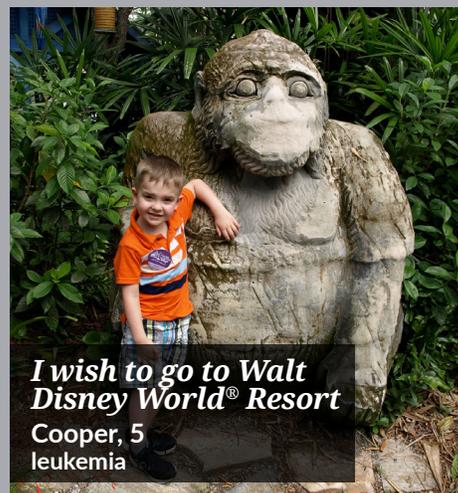
Inside this newsletter you will read the stories of three wish kids, and you'll learn how their wish gave them the strength to keep fighting and memories that will live with them forever.

As long as the need exists, Make-A-Wish® Nebraska will be there to fulfill the wishes of children in Nebraska living with a critical illness. Our promise to you is that we will grant those wishes with integrity, magic, responsible fiscal stewardship, and plenty of hope, strength, and joy.

Thank you so much for your support!



Brigette Young
President/CEO

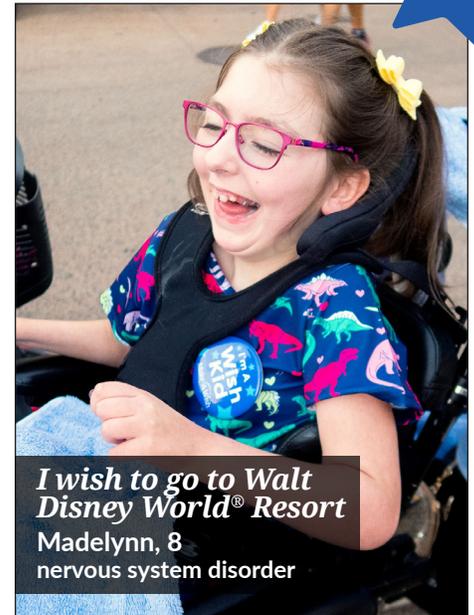
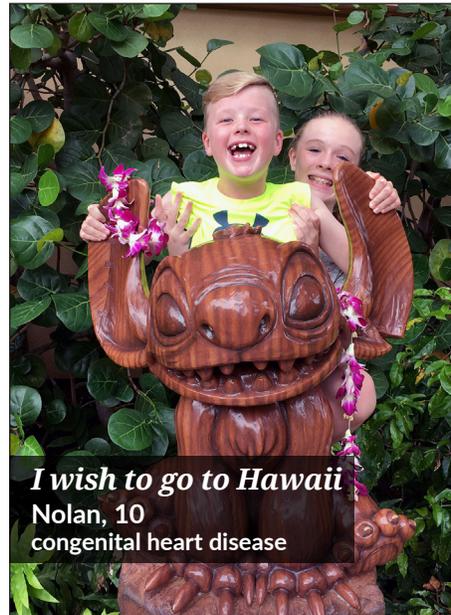


Transform lives...one wish at a time

2019 FISCAL YEAR Wishes Granted Since September 1

Daphne, 11	nervous system disorder	Service dog	Reece, 10	heart defect	Walt Disney World® Resort
Lucas, 8	leukemia	Walt Disney World® Resort	Zoe, 8	brain tumor	Walt Disney World® Resort
Gwenevere, 9	leukemia	Outer Banks of North Carolina	Kalib, 10	septal defect	Walt Disney World® Resort
Perla, 14	cancer	To meet J Belvin	Chloe, 16	gastrointestinal disorder	To go to Dollywood
Connor, 11	genetic disorder	Disneyland® Resorts	Noah, 3	nervous system disorder	Sensory items
Yamana, 10	nervous system disorder	Walt Disney World® Resort	Jackson, 4	pulmonary atrisia	Walt Disney World® Resort
Hayes, 5	genetic disorder	Clearwater Florida	Gunnar, 5	cystic fibrosis	Walt Disney World® Resort
Damon, 14	respiratory failure	Walt Disney World® Resort	Ryker, 6	genetic disorder	Walt Disney World® Resort
Gianna, 4	cancer	Walt Disney World® Resort	Wyatt, 12	lung disorder	To meet the Pittsburgh Penguins
Alejandro, 3	cancer	Walt Disney World® Resort	Alex, 14	cystic fibrosis	Atlantis
Madelynn, 8	nervous system disorder	Walt Disney World® Resort	Ingrid, 4	heart transplant	Trip to an all-inclusive resort
Cooper, 5	leukemia	Walt Disney World® Resort	Briony, 9	cancer	Walt Disney World® Resort
Chaniya, 14	cancer	Shopping spree	Maddie, 10	cystic fibrosis	Walt Disney World® Resort
Raef, 16	cancer	To meet the Denver Broncos	Kamarria, 16	leukemia	Bahamas
Zayanna, 7	gastrointestinal disorder	Walt Disney World® Resort	Anthony, 18	rare disease	Walt Disney World® Resort
Hunter, 15	nervous system disorder	Walt Disney World® Resort	David, 16	cancer	To meet the cast of Supernatural

Did You Know? There are over 160 kids in Nebraska waiting for their wish to be granted?
Find out how you can help at nebraska.wish.org



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

Are You Ready for Some Football?



I wish to meet the Denver Broncos

Raef, 16
cancer

July 10, 2017 is a day that Raef Stolp will remember for the rest of his life. He was only 14 and it was the day he was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma. Ewing Sarcoma is an extremely rare cancerous tumor that grows in the bones and on the tissue around the bones, often found in the legs, pelvis, ribs, or spine.

Growing up, Raef was a healthy child who would occasionally catch a common cold or flu bug. But this was different - and concerning. The news hit Raef hard - what he feared most was not knowing where this scary and uncertain path would take him.

He then spent time with his family and began processing the news. His

thoughts quickly turned to, "Let's do this. What do I have to do to beat this?" Raef chose to focus on positivity through this dark time, hoping that would give him the strength he needed to fight this battle.

Most of all, Raef wanted to be back with his friends, running around outside and playing sports. Instead, his illness forced him to stay inside, fighting for his life.

Raef bravely battled his condition through chemotherapy, radiation, and blood and platelet transfusions. He was on 6 different types of nausea medications that made him tired and significantly decreased his

appetite. Although, whenever he would leave the hospital, Raef always seemed to be able to make room for some Raising Cane's, one of his favorite restaurants!

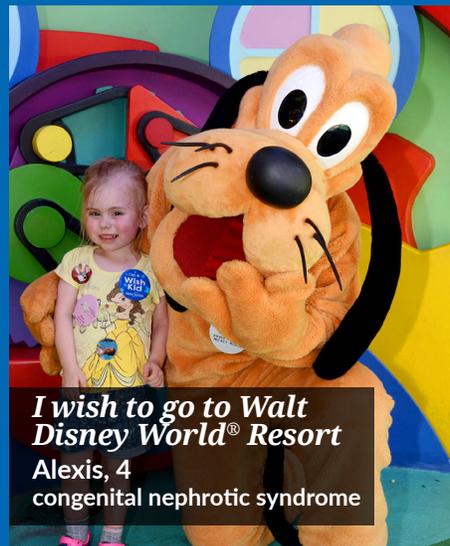
Going through treatments was not only difficult for Raef, but it took its toll on his family as well. While it was a stressful and scary time for everyone involved, they all knew they were doing everything they could to make sure Raef was on the path to recovery.

When Raef first learned he would have a wish granted, only one thing came to mind - he wanted to meet the Denver Broncos. He has been a loyal fan since childhood. After



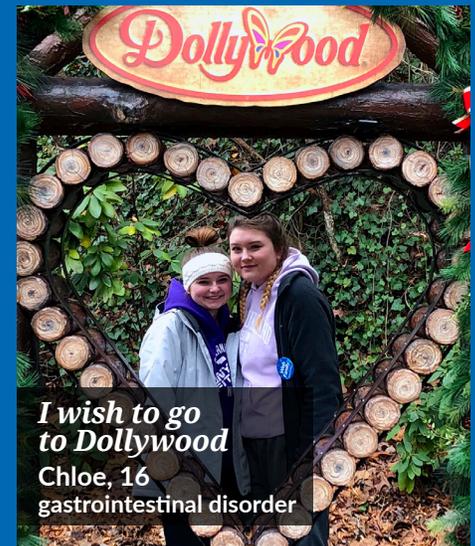
I wish to go to Walt Disney World® Resort

Briony, 9
cancer



I wish to go to Walt Disney World® Resort

Alexis, 4
congenital nephrotic syndrome



I wish to go to Dollywood

Chloe, 16
gastrointestinal disorder

talking with the wish-granters, they agreed to wait until the 2018 season to go. He would be finished with his treatment and would be able to truly enjoy his wish trip. And it would give him something positive to look forward to as he finished his medical treatment.

Raef's dream became a reality as he and his family took off for Colorado to meet the Denver

Broncos. The first stop was a VIP tour of the practice facility while the team was practicing, including his favorite players Von Miller and Phillip Lindsay.

Soon, all the players stopped what they were doing to come visit with Raef and his brother, sign their custom-made Broncos' jerseys and take pictures together. One of Raef's fondest memories was when wide receiver Tim Patrick gave him the pair of gloves he wore when he caught his first NFL touchdown. Raef left in utter shock and disbelief that he was there – they made him feel truly special and important.

The next day, the family loaded up and headed to Raef's first Broncos' game at Mile High Stadium where they took on the Houston Texans.

The game was quite the nail-biter and unfortunately the Broncos came up just a few points short as the Texans won 19-17. Regardless of the score, it was a win for Raef and his family. This

wish gave them so much more than they could have imagined – including memories that will stay with them forever.

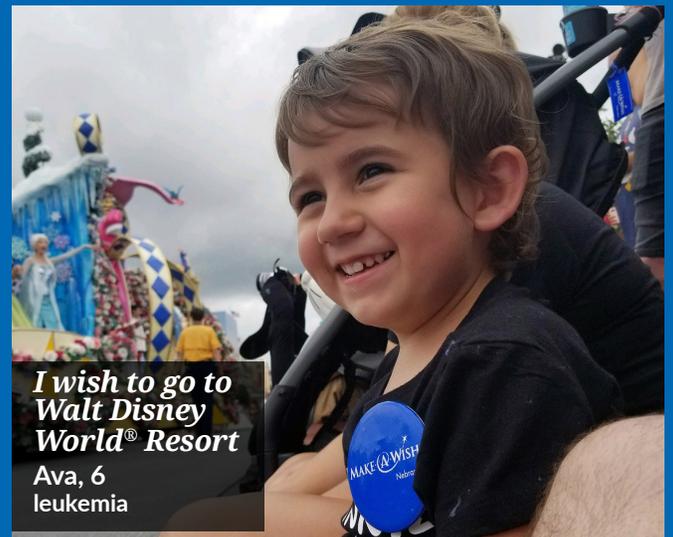
Our wish kids are the strongest fighters we know. Each wish kid is faced with different challenges and daily obstacles – yet they rise to fight against the odds. Granting wishes is an incredible way we can leave an impact on their lives – and the lives of their families.

Please join Raef and his family as they share more about Raef's wish at the 2019 Blue Jean Ball: Lights, Camera, Wishes! Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Hilton Downtown Omaha. Visit nebraska.wish.org for tickets.

When Raef first learned he would have a wish granted, only one thing came to mind – he wanted to meet the Denver Broncos.



I wish to meet the Pittsburgh Penguins
Wyatt, 12
lung disorder



I wish to go to Walt Disney World® Resort
Ava, 6
leukemia



*I wish to have a
Basement Theater Room*
Sutton, 5
neuromuscular disorder

Imagine it's a Friday evening and you gather your family, heading to dinner and a movie. Do you have to stop and think whether the theater is going to have power outlets for your BiPAP ventilator available?

For 5-year-old Sutton, going to the movies with her family is one of her favorite things to do - but can prove difficult. Sutton was diagnosed with a neuromuscular disorder, a disorder

Sutton's Wish

that has placed this young girl in a wheelchair.

When deciding on her wish, she knew exactly what she wanted. Sutton asked to have a movie theater room in her basement - a place where she could feel safe and watch all her favorite movies with her friends and family.

It was hard for Sutton not to go downstairs while the Make-A-Wish volunteers were working on the basement. She was beyond excited to see the completed project. When the time came for the big reveal, she was so surprised and loved the unique touches done with the room, including stars on the ceiling.

Sutton's wish to have a basement theater room has made her feel healthier and happier than ever before.

She has been able to have friends and family over to enjoy her special room.

The beauty inside our wish children are their imaginations and the ideas they have for their wishes. Something like going to the movies most people take for granted. For one wish child, having a home movie theater brings her immeasurable joy on a daily basis.



Cale's Wish

It's a bass. It's a trout.
NO, it's a **SHARK!!**

It was on the first day of his wish fishing in the ocean, that 11-year-old Cale was struggling to reel in his catch.

He never imagined that at the end of his fishing line would appear his biggest and craziest catch ever - a shark.

The shark put up quite the fight, at times feeling like it might actually pull Cale into the ocean. When he leaned back to reel the fish in, the shark would fiercely keep pulling back. With all his strength, Cale was finally able to pull the shark out of the water.



*I wish to go deep sea
fishing in the Florida Keys*
Cale, 11
rare disease

With a big smile and a sigh of relief, he quickly touched the shark before deciding it was best to throw him back in the water. Cale's family was relieved he didn't want to keep the shark as a souvenir!

Cale was diagnosed with LCH, a rare cancer that forced him into chemotherapy treatments and a surgery on his skull that would keep him out of the water - a place that Cale enjoyed spending most of his time.

While in treatment, he learned he wouldn't be able to get back into the water the way he had before. He spent a lot of time learning about fishing, a sport he was passionate about, and was destined to become an expert.

When Cale met with his wish granters, he knew immediately that he wanted to go deep sea fishing in the ocean. This was something he had never seen or done before. His wish would be full of firsts: first airplane ride, first time seeing and fishing in the ocean, first time the family was able to enjoy spending

time together without worrying 'what's next?' with his treatment plan.

Going deep sea fishing in the ocean truly made Cale's wish come true. He felt so special, as no detail was left unplanned. Cale fondly recalls the wish trip, often sharing the story with his friends and family.



Cale's wish was an experience like no other - and making our wish kids feel their wishes and dreams are within reach is what we strive to do every day. We want all our wish children to feel the way Cale felt when he pulled that shark out of the water - **Pure joy!**

25TH

FREIGHTLINER

TRUCK CENTER COMPANIES

Make-A-Wish[®]
NEBRASKA

Truck Center Companies 25th Annual Make-A-Wish Fundraiser

In 1994, Truck Center Companies decided they needed to focus their charitable efforts on a single cause. There were so many good options to choose from and many that Truck Center Companies had participated in before. So, the decision was left up to the employees to decide on who they wanted to support ... and Make-A-Wish[®] Nebraska was selected.

Truck Center Companies felt as though a golf tournament was an event that could really make a large impact for Make-A-Wish. There were not many companies within the industry who were putting on golf tournaments, so they felt this was an event they could capitalize on.

Fast forward 25 years, and Truck Center Companies has become the largest single donor for Make-A-Wish Nebraska, raising over \$2.6 million and granting more than 380 wishes for Nebraska children. Their support has been

transformational for Make-A-Wish Nebraska. Truck Center Companies has helped grant almost 14% of all the wishes granted in Nebraska since our inception in 1983.

"This partnership has been wonderful," Truck Center Companies CEO Trey Mytty said. "We get to see firsthand the positive impact Make-A-Wish has on children and their families. Our employees, customers, and vendors all take pride in the funds we together have raised to grant life-changing wishes."

"Over the last 25 years we've been able to meet many wish kids. We have seen relatives, friends, and employees' children become recipients of wishes. We've seen wish children grow into fine young men and women. All the wish kids are special and really stand out. The smiles and the stories are priceless. Truck Center Companies is proud to partner with Make-A-Wish Nebraska."

They are not slowing down either - Truck Center Companies has set a goal to raise \$400,000 for Make-A-Wish Nebraska this year, bringing their total to \$3 million raised for wishes in 25 years. In honor of the 25th year they have a special 2-day event planned. In addition to their traditional golf tournament that will be held June 7, they will be hosting a concert kick-off event on

Thursday, June 6, featuring Nashville recording artist Craig Morgan. The concert is open to the public and will be held at the Truck Center Companies facilities in Omaha. To purchase concert tickets, please go to the Make-A-Wish Nebraska website for details.

"Thank you" seems inadequate to truly express our gratitude and appreciation for Truck Center Companies. They are truly the light behind our mission and vision of granting the wish of every eligible child.



This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of our wish kids who have passed away since our last publication

Dylan, 10
nervous system disorder
I wish to have a pink princess castle playhouse
(Wish Year 2014)

Teynor, 22,
brain tumor
I wish to go to Walt Disney World[®] Resort
(Wish Year 2001)

Paysen, 7,
congenital heart disease
I wish to have a playstructure with special swings
(Wish Year 2017)

Michelle, 11,
cancer
I wish to go on a Disney Cruise Line[®]
(Wish Year 2017)

Jordan, 20
cancer
passed away before wish
(Wish Year 2019)

Brittany, 17,
nervous system disorder
passed away before wish
(Wish Year 2018)

Trevor, 16,
leukemia
passed away before wish
(Wish Year 2018)

Khole, 5,
leukemia
I wish to go to Walt Disney World[®] Resorts
(Wish Year 2017)



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If you know someone who would like to receive our mailings, or if you wish to be removed from our mailing list please contact our office by email info@nebraska.wish.org or call 800-760-9474.

To refer a child:

Visit www.nebraska.wish.org
Call 800-760-WISH (9474)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blue Jean Ball

Saturday, April 27, 2019
Hilton Downtown - Omaha

Norfolk Golf Tournament

Monday, May 13, 2019
Norfolk Country Club

Omaha YLC Wine, Whiskey, & Wishes

Thursday, May 16, 2019
Champions Run - Omaha

Truck Center Companies Golf Tournament & Concert

June 6 & 7, 2019 | Omaha

Perry's Place Golf Tournament

Saturday, July 6, 2019
Tara Hills Golf Course - Omaha

Kearney Dinner & Auction

Thursday, August 15, 2019
Younes Conference Center - Kearney

Lincoln YLC

Thursday, September 12, 2019
Hudl - Lincoln

Visit nebraska.wish.org to learn more

Make-A-Wish
NEBRASKA

*** BLUE JEAN BALL ***

LIGHTS
CAMERA
WISHES

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

PRESENTED BY
LINDSAY
CORPORATION