



At school, teachers call six-year-old Anna "mermaid," and she beams with a smile. She got this nickname, not because of the nautical pearl necklace she wears or her long wavy hair, but because last year, she had her wish granted to became one of these undersea beauties.

No one would guess that, in such a small number of years, Anna has undergone nearly a dozen surgeries for her congenital heart disease – one that makes her little body work extra hard every day to live and play.

But Anna's mom said that hasn't stopped her from dreaming. When Anna's wish-granting volunteers asked her what her wish was, Anna proclaimed, "I want to be a mermaid." Anna's mom admitted that she was surprised; "I thought, 'Well, that's a new one."

As it turned out, Anna's wish couldn't have been a better fit. "She's a little fish in the summer," Anna's mom said.

With that in mind, the family took off for Boca Raton, Florida to grant Anna's marine dream. As she walked along the beach, Anna saw real-life mermaids in the distance. Anna was thrilled to meet her favorite mythical creature, and with a tail of her own, she was ready to dive in the water.

"It's amazing. If you knew how far she's come from how sick she has been, to this healthy six-year-old who just wants to run around and swim with mermaids," Anna's mom said. "It's awe-inspiring."

This wish gave Anna a chance to live without the limits of her condition and continues to make an impact on her today.

"She still talks about her wish all the time," Anna's mom said. "The mermaids gave her a matching necklace and she never takes it off...This experience will stay with her for the rest of her life."

Anna, 6 congenital heart disease

Referrer: Laura Kuhn
Volunteers: Amy Tieperman
and Barb Vangreen
Donor: LeAnn Starner Annual
Make-A-Wish Fundraiser

# Birthday Wishes for Stella! the Star







Photo credit: Ed Rieker/AP Images

# Believe Believe

Macy's at Ross Park Mall launched its 10th Annual Macy's Believe campaign and helped kick-off Stella! the Star's 10th Birthday celebration.

Along with Stella was Lauren, who had her wish granted six years ago to visit the Florida theme parks. Several local mascots also attended to offer their best birthday wishes to Stella.

In honor of the Believe campaign's 10th Anniversary and our Make-A-Wish® mascot's 10th Birthday, it was only fitting that everyone wrote a letter to Santa. Each mascot lined up and dropped off their most heartfelt holiday wish to the big red mailbox, in hopes of granting more wishes to kids just like Lauren. For each letter received, Macy's donated \$1 to Make-A-Wish to help grant more life-changing wishes for children battling critical illnesses.

# **Celebration of Wishes**

# **LAWRENCE SUBARU**

Lawrence Subaru in Hanover, PA, once again hosted its Celebration of Wishes event in honor of local wish kids and families.

Together, employees of Lawrence Subaru, wish families and volunteers collected toys for children living with critical illnesses by packing the Outback. During the toy drive, there were festive activities and kid friendly games. We are grateful to Tony Lawrence and his employees for choosing Make-A-Wish as their Hometown Charity.

In addition to the festivities at Lawrence Subaru, Subaru of America, Inc., held its annual **Share the Love Event**. Last year, between the months of November 2017 to January 2018, Subaru of America, Inc., donated \$250 to Make-A-Wish for every new vehicle sold.

Pictured here are Make-A-Wish Development Associate Becky Kroft and Regional Manager Ann Waltman with Subaru employees.

Pictured here are wish kid Dale, Lawrence Subaru Manager Tony Lawrence and wish kid Kiara.

Photo credit: Loving Memories Photography & Design, LLC

# Wishes Come True



I wish to have a Yorkie puppy

Madison, 16 autoimmune disease Hermitage, PA



I wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort

Gavin, 10 ↑
uncontrolled seizure disorder
Covington Township, PA



I wish meet the US Women's Soccer Team

Sydney, 14 ←
cystic fibrosis
North Huntingdon, PA



I wish to go to Dublin, Ireland

**Dylan, 17** → heart transplant Easton, PA

I wish to go to the beach

Hunter, 13 ← leukemia Fairmont, WV







"Our wish
volunteers were
a blessing and
super amazing.
The trip was so
stress-free and
phenomenal."
-Sophia's Mom

I wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort

**Sophia**, 4 → genetic disorder

Reading, PA

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

Shane, 17 ♥ uncontrolled seizure disorder



I wish to have a shopping spree

Daquawn, 14 ↑ blood disorder McKeesport, PA





# On the Ice with **Raymond**

For 11-year-old Raymond, he loves nothing more than watching his favorite hockey team hit the ice. Instead of focusing on the struggle of his liver disorder, Raymond takes refuge in watching the Pittsburgh Penguins slap shot their way to victory. So, when volunteers met with Raymond, he knew exactly what he wanted to wish for – to skate with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

"Although Raymond was exhausted after skating, he was on top of the world. It was absolutely amazing, and it warmed our hearts to see our son smile so much," Raymond's mom said. "He is continuing to fight his battle with newfound energy and he believes he will win his battle."

Being on the ice with his NHL idols and shooting a few goals was a moment that Raymond would cherish forever. "Thank you so much for everything," said Raymond's mom. "This wish gave our son something that we never could."



# I wish to go fishing

Treysan, 17 ← heart transplant Hedgesville, WV

# I wish to have a paved play area

Braden, 8↓ nervous system disorder Renfrew, PA

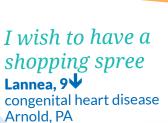




I wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort

Mackenzie, 17 ← cancer Chambersburg, PA

> I wish to have a race car bed Jonathan, 6 → congenital heart disease Reading, PA





Richard, 7 → leukemia Clarksburg, WV







"Braden is just excited to be able to walk right out the door and play." -Braden's Mom

I wish to donate instruments to my high school band

Jamez, 17 ↓ b-cell lymphoma Bramwell, WV



I wish to have an English Bulldog puppy

Nicholas, 15 > cystic fibrosis Ceredo, WV

I wish to go to LEGOLAND®

Rowen, 6 neuromuscular disorder Jersey Shore, PA





# **THANK YOU**

FOR MAKING WISHES COME TRUE!

# **DONORS**

Coldwell Banker Realty Services Glenda Cramer Estate of Edwin Crawford Trust Mikayla Davic DuBois Area Elementary School **Eldridge Communications** Greenville Elks Lodge #145 Jewelers for Children Maple Grove Raceway Mt. Pleasant Junior-Senior High School **Employees of Olympic Steel** Penn-Trafford School District Pittsburgh Pensions Professionals Standard Bank Joseph Unger Y-Knot Pub and Eatery

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7

# **Events Make it Happen**

### A Festival of Wishes

Fifteen-year-old wish kid and event organizer Zoe hosted her second annual musical revue, "Festival of Wishes," on November 10, 2017, at Williamsport Area Elementary School.





# Erie County Technical School

The students of the Erie County Technical School presented a donation from their campus walk to Make-A-Wish Vice President of Development Jan Stork (third from the left).



# 7th Annual Connor Bobik Memorial Race

On September 3, 2017, the Bobik family hosted their annual memorial race at the Dog Hollow Speedway in Indiana County. Pictured here is the Bobik family presenting their donation to Make-A-Wish Punxsutawney Regional Manager Lindsey Herzing (right).



# Plum Area School District's 18th Annual Make-A-Wish Telethon

Pictured here is wish kid Jackson and his mom being interviewed by a Plum High School student during the telethon on December 21, 2017.



# Fox Chapel Area School District's 28th Annual Telethon

On December 22, 2017, the Fox Chapel Area School District held its 28th Annual Telethon. In the picture, students participated in fun events like "Smiles and Pies!" to raise money for local wish kids.



# Penn-Trafford School District's Wishes for Warriors Telethon

Pictured here are students from Penn-Trafford School District presenting a donation from their Wishes for Warriors telethon held on December 22, 2017.

# Flights & Flannels

Pictured here are attendees at the first-ever Flights & Flannels, a craft beer tasting event. This event took place at the Ambassadol Conference Center in Erie, PA, on



# Zombek Family Christmas Light Display

From November 25 through December 26, 2017, the Zombel family welcomed the holiday season with their Christmas light display. The first day of the event offers a fun-filled evening of holiday games and a visit from Santa, with all proceeds going to





# Wine & Wishes— A Wine Tasting Event

On September 28, 2017, the 2nd Annual Wine & Wishes was held at the Out Door Country Club in York, PA. In the picture, attendees hold up their complementary boxes of chocolates courtesy of Russell Stover Chocolates' generous donation.



### **Lowe's Heros**

On November 17, 2017, representatives from Lowe's stopped by the Make-A-Wish Northern West Virginia regional office to present a donation to Regional Manager Jackie Heroman.



### Wine, 'Shine & Wishes

Pictured here is Make-A-Wish volunteer Becky Hancock and wish mom Julie Hoschar at the first-ever Wine, 'Shine & Wishes event. The event was held on November 10 th at the Sweeter Side of the Feud Distillery.

### **Rutter's Farm Stores**

Pictured here are Make-A-Wish York Regional Director Ann Waltman receiving a donation from Rutter's Farm Stores Marketing Coordinator Kirsten Stanley. Every year, Rutter's Farm Stores hosts its annual Vote With Your Dollars Campaign to help raise money for nonprofit organizations like Make-A-Wish.





# Sandvik Materials Technology & PEXCO Company

This past January, employees of Sandvik Materials Technology & PEXCO Company presented a donation to Make-A-Wish Scranton Regional Manager Maggie O'Brien (center).

## **Cruise the Bay**

Pictured here with Jan Stork are the Cruise the Bay committee members of Erie, PA, presenting their donation on September 9, 2017.





# Jersey Mike Sub's Grand Opening

During the first week of August, Jersey Mike's Subs held its grand opening for its new Easton, PA, location. To kick off the event, Jersey Mike's Subs circulated 7,500 coupons to the community, offering a free regular sub for a minimum \$2 donation to Make-A-Wish. Pictured here is Make-A-Wish Scranton Regional Manager Maggie O'Brien with the Manager of Jersey Mike's



### **Carnival of Wishes Gala**

On November 11, 2017, guests gathered again at the Mountaineer Racetrack, Casino and Resort to celebrate Make-A-Wish at the annual gala held in New Cumberland, WV. This year's theme was a "Night at the Carinval" and included live performances during the event. Pictured here is Jackie Heroman with wish kid Emri.

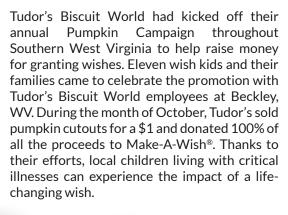
# Fundraising for Make-A-Wish®















**WISHMAKERS ON CAMPUS** 

**Edinboro University Reveals** Paige's Zoo Keeper Adventure

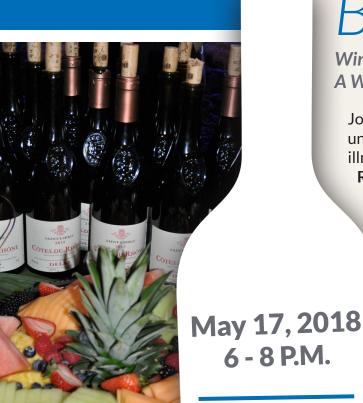
Students, staff, faculty and the community came together to witness Edinboro University Athletic Department's fifth wish reveal for their Make-A-Wish Awareness Day. This year, they would be surprising 14-year-old wish kid Paige from Hadley, PA.

Paige, who is diagnosed with a gastrointestinal disorder, had wished to become a zookeeper for a day. What Paige did not realize, is that her wish was soon about to be revealed during the men's game halftime show. Paige was called onto the center of the court and presented with themed gifts, airline tickets, luggage and tickets to the San Diego Zoo.

This past March, Paige and her family were flown to San Diego where her wish of becoming a zookeeper was granted.







# Be Our Guest...

Wine-down at this year's 15th Annual Grapevine: A Wine Tasting Event.

Join fellow wine lovers and dynamic professionals as we uncork a world of wishes for local children facing critical illnesses. We're excited to announce a new location for 2018:

Revel + Roost at Market Square in Downtown Pittsburgh.

At our exciting new venue, you can savor fine wines and hors d'oeuvres, enjoy two auctions and try your luck at the attendee-favorite Mystery Wine Sale.

When you attend a Make-A-Wish® event, you are also supporting our mission to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

All guests must be 21 years of age or older to attend.

NEW LOCATION

Revel + Roost 242 Forbes Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15222



# **Ticket Pricing:**

- \$60 Event Pre-registration On or before Thursday, May 10, 2018
- \$75 Registration After Thursday, May 10, 2018, and at the Door
- \$35 Designated Driver

# To register, visit: 501auctions.com/grapevine2018

**For sponsorship or event details, please contact:** Shannon O'Halloran, Development Coordinator at 800.676.9474 or sohalloran@pawv.wish.org

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia advises you that a copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, West Virginia 25305.



The Light Up A Child's Life® campaign has been making the lives of children with critical illnesses a little bit brighter for the past 29 years. The courageous stories of our wish kids motivate both our volunteers and donors alike. By granting wishes, everyday people can make a difference in a child's life. To view video footage of the broadcasts, please visit livestream.com and search for "Make-A-Wish TV."

# A special thanks to the following stations and personnel who helped make wishes come true...

- Tony Renda, Sr., owner of Renda Broadcasting
- WISH 99.7 FM in Pittsburgh, PA: its dedicated staff, including Ron Antill, Jordan Kline and Cris Winter
- Our Pittsburgh broadcast sites: Fifth Avenue Place and The Mall at Robinson
- WRTS Star 104 in Erie, PA: General Manager Michael Malpiedi, DJs Jessica Curry, Tim Murphy, Kyle Hendricks and Ted Hallowell
- WDSN Sunny 106 in DuBois, PA: its owner Jay Philippone, station staff and Clearfield County volunteers
- 98.9 WQKY-FM in St. Marys, PA: Station Manager John Salter, Gary Mitchell and volunteer Linda Facchine
- WPXZ-FM 104.1 in Punxsutawney, PA: Station Manager John Barnes, station staff and Jefferson County volunteers

Make-A-Wish Punxsutawney Regional Manager Lindsey Herzing with representatives from Acme Machine and Welding. Together, they raised more than \$11,000.





Wish kids Austin and Mia with their families and Make-A-Wish Director of Development Stephanie Pugliese (right). Mia was granted her wish to go to the Florida theme parks back in 2014, and Austin is planning to have his wish granted this year to go to the Florida theme parks, too.



Make-A-Wish Development Coordinator Shannon O'Halloran with Dr. Ronald S. Good, Gina Good Romano and Dr. Robert F. Good, II. **Good Orthodontics**, with offices in Mt. Lebanon, Pleasant Hills and Washington, PA, has been supporting Make-A-Wish since 1995—donating more than \$25,000.

Make-A-Wish Marketing and Communications Coordinator Liz Simison with the **501st Legion Garrison Carida**. This group had a booth at LegoFest held at the Monroeville Convention Center earlier this year. Dressed in their various costumes from a galaxy far, far away, customers made a donation and could shoot them with Nerf guns. With a line wrapping around the booth, they raised \$2,313.



Star 104's Tim Murphy talked to wish kid Johnny about his wish experience. In 2014, Johnny was granted his wish to visit the Florida theme parks.





Make-A-Wish President and CEO Judith Stone and WISH 99.7 Radio Host Ron Antill with **Pitt Ohio** representatives Candi Cybator and Jacquie Ward. Since 1995, the employees of Pitt Ohio have been donating a \$1 out of their weekly paychecks and have raised more than \$344,000 towards wish granting.



Baldwin High School student **Mikayla Davic** with Stella! the Star. Mikayla has written and produced several school plays to help raise funds for Make-A-Wish. Her goal is to raise \$50,000, before she graduates.



McKamish, Inc., employees and representatives presenting a donation to Make-A-Wish President and CEO Judith Stone. To date McKamish, Inc., has raised more than \$1,152,000.



Want Sipe from **Dream Makers** with Lindsey Herzing, presenting a donation of \$23,280 from their annual bike run held in July.



WISH 99.7's Cris Winter and Liz Simison with employees of **Busy Beaver**. Since 1999, Busy Beaver has help support the cause of granting wishes to children living with critical illnesses.

Liz Simison and WISH 99.7's Cris Winter with Scott York and his family. Every Year, York Realty President Scott York and his family host the Wish Upon a Pin Nite.





Wish kid David with Lindsey Herzing. During the radio broadcast, David announced that he wishes to go deep sea fishing.



Wish kid Kendy with Make-A-Wish Erie Regional Wish Assistant Michelle Hoffman. This past July, Kendy was granted her wish to go to the beaches of Clearwater, FL.



Walmart representatives Charles Cuneo, Jackie Lazeski and Star 104's Kyle Hendricks (middle). Last summer, Walmart/Sam's Club held their Tournament of Dreamz Softball event, benefiting Make-A-Wish.



Make-A-Wish Volunteer Manager Amanda Filsinger with Melissa Herbinko and the staff of **GKG Orthodontics**. Since 2006, GKG Orthodontics has raised more than \$61,000.



North Hills High School students at the Fifth Avenue Place in Downtown Pittsburgh showing their support. Since 1994, students from North Hills High School have raised nearly \$100,000 for Make-A-Wish.

Shannon O'Halloran with Finn Chiropractic Group Wellness Coordinator, Jenn Peffer presenting a donation. The associates of Finn Chiropractic Group have been fundraising for Make-A-Wish since 2011.





Bryan Benson and the Committee of Wheels, Wings & Wishes with Stephanie Pugliese. Every year Wheels, Wings & Wishes hosts an annual fundraiser that raises funds for granting wishes.



Make-A-Wish Development Coordinator Samara Silverstein (right) with students from the **Derry Area High School Interact Club** presenting their donation.

# **Thanks to Our Donors**

The next newsletter will be sent in Fall 2018, but the donor list on our website – 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 September through December 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

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VFW Post 4366, Memorial Home

Association

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Donald Kilpela, MD

Harry W. Kneissler

Jeffrey Landis, Jr.

Samantha M. Knight

Ayla R. Kimmel

Patricia D. Lellock Charles Levine Sophia Lodovico Bryan P. McClinton William (Wil) M. Morrow Katelyn Owens Jacques Redslob Moniaue Redslob Jennifer L. Repas Tom Sajko McKenzie Schneider Jax E. Stone **Dutch Treitz** Derek O. vanBuskirk Lisa Vernacchio Doug Walker

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Call 855.675.9474 or visit pittsburgh.wheelsforwishes.org

## Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia

The Gulf Tower 707 Grant Street, Suite 3700 Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1938 412.471.9474

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## **Headquarters**

Make-A-Wish The Gulf Tower 707 Grant Street. Suite 3700 Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1938 412.471.9474 412.471.9705 fax

# **Regional Offices**

Charleston, WV 304.342.9474 304.345.6568 (fax)

Erie, PA 814.868.9474 814.866.0490 (fax)

Morgantown, WV 304.292.5600 304.292.5697 (fax)

Pottsville, PA 570.622.6962 570.622.3644 (fax)

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# **Our Mission**

Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. We are proud to have served more than 18,000 children in 57 Pennsylvania counties and West Virginia in our 35-year history.



# **HIGHMARK WALK FOR** A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

# Sign up to walk for Make-A-Wish®!

Pittsburgh: Saturday, May 12, 2018 7:30 a.m. Stage AE

### Erie:

Saturday, June 2, 2018 7:30 a.m. Beach 11 at Presque Isle State Park

Register at: walkforahealthycommunity.org

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