

Wishing

Fall 2017

Finding Strength through Smiles

Just like most other three-year-olds, Lia loves to play outside on her swing set. But for Lia, this is more than just some backyard fun – it is a symbol of her growing strength.

Lia is diagnosed with a neurodegenerative disorder called BPAN, which stands for beta-propeller protein-associated neurodegeneration.

"She was diagnosed with a genetic test last November," Lia's mom said. "This is a newly diagnosed disorder. [Doctors] didn't find out what it was until 2012." To help her cope with the effects of the disorder, a physical therapist, occupational therapist and speech therapist visit Lia every week.

"It was her speech therapist at the hospital who asked if she could refer Lia to Make-A-Wish®," Lia's mom said. "At that point, I didn't know who exactly Make-A-Wish was for." It was a pleasant surprise when Lia's parents found out that she was eligible.

When it came to deciding what Lia's wish would be, her parents knew that it had to be something unique to her. Although Lia is walking and doing well now, her strength will diminish with age. "Because of her physical abilities, I wanted something that would help her in the long term," Lia's mom said. "If we can keep her as strong as we can over the years, the better off she will be."

That is when they decided on a play set wish – something that Lia could enjoy every day, helping her develop her strength and improve her motor skills.

When watching her child's wish come true, Lia's mom said, "I felt really blessed that we were given this opportunity. This was something that we would not have otherwise gotten for her. So if it weren't for Make-A-Wish, she wouldn't have her play set."

Since receiving her play set, Lia's motor skills have improved, too. "I got the play set with a ramp, which is easier than a ladder," Lia's mom said. "She struggled with it at first, but now she can get up the ramp all by herself."

Each day Lia's parents see the progress in her strength and the smile on her face, they are reminded of the true power of a wish.



Lia, 2 ½, genetic disorder Referrer: Kristi Florio Volunteers: Kay Light and Debra Lucas







Connor, 18
gastrointestinal disorder
Referrer: Jill Weigler
Volunteers: Donna and
George Coulston



Connor looks to the Stars

"I saw those dimples more in one day than in an entire year."

-Connor's Mom

When 18-year-old Connor talks about his dreams, it is clear that he is shooting for the stars. "I've always loved space," Connor said. "I want to be an astrophysicist and work for NASA."

But for Connor, this dream didn't always seem attainable. At birth, Connor was diagnosed with a severe gastrointestinal disorder, and more recently, he battled complications that put him in critical care.

But when Connor was referred to Make-A-Wish®, he was able to turn his focus towards something more positive.

This change of thought is something many wish kids experience. According to a recent study published in Quality

of Life Research, "...fantasizing about wish fulfillment may help replace negative automatic thoughts by positive ones that have been shown to be important when coping with life-threatening illness" (Shoshani 2015).

Thanks to Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia, Connor got to do the next best thing to traveling into the stars – he took a trip to NASA to learn all about what goes on behind the scenes of space travel. While there, he got an exclusive tour of the facility, met real life astrophysicists and astronauts, and even got to go into a mockup of the international space station.

"Make-A-Wish helped me see what the people at NASA do on a day-to-day basis," Connor said. "It means quite a bit because I got to do things that no one else will probably get to do, and I met a lot of amazing people."

Want to help other children reach for the stars?

When you refer a child, the possibilities are endless!

Your referral can help other kids, just like Connor, experience the power of a wish. If you know a child between the ages of 2½ and 18 living with a critical illness, call us at **800.676.9474** or visit our website at **greaterpawv.wish.org/refer-a-child**.





On April 26, 2017, wish families, locals of the Erie community and Make-A-Wish partners experienced the power of a wish firsthand when LaVar and his mother arrived at Waffles and Wishes. Pictured above are LaVar and his mom, Tonya, with the event's presenting sponsor, Nick Scott, Jr. of Scott Enterprises.

Thirteen-year-old LaVar, who is diagnosed with an uncontrolled seizure disorder, had no idea that his wish to meet his favorite YouTube star, Casey Cooper, was about to come true. After the event, LaVar and his family were whisked away to Nashville, TN, ready to meet LaVar's idol.

Last year, this event raised more than \$30,000 towards granting wishes to local children living with critical illnesses. (Check out page 5 to see more on LaVar's wish.)



On July 8, 2017, 12-year-old wish kid Khallel set up shop with a lemonade stand at the Trident Tattoo Company's parking lot in Dover, PA. Along with Khallel selling his refreshing lemonade, Fox Beverage, Inc., donated ice and \$100 to Khallel's stand. In addition, Trident Tattoo Company donated 10% of all sales that day to Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Thanks to Khallel's hard work and efforts his stand raised a grand total of \$1,041.

To see more event photos, check out our event photo gallery on our website.

LIGHT UP A CHILD'S LIFE® HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

PITTSBURGH - WISH 99.7

Radio and Webcast

December 15-16 and December 18-22 Locations:

Fifth Avenue Place: December 15 and 18 -22,7-9 a.m. The Mall at Robinson: December 15-16 and December 18-22

- **Friday:** December 15, 10 a.m. 7 p.m.
- **Saturday:** December 16, 10 a.m. 3 p.m.
- Monday-Thursday: December 18–21, 10 a.m. -7 p.m.
- **Friday:** December 22, 10 a.m. 3 p.m.

ST. MARYS - WQKY FM 98.9

Radio Broadcast on December 1, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

• Farmers National Bank, St. Marys

DUBOIS - SUNNY 106

Radio Broadcast on December 4 - 8, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

• Sunny 106 Radio Station, 12 West Long Avenue, DuBois

ERIE - STAR 104

Radio Broadcast on December 11 – 15, 7:20 a.m. Millcreek Mall (in the Food Court area, outside of Macy's)

- Thursday, December 14: Noon 8 p.m.
- Friday, December 15: Noon 8 p.m.
- Saturday, December 16: 10 a.m. 8 p.m.
- Sunday, December 17: Noon 5 p.m.

PUNXSUTAWNEY - WPXZ 104.1

Radio Broadcast on December 11-15, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Make-A-Wish office 109 N. Findley Street:
 December 11 15, 10 a.m. 4 p.m.
- Ragley's True Value Hardware: December 11, 7 9 a.m.
- Punxsutawney Pizza: December 12, 7-9 a.m., 5 7 p.m.
- Laska's Pizza: December 13, 7 9 a.m.
- Mulberry Square: December 13, 3 4 p.m.
- **Punxsutawney Middle School:** December 14, 7 8 a.m.
- **Punxsutawney High School:** December 14, 8 9 a.m.
- **Shop 'N Save:** December 15, 7 9 a.m

Be on the lookout for...



During the 2017 Subaru Share the Love Event, Subaru of America, Inc., will donate \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle sold or leased, during the month of November until January 2018, to the purchaser's choice of participating charities, including Make-A-Wish.

Visit our website to see more holiday promotions and ways to help: greaterpawv.wish.org/ways-to-help

Wishes Come True



I wish to have a pool Taylor, 7 ← cystic fibrosis Hasting, PA



I wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort

Elijah, 6 ↑ leukemia Mansfield, PA



I wish to have a fairy backyard makeover

Gabrielle, 4 ↑ chronic lung disease Lavalette, WV



Ma (VSH.

I wish to be a paleontologist

Patrick, 5 ↑ cardiac condition East Berlin, PA

I wish to go to the beach

Abigail, 7 ← intractable epilepsy Warren, PA

"We were given an opportunity to forget the tough year our son had gone through.

Thank you!"

-Arnav's Dad

I wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort

Laney, 9 → cardiac condition Bradford, PA



I wish to have a play set

Alex, 3 ♥ Williams syndrome Pittsburgh, PA



I wish to go to the Tour de France

Arnav, 15 ♥ bone cancer Orefield, PA







Back in April, LaVar and his family flew from their home in Farrell, PA, to Nashville, TN, where LaVar was given the ultimate surprise. As the Pearl Studios car pulled up to their hotel, a familiar face hopped out to greet LaVar and his family. LaVar's smile was shining with excitement, finally meeting his favorite YouTube star, Casey Cooper.

LaVar was taken to Pearl Studios where he was given an exclusive VIP tour of the headquarters. There, he got to meet the entire Pearl team, see how the instruments are made and even help assemble a drum.

As they wrapped up the tour, Casey took LaVar to a studio room where there were two drum sets ready to rumble. Side by side, Casey taught LaVar some tips and tricks for playing the drums. When their drum session was over, LaVar was able to pick out a brand new drum set courtesy of Pearl Studios. Now, LaVar can play his drums and look back on his wish-come-true.

To see full video from LaVar's wish, CLICK HERE!

THANK YOU

FOR MAKING WISHES COME TRUE!

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Acorn Markets (Putnam Co.)
Black and Veatch
Philo and Sarah Blaisdell Foundation
Busteed and Lecky Family Garden Party
Fairway Subaru
GAI Consultants Pittsburgh
GE Transportation
Gordon C. and Mildred R. Jackson Foundation
Make-A-Wish® Energy Golf Outing
PA State Police Gettysburg
Charles Reynolds
Rutter's Dairy
Truck Convoy for Wishes

REFERRERS VOLUNTEERS

Wishes Do Come True Softball Tournament

Stephanie Barbour Penny Cook **Bethiny Couse** Christine Dalton Denise Ference Anita Graham Julie Jones Edward Nagel Alyssa Nix Deborah Ivory Monica Littlejohn Tonya Polk Erin Redding Maria Rodriguez **Emily Stranahan** Robin Thompson Jo Vanhorn Jeffrey Vermeulen

Alexis Anselene Rachel Backstrom Betty Beaulieu Beverly Bender Sharon Bendson Edna D' Andrea Connie Caton Rachel Cohen Angela Erway Nona and Michael Feathers Janet Finkelstein Brianna Flasco Diana Frederick Katie Gallagher Alicia and Jeffrey Gemberling John Gregory Jennifer Grim Claudette Haner Tonya and Richard Handley Michelle Houser Rebecca Kroft Barbara Lipinski Marsha Logan Lynne Mandel Cortni O'Hara Jamie Radick Amanda Ross Megan Rowland Heidi Sauble Ina Secret Carol Smith Jessica Varney Thomas Youells



I wish to take photos in San Diego

Sarah, 12 ↑ leukemia Bloomsburg, PA







I wish to have a shopping spree

Ma'Laun, 3 ♥ leukemia Pittsburgh, PA





I wish to meet **WWE Superstar** Roman Reigns

Vianny, 17 ← congenital skeletal disorder Hazleton, PA

> I wish to go on a Disney Cruise Line® cruise

Ava, 6 -> intractable epilepsy York, PA





I wish to swim with dolphins

Alexis, 15 ← leukemia Romney, WV





I wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort

Paige, 4← uncontrolled seizure disorder Sewickley, PA



Eddie, 5 🛧 McKees Rocks, PA

Mickey Mouse

Clubhouse



I wish to have a laptop

Trey, 14 ← intractable epilepsy Clarksburg, WV

Events Make it Happen



Kurt R. Weiss Scholarship for Wish Kids

The Pirates Charities partnered once again with Make-A-Wish® to support the annual Kurt R. Weiss Scholarship for Wish Kids program on May 5, 2017, at PNC Park in Pittsburgh, PA.

Fairway Subaru Hometown Charity 2017

Every year during the Share the Love Event, Fairway Subaru has chosen Make-A-Wish as its Hometown Charity of Choice. Pictured here is Make-A-Wish Regional Wish Assistant Amy Konetski (second on the left) with Fairway Subaru employees.



ACTIVITY

LeAnn Starner's Annual Make-A-Wish® Fundraiser

In Dover, PA, LeAnn Starner and her team of volunteers hosted many mini events throughout the year, which culminated in LeAnn's Live Auction, held on July 22, 2017 at Cedar Lake Campground. Pictured above is LeAnn's team, LeAnn Starner and wish kid Anna (in the front).



CJR Memorial Foundation Golf Outing

Back in April, the CJR Memorial Foundation Golf Outing was held in Pike County, PA. Pictured here are wish kids Allyssa and Svannah representing Make-A-Wish at the event.

Wish Reveal at Buttercup Woodland Campground

The campers and owners of Buttercup Woodlands Campground, located in Renfrew, PA, revealed a wish last October to wish kid Sophia and her family. Sophia's wish is to go to the Orlando theme parks this upcoming December. Buttercup Woodland Campground has hosted multiple events to help grant wishes to children like Sophia. Many thanks go out to staff and campers of the Buttercup Woodlands Campground for their hard work and dedication. (On the right: wish kid Sophia and her family.)



5th Annual Brandon Denochick Memorial Race

The Annual Brandon Denochick Memorial Race took place this past July in Morrisdale, PA. Pictured here is Make-A-Wish Regional Manager Lindsey Herzing along with Tyler, Shelly and Ashley Denochick.



Beth Clark Memorial Arts, Crafts & Drafts

In honor of wish kid Beth Clark, her family and friends held the Beth Clark Memorial Arts, Crafts & Drafts event on July 29th in Edinboro, PA. Pictured above is the Clark family, showing its support to granting wishes.





Jeans Day at The Dime Bank

The Dime Bank in Honesdale, PA, as well as other area locations, hosted a Jeans Day and raised money in support of a local wish.



Chestnut Lake Camp Fun Run

Campers at the Chestnut Lake Campground in Wayne County raised funds during their camp's fun run. Together, they raised enough to grant a wish.



32nd Annual Walmart Distribution Center #7030 Make-A-Wish® Golf Outing

In June, the 32nd Annual Walmart Distribution Center #7030 Make-A-Wish Golf Outing was held at Hidden Valley Golf Course in Pine Grove, PA. (Pictured above: employees of Baxter Healthcare and other supporters of Make-A-Wish.)



Pocono Mountain West High School Camp Party

The Student Council at Pocono Mountain West High Schoo in Pocono Summit, PA, hosted a camping themed party in honor of wish kid Aubrey's camper wish.



On May 5th, 6th and 7th, event organizer Sherri Keller and the Gettysburg community banded together for this year's Jerry Gordon Memorial Golf Tournament, Amy's Wish Motorcycle Ride and the 16th Annual Truck Convoy for Wishes. This fantastic three-day event is dedicated to granting the wishes of local children living with critical illnesses. Pictured above is Sherri Keller with local wish kids holding up a donation of \$158,400. Since their first convoy in 2001, the convoy has raised \$1 million for Make-A-Wish. Make-A-Wish cannot thank Sherri Keller, wish families, sponsors and the Gettysburg community enough for their continued support.

walk* FOR Wishes®



On Saturday, September 30, 2017, Make-A-Wish celebrated its 2nd Annual Walk For Wishes® Event. The race took place at the Hazel Ruby McQuain Amphitheater in Morgantown, WV. Runners, walkers and wish families enjoyed a 5K race and a one-mile family fun run, along with live music from DJ Dollar. Roughly 150 people attended the event in support of granting wishes in their community. Together, they raised a total of \$33,830. Pictured above is Chi Omega with Wish Kid Ambassador Larkin, her little sister Cantrell and Stella! the Star.

For more information on these events, visit: greaterpawv.wish.org/news-and-events

Thanks to Our Donors

The next newsletter will be sent in Spring 2017, but the donor list on our web site - greaterpawv.wish.org - is always up-to-date. In the meantime, don't forget to send us your email address for news and events. We will keep your address private.

The following lists cash and in-kind donations, totaling \$4,400 and above for the months of January through August 2017. Tribute honorees totaling \$500 or more are also listed. We extend our deepest appreciation to all of you. Should you discover an error or omission, please call us at (412) 471-9474.

Whenever you donate online, please be sure to go through greaterpawv.wish.org. If you do, we will receive 100% of your donation - less a nominal administration fee. If you go directly to our national organization's website, we will only receive 80%.

\$100,000 or more

26th Annual Mom's For Make-A-Wish Softball Tournament Buckeye Partners Give Kids The World Make-A-Wish Board of Directors Truck Convoy For Wishes, Gettysburg

\$75.000 to 99.999

The Grapevine Wine Tasting Estate of Lillian McNaboe

\$50,000 to \$74,999

GE Transportation Bids for Kids PNC Investments 17th Annual "Open Your Heart" Golf Outing & Dinner Auction PNC Treasury Management 15th Annual Golf Outing & **Dinner Auction** Wheels for Wishes

\$25.000 to \$49.999

32nd Annual Make-A-Wish Golf Outing Allegiant Airlines American Airlines Avis Rent-A-Car Systems, Inc./ Cendant Car Rental Group B. Braun Medical, Inc. Brandon Denochick Memorial Race An Evening in Paradise, Morgantown GameStop John R. Hornbrook, Jr., Perpetual Charitable Trust NCAA Division II Schools Plum Borough School District Sheraton Waikiki Trucks for Smiles Waffles and Wishes, Erie Walk For Wishes, Morgantown

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Airbnb All-Clad Metalcrafters Employees of Almatis, Inc. Anthracite Ortho Softball Team Atlantis Paradise Island Resort Beer Mountain Slammers Softball Team Benevity Community Impact Fund Black & Veatch Employees Blackwood Pipe Organ Concert Bristol-Myers Squibb Busteed and Leckey Family Garden Party Calligan Family Foundation Chapman Corporation Employees Christianpalooza Beth Clark Memorial Arts. Crafts & Drafts The Cellular Connection Complete Chiropractic Health The Corn Dog Open Crown Castle International Estate of Dorothy K. Dallas Dave & Buster's Mikavla Davic Delta Airlines Derry Area High School Interact Club Employees of Duquesne Light Company Duquesne University Miss Duquesne Pageant Eaton Charitable Fund Eldridge Communications Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community, Pittsburgh Lillian M. Lash Ensign Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation Enterprise Holdings Erie Insurance Group Franklin County Golf Tournament Franklin County Truck Convoy GAI Consultants, Inc. Genesis Schuylkill Slammers Softball Team

Intalere

Jewelers for Children Richard B. Kasdan, MD Krista's Annual Motorcycle Event Lawrence Subaru Love Your Melon Mad Batters Softball Team Make A Move Make-A-Wish Energy Golf Outing New Minersville Fire House Bikers Softball Team PNC Charitable Trusts - Brooks Foundation Estate of William Richards Ride for Wishes Royal Caribbean International The Rutter's Companies Sears Seven Seas & Pools Shenango High School Silly Sluggers Softball Team Skyview Pools, Inc. Spinal Elements LeAnn Starner Annual Make-A-Wish Fundraiser Trusted Choice Tudor's Biscuit World Turn 5 Twisted Sisters Softball Team Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort Walt Disney World Washington County Community Foundation, Inc. Watertree Health West Aircomm FCU Wheels, Wings & Wishes Wild Things Softball Team Wish Upon A Star Dinner Dance & Silent Auction Estate of Alvie Yecko York Brush Brigade

\$5,000 to \$9,999

84 Lumber Company 9th Ward Republican Social Club Abrams Angels Softball Team Accelerated Construction Services Renee Arturo David R. Berk, Esq. Jake Billyk's Journey Golf Outing Blue Mountain Family Chiropractic Softball Team **BNY Mellon Community** Partnership **Brooks Brothers** Brookside Bombshells Softball Team Chestnut Lake Camp Clinton County Community Foundation, Inc. Robert and Sara S. Comloquoy Trust The Coury Firm William and Debbie Demchak Foundation Dolphins Plus Duquesne Light Company **Employees of Elliott Group** Erie Community Foundation Day

of Giving

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Pre-Flight Parking

Golf Outing

Presque Isle Downs, Inc.

The Matthew Pustelak Memorial

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York Realty Wish Upon a Pin Nite

\$4,400 to \$4,999 Amv's Wish The Bartlett Foundation Thomas H. Boyer Buddy's Babes Softball Team Danielle Lauren Campbell Foundation of The Pittsburgh Foundation CentiMark Corporation Employees **CJR Memorial Foundation** The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County's Greensburg Foundation Fund Danville Moose Lodge Dominion Foundation Eaton Electrical-Beaver Employees Elliott Company Eriez Magnetics Gillian and Neil Florentine Robert P. Fohl Family Foundation Rosemary M. Front Charitable Trust Lyn and Bob Grimm Harley-Davidson Foundation Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield West Virginia Russell and Eleanor Horn Foundation Howard Elementary School Hyatt Regency, Denver

ladeluca Chiropractic Center

Brady C. Lucas Golf Tournament

Todd Manko Memorial Fund

Horace B. Packer Foundation

Margaret M. Patton Foundation

Marshall Middle School

Kennywood Park

Lycoming Engines

Mantra Trilogy

Beth Line

Penn-Air & Hydraulics Foundation Pocono Mountain West High School Psychos Softball Team Robertshaw Charitable Foundation Schenk Charitable Trust SCI Somerset-S.O.A.R. Sheraton Universal Hotel R.P. Simmons Family Foundation Richard O. Simpson Earl W. & Ina G. Tabor Foundation Tony's Cagekickers Sofball Team United Charities of Hamot Health Foundation Zoe Wagner & Friends Washington Financial Charitable

In Memoriam

Foundation

Rich Antrim Donnie Baublitz Danielle Bender Mary and Fred Berkebile Jerry Best Kav Best Jean P. Bibaud Cameron Blackman Conor Bobok Sherri Boeckel Steve Bush Ernest D. Carlson Elizabeth Clark Cooper Cody Christian Connelly Jenny Crowley Charles R. Cummings Erin L. Cummings Brandon J. Denochick Matthew Dlugos Mildred Flasck Patricia A. Fortier Jerry Gordon Lee T. Hannah Michelle Heiss Stephen A. Horvath Hannah Kiec Timothy Kielly Avla R. Kimmel Patricia D. Lellock Lucas N. Leone John M. Lynch Todd Manko Dana L. McKeown Bertha Meckley Amy Miller Steven Mitchel Danielle Mitchell William 'Wil' M. Morrow Joseph H. O'Brien Eleanor M. O'Halloran-Prendergast Andrew B. O'Neil Katelyn Owens

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WE REMEMBER

We dedicate this newsletter in memory of the following wish kids. Each has touched our lives and hearts.

Adam L. Adam P. Andreawna **Andrew** Andy Anya Ashlyn **Ashton** Ayden Beverly Bianca **Brandon** Brenden Bryan Cadence Cassandra Chaz Chrystil Curtis Damien Dana Dawson David **Dimitris** Doug Dustin **Fddie** Elizabeth B. Elizabeth G. Emma A. Emma R. Ethan **Eunices** Ezra Finnegan Frank Gabriel Gabrielle D. Gabrielle N. Genesis Grace Guy Hannah Isaiah Jack **Jacob** Jay Sean **Jennifer**

Joseline

Joey

John

Joshua Julee Justin Kara Karen Kate Kayla Keira Kevin Keyonan Kiel Kobe Kolby Kyle Lacey Logan Luke Madison Mary Matthew Michael **Nicholas** Paul Raymond Rebecca Rex Robert Ryan Samantha Samuel Sean Shanah Shawntel Shayne Shyanna **Tavion** Tia Tommy **Trinity** Tristan Tyson Victoria Vonyaira William **Zachery**

Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia

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Morgantown, WV (304) 292-5600 (304) 292-5697 (fax)

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Our Mission

Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. We are proud to have served more than 18,000 children in 57 Pennsylvania counties and West Virginia in our 34-year history.



Believers of all ages!

Starting this November, bring your stamped letter to Macy's, addressed to Santa at the North Pole, and drop it into Macy's special letterbox until Dec. 24. Or, create and send a letter online at macys.com/believe. For each letter received, Macy's will donate \$1 to Make-A-Wish, up to \$1 million.

SEND HOLIDAY GREETINGS WITH **MAKE-A-WISH CARDS**

Send a Make-A-Wish card designed by a wish child to vour family and friends this holiday season. A pack of 15 cards is \$15. Shipping and handling charges apply. Imprinted corporate cards are available. To order cards, please visit greaterpawv.wish.org or call 1-800-676-9474.



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