

Make-A-Wish®
NEBRASKA

Year-in-Review

A LOOK BACK AT THE WISHES
FROM OUR LAST FISCAL YEAR,
SEPT. 1, 2019 TO AUG. 31, 2020

*I wish to have a
play structure*

Ellie, 4 | Waverly
leukemia

nebraska.wish.org



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

Brigette Young, President and CEO of
Make-A-Wish Nebraska, with
wish kid Carmenella

Dear Friends,

We know hope is essential for a child fighting a critical illness, but with COVID-19, new health worries are present, bringing added isolation and vulnerability for wish kids and their families.

While fighting their illness, children are now anxiously counting the days until their wish will be granted. Their families are counting too.



2020 has been one of the most challenging years in Make-A-Wish history. Due to COVID-19, Make-A-Wish made the difficult decision to pause granting wishes that involve travel in order to protect the health and safety of our wish kids and their families. However, *we have not stopped granting wishes*. We continue to grant non-travel wishes like campers, play structures, hot tubs, room redo's, playhouses and shopping sprees. We also granted sweet, special wishes like a piano, a horse buggy and a treehouse.

Although we continue to grant wishes, there are still over 140 Nebraska children whose wishes are waiting. For our wish kids, every day of waiting is one too many.

At Make-A-Wish Nebraska, we strive to bring wish kids renewed strength and joy. When a child learns that their wish will be coming true, suddenly, they enter a world of possibilities where the exciting anticipation of a wish-come-true helps them believe in better days ahead.

As we finish out the year, now is the time to come together and shine a light of hope on those who need it most. With your help, we can ensure that no child waits even one unnecessary day to experience the joy that a wish brings.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping bring local wish kids hope for a better tomorrow.

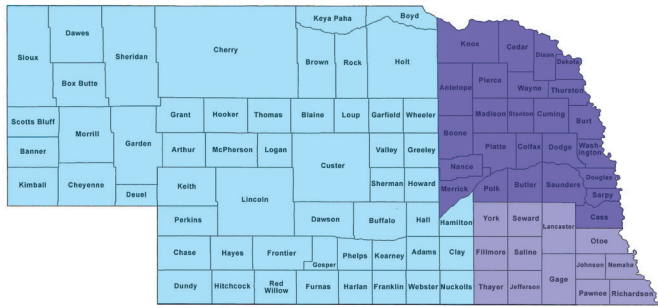
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brigette Young".

Brigette Young
President/CEO



Local Reach



- Omaha Region Wish Area
- Lincoln Region Wish Area
- Greater Nebraska Region Wish Area

Since 1983, more than **2,800 wishes** have been granted.

100% Local – Our mission is delivered across the entire state of Nebraska.

The average cost of a wish is between **\$7,500- \$10,000**.

Every August 31st we reflect back on another incredible year of granting wishes. With the help and generosity of individuals and companies from across the state, even during these difficult times, this fiscal year we were able to grant **64 unforgettable wishes** to children in Nebraska with critical illnesses.

Make an Impact

DONATION

You can give online, by mail, or by phone. Leave a legacy and impact future generations through planned giving.

IN-KIND

You can create life-changing experiences by donating goods.

DONATE AIRLINE MILES FOR FUTURE WISHES

Make-A-Wish needs more than 2.5 billion miles, or 50,000 round-trip tickets, to grant wishes each year. Donate your miles and help make future wishes come true!

VOLUNTEERING

You can help make the wishes of children in our community come true when you become a Make-A-Wish volunteer. Our mission is possible only with the dedication of our volunteers.

KIDS FOR WISH KIDS®

Kids For Wish Kids® is a Make-A-Wish program that enables students to discover philanthropy by selecting their own fundraising project and managing it from start to finish, with little or no help from their teachers.

REFER A CHILD

We rely on wish referrals from caring individuals to help us reach more kids with critical illnesses every year and grant them a wish that changes lives, forever. The eligibility consideration process is initiated when a wish referral inquiry is submitted to the local chapter. Learn more about who is eligible for a wish, who can refer a child and how the referral process works by visiting: www.nebraska.wish.org/refer-a-child

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September 2019

Caitlin's Wish Story



*I wish to go to
Walt Disney World®*
Caitlin, 4 | Gretna
leukemia



Wish kid Caitlin is a fighter. According to her mom, anyone who knows Caitlin knows she's tough. She was diagnosed with leukemia at a young age, and although this illness impacted not just her life, but the lives of her family members as well, Caitlin and her family remain tough and resilient.

After her diagnosis, Caitlin's family had to quickly adapt to a new normal—rearranging childcare, making plans for last minute hospitalizations, ER visits and procedures, all while her parents continued working.

"We had to rely on our extended family to help with childcare even in the middle of the night while my husband was on duty at the fire station," said Chelsea, Caitlin's mom. "We have three other children so their lives were impacted as well. At the time of diagnosis our other kids were only five, seven and nine so they didn't fully understand the severity of the situation and until then didn't even know what cancer was."

Her illness, and the fact that she is the youngest of four children, has never stopped Caitlin from trying her hardest to keep up with all the big kids. According to her family, Caitlin enjoys playing sports, especially softball like her older sisters. Caitlin also loves watching Disney movies. When Caitlin's family found out she was eligible for a wish, it only made sense to take Caitlin to Walt Disney World® to visit her favorite characters in person.

"We knew as a family of six and with medical bills piling up, we might never be able to afford a family vacation to

Disney so we were excited for our Disney adventure," said Chelsea. "The entire wish experience was a dream come true—I don't know how else to describe it other than magical. Every person we met at Disney bent over backwards to make her experience special. They went above and beyond."

Caitlin's wish gave her and her family the chance to spend time together after all the challenges they had been through.

"Seeing a child who is going through something so difficult have a smile on their face is priceless. It's honestly magical to be able to provide some happiness for these families during such a dark time," said Chelsea.

"It really was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that none of us will ever forget!"





October 2019

Joslyn's Wish Story

For Joslyn, going to Walt Disney World® was no easy task, but it proved to be a monumental experience when she got to meet her favorite characters.

Seven-year-old Joslyn has spent most of her life bravely dealing with Rett Syndrome, a neurological disorder. Her everyday life is a constant battle to prevent seizures and ensure she is still able to function as an energetic, loving, and excitable little girl.

"She's had a hard life. But she's a fighter," said Monique, Joslyn's mom.

"She has a specially fitted Tobii eye tracker device that helps her communicate with others. This device has been life-changing for her."

As Joslyn continued to have more seizures, Monique began the process of applying for a wish for Joslyn. In October 2019, Joslyn's wish "to meet Anna and Elsa from the movie *Frozen*"

was granted and the family was off to Walt Disney World®. Joslyn and her family stayed at Give Kids the World Village® and they were so happy to be in an environment that made normally difficult tasks a breeze. During their time at the village, they were able to swim, mini golf, and participate in events made easy for kids with special needs.

Once at Disney, Joslyn was truly treated like a princess and her family was shocked at the amount of kindness shown from the beginning to the very end of the trip. At Disney, they were able to use 'Genie Passes,' which allowed them to skip the

lines and gave them easier access to all the rides. However, because of how big the Tobii communication device was and due to difficulty accessing it outside, they left Joslyn's device at the village the first three times they went to the park to meet Anna and Elsa. They quickly learned, even when meeting Anna and Elsa, Joslyn was excited but was unable to truly express how excited she was. At the end of her trip when they realized this issue, they were determined to meet Anna and Elsa with the device. This was a life-changing experience for Joslyn because she could finally

communicate with her favorite characters. This was the highlight of Joslyn's trip and she loved being able to meet them.

"Elsa is her favorite Disney princess and she really wanted to meet her in person! I think she really relates to Elsa's stark determination," said Monique.

In addition to this experience, the rest of the park was nothing short of magical. She was able to partake in a play with Belle, go on Ariel's ride three times nonstop, and attend various character dining experiences.

"What you're supporting is so much more than a 'wish.' It's an escape from all of the hard things...from the doctors, therapy, and missed life experiences," said Monique. "It gives children with difficult life circumstances (and their families) something to look forward to, something to plan for, something to remember fondly, and something to LIVE for."

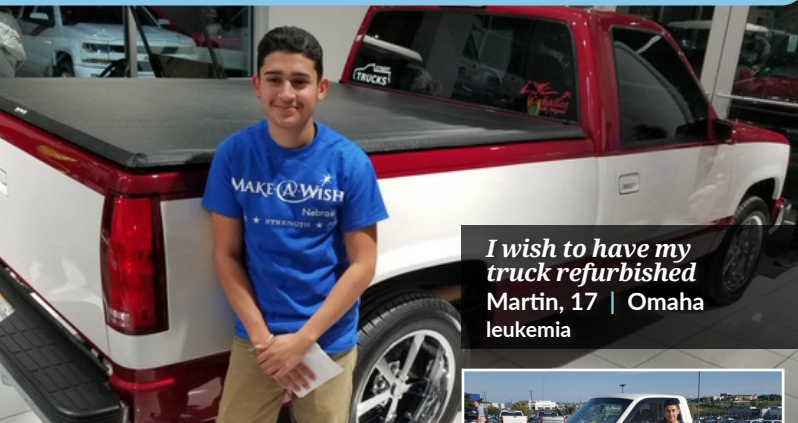


I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Joslyn, 7 | Firth
nervous system disorder



November 2019

Martin's Wish Story



For many people, a car is a significant part of their everyday lives. A car is a mode of transportation, it can serve as a storage unit, and for some, a car signifies freedom.

For Martin, his truck was a project, something he could fix-up and customize. He looked forward to working on his truck and

making it his own. However, before he was able to start on his project, Martin was diagnosed with leukemia.

Due to his diagnosis, Martin was not able to work and save money to repair his truck. So, when Martin learned he would be receiving a wish, he knew exactly what he would wish for—a refurbished, clean, custom truck.

Throughout the wish process, Martin was able to consult directly with the workers refurbishing his truck. He went over every detail with them and explained what needed to be fixed and what he wanted added.

The day of the wish reveal, Martin and his family gathered at Gregg Young Chevrolet. The truck was covered when they arrived, but quickly, the truck was unveiled and according to his wish granters, Martin's face looked truly shocked. He just couldn't believe it was his truck.

Martin's truck had new tires and rims, a sprayed bedliner and a cover. It also had a new windshield and new mirrors. The truck was everything Martin had pictured and more. Finally his truck was truly his.

December 2019

Ariannah's Wish Story

Wish kid Ariannah is a very loving, little girl. She finds joy in being outside, driving around and playing with Barbies®. She also loves to host picnics for her family and cook for them. Her specialty is macaroni and cheese. However, unlike most children, Ariannah has a nervous system disorder, which keeps her from doing the things most seven-year-olds get to do.

When Ariannah found out she would be receiving a wish, she knew she wanted something that involved driving, cooking and Barbies®. This led her to choose her one true wish—"to have her very own Barbie® camper with camping and cooking supplies!"

Ariannah couldn't wait to get her Barbie Dream Camper® so she could cook for her family and friends from the back of the camper as well as take the camper for a drive around the neighborhood.

On the day of her wish, Ariannah was elated to find

that not only did she get her camper, but she also got aprons, Barbie® dolls, Barbie® accessories, and her favorite meal, macaroni and cheese!

For Ariannah and her family, this wish is more than a singular moment in time. A wish gives kids like Ariannah the opportunity to look outside their illness and restore a sense of childhood back to the child and normalcy back to the family. To many, Ariannah's wish may seem simple and sweet, but to her, this wish has given her the freedom to go outside and drive around, to spend time with her family cooking, and to use her imagination when playing with her Barbies®.

A wish experience is awe-inspiring. It's uplifting. It's everlasting.



January 2020

Emily's Wish Story

When you are seven years old, your imagination has no limits. When you are seven years old and are sick, your imagination breaks barriers and extends beyond doctors' offices and emergency rooms. A child can imagine they are having tea with a princess or going on adventures. Or sometimes a child's dream is as simple as seeing a loved one who has moved away.

Wish kid Emily was diagnosed with leukemia when she was just four years old. For a couple of years, Emily received her treatments with a doctor in Denver, which means Emily and her family had to travel over 3 hours each time she had to go to the hospital.

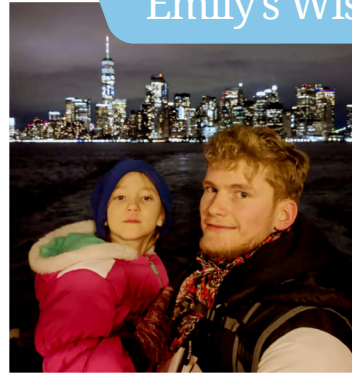
Despite her illness, Emily continued to do the things she loved, including spending time with her brothers and sisters. Family is very important to Emily and spending time with her siblings always brought a smile to her face.

It was tough for Emily when her oldest brother went to New York City for six months to do volunteer work.

"She was lonesome for him, but once she knew that going to New York was an option for her wish, she wanted nothing else," said Kim, Emily's mom.

According to Emily's parents, Emily loves action and had a great time going on an adventure in NYC. Her favorite part, besides visiting her brother, was seeing the Statue of Liberty up close.

"It was so neat to have a relaxing, enjoyable time after months of receiving her treatments," said Kim.



*I wish to go to
New York*
Emily, 7 | Madrid
leukemia

"She loved having something to look forward to and she did lots of talking and dreaming about it! This wish was a ray of light in a sometimes overwhelming time!"

February 2020

Carter's Wish Story



*I wish to go on a
Disney Cruise Line®*
Carter, 15 | Auburn
neuromuscular disorder

For Carter, nothing makes him happier than spending time with his family. Carter's grandparents live on an acreage and when Carter visits, he helps with the garden, picking up sticks, harvesting pumpkins and other outside chores. Due to his illness, Carter doesn't have the typical teenage experiences of hanging out with friends. However, he is able to spend more time with his family going on adventures and forming cherished memories.

When Carter was four months old his family noticed he wasn't moving much, wasn't eating, and wasn't growing at a normal rate. Carter and his parents endured many doctors' appointments, tests and hospital stays. After visiting a neurologist, it was suggested Carter be tested for muscular dystrophy. Not long after, he was officially diagnosed with myotonic muscular dystrophy, a neuromuscular disorder that currently has no cure.

A few years after his diagnosis, Carter and his family attended a muscular dystrophy conference in Florida. His family enjoyed seeing the ocean, but unfortunately, Carter didn't remember it much. So, when Carter learned he would be receiving a wish, he knew he wanted to see the ocean. And what better way to see the ocean than on a cruise ship! In February 2020, Carter and his family took sail on a

Disney Cruise Line®.

"Carter talked about the trip with his family and friends, and the closer the trip got on the calendar, the more he talked about it," said Brandi, Carter's mom. "The adventure just kept getting bigger and bigger. I would say it was the most anticipated event of his life."

The best part of the trip for Carter was hanging out in the teen area of the ship. On the cruise there was a special area for teenagers and "no adults allowed." Ethan, Carter's older brother, was also allowed into the teen area to help Carter. According to Brandi, for a special needs teenager who doesn't get the opportunity to spend time with peers, this was a really big deal. Sometimes the simplest activities are the best and most rewarding activities.

March 2020

River's Wish Story



I wish to go to Hawaii
River, 12 | Lincoln
leukemia

to his cancer treatment, he displays perseverance above all else.

River was diagnosed with ALL leukemia October 1, 2018. He was a healthy, strong 11-year-old boy at that time, and his diagnosis was a shock to River and his family. River spent the first 26 days at Children's Hospital in Omaha and underwent intense chemotherapy. He achieved remission from cancer in January the following year, although his chemotherapy treatment will last 2.3 years from diagnosis.

"River's cancer was pivotal for our family. Our lives were turned upside down - we were frightened, nervous, and frankly traumatized," said Case and Lindsay, River's dad and mom. "We learned quickly to rely on the oncologists and staff of Children's, as well as our community of family and friends. Fear turned to resolution, as we all placed our heads down to move forward toward a cancer-free boy."

Amid all his treatments and doctor visits, River found out he was going to be granted a wish, and the wish was his to determine. After thinking it over, River decided he wanted to take his family to Hawaii. According to his parents, River is someone who wants the most life has to offer, and he has always wanted to see the ocean and experience the beach.

"When the wish was brought up, it was all smiles and joy as we collectively discussed this upcoming trip of a lifetime," said Case and Lindsay. "Reflecting back, we are amazed at what hope can do in the midst of dark circumstances."

It was the anticipation of his wish coming true that kept River hopeful and joyous. His wish reveal was a key part of his wish experience, as it involved his love of race cars.

A few weeks before River and his family were set to go to Hawaii, they were secretly brought to a racetrack in Iowa, where River got to sit in the passenger seat of some high-end cars to take some laps with a professional racer. On the last lap, his family and wish granters were waiting to receive River with a huge sign stating 'River, you're going to Hawaii!' All that was left to do was pack their bags and head to paradise!

"Limo ride to the airport, leis when we landed, rental van waiting, quick drive to a resort made for celebrities with views of the Pacific... INSANE!" said Case and Lindsay. "We went whale watching, went to a Luau, snorkeled with sea turtles, and lounged by the pool. A seamless experience and amazingly, this occurred just before COVID-19 shut the country and the world down. We were blessed - what a trip!"

Wishes have the ability to provide a wish child and their family with hope, strength and joy during difficult times.

"When a kid develops cancer, one can't help but think of the most heart-wrenching outcome. The unthinkable. So, to have a miracle come knocking at your door, presenting the child you so love with an opportunity to wish anything and have it come true, is other worldly," said Case and Lindsay. "We are SO thankful for what Make-A-Wish has done for River and for our family. We will never be the same."



April 2020

Sydney's Wish Story



I wish to have a hot tub
Sydney, 3 | Ceresco
neuromuscular disorder



For wish kid Sydney and her parents, Samantha and Adison, uncertainty has become a way of life. Sydney, now three years old, was born happy and healthy. It wasn't until after she turned one that she began showing symptoms of a muscular disorder. Sydney and her family spent several months traveling to various hospitals, looking for the cause of her disorder. It wasn't until they visited The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where they received her final diagnosis of Infantile Neuroaxonal Dystrophy (INAD).

INAD is a terminal progressive neurological disorder that affects the part of the nerve cell that carries messages from the brain to other parts of the body. The average life span for people diagnosed with INAD is 5-10 years old.

"The vast amount of energy the disease requires has made us take steps back in our careers, but has also given us everything we didn't know we needed," said Samantha, Sydney's mom. "Like slowing down to notice every little detail we will shortly be without."

Taking time to cherish memories with their family is something Samantha and Adison look forward to. One of

those memories includes spending time in the new hot tub Sydney received as her wish.

Originally, Sydney had wished to go to Disneyland® with her family, but due to the public health concerns surrounding COVID-19, they decided to change the wish to something Sydney could enjoy immediately. According

to her parents, Sydney has always enjoyed being around water and heated water helps her relax and be more comfortable.

"Our family has gone through some unimaginable heartache over the past year, so being flexible is all we currently know," said Samantha. "We think this was actually the wish that was meant to be all along. It's the gift that keeps on giving."

Wishes are an important part of a child's medical journey and can help improve a child's quality of life and produce better health outcomes. Now more than ever, hope and wishes are essential.

"Make-A-Wish Nebraska is a huge reason our baby will live the rest of her life to the fullest, by giving her something we, as her parents, couldn't," said Samantha. "Make-A-Wish will be the reason for kids like Sydney's culminating smiles. THANK YOU!"

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May 2020

Oakley's Wish Story

*I wish to have
a sensory room*
Oakley, 7 | Scottsbluff
genetic disorder

For Oakley, playing basketball and hanging out with his brothers watching superhero movies is such an important part of his life and it has brought him immense joy over the years. However, due to his rare condition, Hunter Syndrome, Oakley is unable to play outside for extended periods of time and he suffers from many development delays that make it difficult to play with others. When he is not receiving treatments or participating in his clinical trial, Oakley enjoys being a loving, loud, and fun kid. He has an incredibly contagious smile and laugh and is known for his jokes that always brighten his family's day.

Oakley receives a weekly infusion that his mom learned to administer as she now has taken on the role of stay at home super mom and caregiver. Having her as a caretaker has been invaluable because now Oakley can receive his treatments without having to travel weekly to Denver for his necessary infusions.

Oakley is a vibrant young kid who loves to show off his loud personality. His red glasses have become something of his trademark look and adds to his notable energy.

He loves to help people smile regardless of what is happening and he wishes for everyone to be as happy as they can possibly be. Just like any other kid, getting him to rest is no easy task. He does not want to waste a single moment of the day resting when he could be singing a new song he made up, celebrating others, or simply enjoying what life has to offer. Every interaction he has, however long or short, ends with a smile and he is known for leaving people in a better mood than when they first encountered him. For Oakley, brightening people's day is when he is most excited.

For Oakley's wish, his family knew it had to be as unique as him! He wanted a place that he could safely engage in the activities he loved while also having a space that was his. He wanted somewhere he could be himself and experience independence. When wishing for a sensory room, no one could have predicted how great it turned out. Now, Oakley has a space of his own, however, since he loves being with his family, he is always in his playroom with his brothers and parents. He enjoys playing basketball in his sensory room and even has a LeBron James cutout on the wall so they can play one-on-one

whenever Oakley wishes!

Given the global pandemic we are currently facing, Oakley's sensory room is even more perfect because it is the best escape from the real world. As schools, parks, and just about everything closed, Oakley never lost hope because he knew that he still had his special room at home that he could always go to and enjoy his time there. This has been a great help for his brothers as well and others who visit Oakley's house because they are able to engage in safe and exciting fun with Oakley in his new sensory room.



Eli's Wish Story

In the midst of this worldwide health crisis, a family in your community also hears the devastating news that their child has been diagnosed with a critical illness. Hospital stays, doctor's visits, and treatments means their lives will never be the same. This is what happened to wish kid Eli and his family in November 2019. Eli, who is 17 years old, noticed a bump right below his knee cap. When the bump didn't go away and he began struggling to walk, his parents took him to the doctor. After a whirlwind of x-rays, tests and biopsies, they learned that Eli had cancer. By December 30th, he began treatment. According to Eli's mom, Daina, their whole family and community were devastated that Eli had to go through this rough journey, especially Eli's twin brother Dominic, who was heartbroken that his "best buddy" was going to have to endure chemo and surgery. However, Eli's family came together and learned how to care for a child battling cancer.

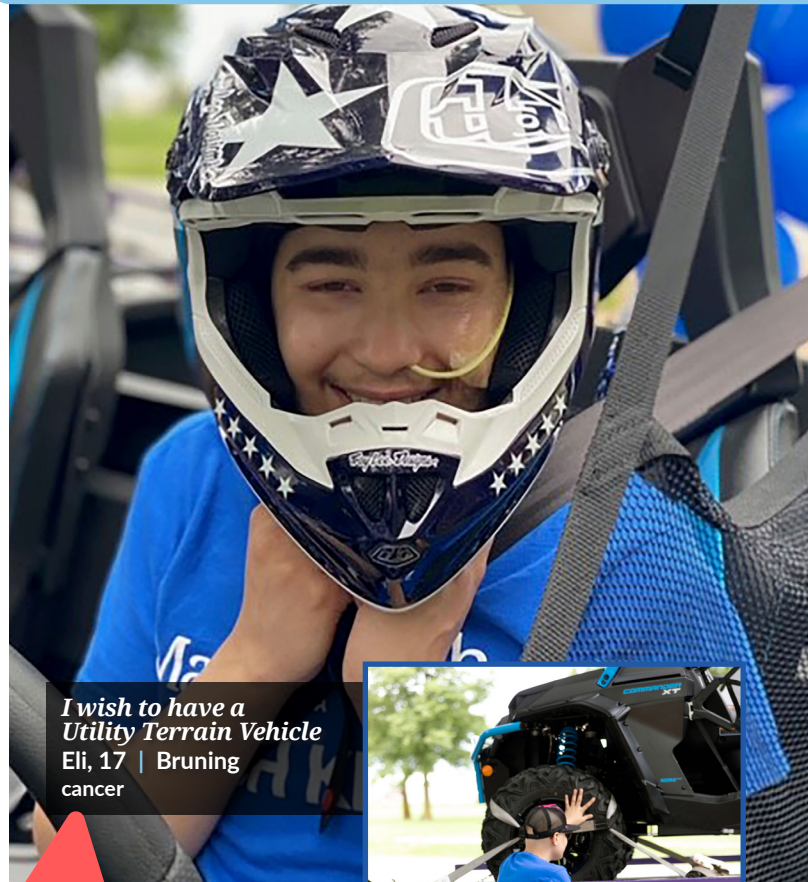
"We felt like we had things down...then COVID-19 happened and everything changed again! New procedures, new rules, masks, screenings....loneliness," said Daina. "We have done our best, we have prayed, we have found humor in utterly ridiculous situations that no 17-year-old or their family should have to endure."

Adapting to this new way of life hasn't always been easy, but Eli and his family try to focus on the positive. For Eli, one of his favorite things in the world is vehicles, and he has wanted a 4-wheeler for a long time because he loves to go fast. That is why when he found out he would be receiving a wish, he knew right away that he wanted a 4-wheeler. However, Eli's first surgery on his leg to remove the cancerous tumor didn't turn out as planned. Eli and his family had to decide to either continue to try to save the leg with even more surgery or choose amputation. Eli chose amputation and moved forward with treatments. This decision changed his wish slightly to a utility terrain vehicle (UTV).

"He tells EVERYONE about it! He has something to look forward to, which is helping him get through this last stretch of treatments," said Daina.

Due to these uncertain times, bringing hope and joy to wish kids, like Eli, is important now more than ever.

"Worry, questions, instability, sadness, [our kids] missing us when we have to be away at the hospital. It's a lot for anyone to have to deal with, let alone being a kid and not understanding it fully," said Daina. "Eli's wish has been something for us all to look forward to. When all you want to do is see your sick child smile and you can't afford to grant their wish....Make-A-Wish does!"



*I wish to have a
Utility Terrain Vehicle*
Eli, 17 | Bruning
cancer



July 2020

Andrew and Jaxson's Wish Story



For Omaha-area brothers, Andrew and Jaxson, doctors' visits and medical procedures are a part of their everyday lives. Andrew, 6, was born with a congenital heart disease, which has led to him undergoing nine open-heart surgeries in his short lifetime. Andrew's illness has also caused him to spend holidays apart from family. His 6th birthday celebration was in the hospital and he had open-heart surgery two days before his actual birthday.

Jaxson, 4, was born with a genetic disorder, which impacts his lungs. Due to his condition, Jaxson requires a tracheostomy and ventilator as well as medical monitoring care 24 hours a day. Just like Andrew, Jaxson has spent many days in the hospital leaving one parent at home and one parent in the hospital with Jaxson.

However, despite their on-going treatments and medical care, these brothers find comfort and joy in spending time with their family and each other. According to their parents, they have an amazing bond and they have had it from the first day they met. They love to chase each other around in the backyard and snuggle on the couch together to watch Disney movies with their family.

It is these shared activities and cherished memories that helped Andrew and Jaxson determine their wishes. For Andrew, his wish was to have a camper for him and his family to enjoy. For Jaxson, he wanted a new outdoor play structure so he could swing and climb just like his siblings.

To Andrew and Jaxson's surprise, their wishes came true just one day apart! Jaxson received his new play structure on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 and Andrew received his camper on Wednesday, July 22, 2020. Their wishes have given the boys, and the entire family, hope and joy for the future.

"This is something we could have never given our children ourselves and they will love it for years," said Anita, Andrew and Jaxson's mom. "Our children are our world and for them to have people treat them so special makes our hearts full."



*I wish to have a
play structure*
Jaxson, 4 | Papillion
genetic disorder



I wish to have a camper
Andrew, 6 | Papillion
congenital heart disease

August 2020

Nigella's Wish Story

Wish kid Nigella enjoys the simpler things in life. She is not your average teen in size or behavior, however, she finds joy in activities many people can relate to—watching television, going to the movies, going shopping, and surfing the internet. She also loves making crafts and practicing different makeup applications. However, due to her illness, Nigella has missed out on other experiences that many people take for granted, such as missing school sessions and not being able to play in the rain.

Nigella was diagnosed at birth with sickle cell disease. Over the years, Nigella had to endure numerous doctors' visits, hospital stays and blood transfusions. Currently, Nigella is recovering from a bone marrow transplant, which has not been easy especially during a pandemic.

"The physical, mental, and financial strains are immeasurable. The journey has been an emotional roller coaster," said Natalie, Nigella's mom. "Amidst the pandemic the family is doing our best to keep her safe as well as ourselves."

With COVID-19, new health worries are present, bringing added vulnerability for wish kids and their families. For Nigella, originally, she wanted to use her wish to go to Walt Disney World® Resorts, but due to the public health concerns surrounding COVID-19, Nigella and her parents decided to change her wish to something she could enjoy immediately—a shopping spree!

"Nigella was more than happy to go on a shopping spree and when we heard about the limousine we were sold," said Natalie. "She spent days making her list of items she wanted to buy and planning on stores she wanted to visit."

On the day of her wish, Nigella and her family were picked up in a limousine and whisked off to the Nebraska Crossing Outlet Mall where she spent the entire day buying new clothes, shoes, accessories and much more!

"Amazing, it was everything I imagined and more," said Nigella.

According to her parents, the whole wish experience was surreal. Nigella's wish provided hope for their whole family in so many ways.

"Make-A-Wish is a wonderful organization that goes above and beyond to put a smile on the faces of kids who are going through difficult periods in their lives," said Nigel, Nigella's dad.

"Just knowing someone out there has a vision and a mission to help kids going through these difficult periods is like the Lord sending angels," added Natalie. "When our child is happy, so are we."



I wish to have a shopping spree
Nigella, 18 | Omaha
bone marrow transplant



2020 FISCAL YEAR WISHES

Wyatt, 14, Roca	brain tumor	I wish to go on a Hawaiian cruise	Emily, 7, Madrid	leukemia	I wish to go to New York City
Robert, 6, Omaha	genetic disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Keagan, 8, Norfolk	lung transplant	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Caitlin, 4, Gretna	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Phoebe, 6, Norfolk	genetic disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Fenton, 12, Hastings	cancer	I wish to go to Hawaii	Alexus, 18, Omaha	cancer	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Emily, 3, Crete	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Carter, 15, Auburn	neuromuscular disorder	I wish to go on a Disney Cruise Line®
Seth, 11, Omaha	genetic disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Cade, 5, Scottsbluff	liver cancer	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Jakob, 15, Omaha	leukemia	I wish to go to New York City	River, 12, Lincoln	leukemia	I wish to go to Hawaii
Sabrina, 4, Lincoln	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Nyeilah, 19, Omaha	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a shopping spree
Kailey, 5, Plattsmouth	cancer	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Autumn, 5, O'Neill	nervous system disorder	I wish to have an outdoor swing and shade
Wyatt, 7, Omaha	genetic disorder	I wish to go to Cocoa beach to see the ocean	Deighten, 17, Macy	neuromuscular disorder	I wish to have a shopping spree
Jackson, 11, Seward	lymphoma	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Carter, 13, Gothenberg	neurological disorder	I wish to go on a Disney Cruise Line®
Joslyn, 7, Firth	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Martin, 17, Omaha	leukemia	I wish to have my truck refurbished
Kaiden, 14, Bellevue	rare disease	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Ricardo, 10, S. Sioux City	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Alyzabeth, 7, Papillion	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Kyleah, 5, Omaha	cancer	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Zachary, 18, Plattsmouth	lymphoma	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Eily, 6, Omaha	congenital heart disease	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Sofia, 17, Gering	brain tumor	I wish to go to Costa Rica	Rex, 4, Norfolk	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Jared, 19, Alda	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Ariannah, 7, Ord	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a Barbie Dream Camper® and supplies
Leevi, 7, Omaha	congenital heart and lung disease	I wish to go to Hawaii	Sydney, 3, Ceresco	neuromuscular disorder	I wish to have a hot tub
Christian, 14, Omaha	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Mahoney State Park	Jaxson, 4, Papillion	genetic disorder	I wish to have a play structure
Quinn, 4, Papillion	genetic disorder	I wish to have a camper	Andrew, 6, Papillion	congenital heart disease	I wish to have a camper
Oakley, 6, Scottsbluff	genetic disorder	I wish to have a sensory room and items	Terry, 6, Ogallala	brain tumor	I wish to have a shopping spree
Jace, 6, Hastings	nervous system disorder	I wish to have sensory items	Nigella, 18, Ogallala	bone marrow transplant	I wish to have a shopping spree
Jada, 13, Hastings	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a room redo with sensory items	Avanna, 11, Hastings	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a camper
Elijah, 17, Bruning	cancer	I wish to have a utility terrain vehicle	Kayleigh, 18, Elkhorn	cystic fibrosis	I wish to have a shopping spree
John Paul, 11, Omaha	genetic disorder	I wish to have a player piano	Brayden, 7, Waverly	Bellevue	I wish to have a camper
Joseph, 17, Omaha	lymphoma	I wish to have a shopping spree	Bradley, 14, Omaha	neuromuscular disorder	I wish to have a shopping spree
Ellie, 4, Waverly	leukemia	I wish to have a play structure			
Evangeline, 3, Omaha	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a sensory room and items			
Celeste, 7, Papillion	congenital heart disease	I wish to have a camper			



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

JIM AND LANA DAWS

Jim and Lana Daws began working with Make-A-Wish Nebraska a little over eight years ago. Lana, who had worked as an educator for 36 years, had just retired and she knew that although she was retired, she needed to continue working with kids. After talking with Melissa Davis-Schmit, the Lincoln Regional Program Director, about Make-A-Wish, Lana became a volunteer wish granter. It was a few years later that Jim and Lana began adopting and funding wishes.

"Granting wishes was an easy step for Jim and me. At one of the Wish Ball galas we attended, we heard a remarkable story shared by a young lady," said Lana. "She talked about all of the surgeries and challenges she faced at such a young age, and yet, she was so upbeat and loved her life! Driving home afterwards, we talked a lot about that young girl and the positive outlook she possessed. It was right then and there that we decided we could and would do more for Make-A-Wish."

Since they began granting wishes eight years ago, Jim and Lana have raised over \$100,000 and have supported 12 wishes for local

children battling critical illnesses. According to Lana, their favorite thing about wish granting is meeting each child and their family. Jim and Lana have discovered each wish is unique and special in its own way. They are able to see first-hand the love and commitment a wish family has for one another and they see the joy and excitement a wish brings them.

"We are so grateful to have Lana and Jim as Make-A-Wish donors. They go above and beyond to make a wish kid and their family feel magical and extra special," said Ann, wish mom. "They provide hope and encouragement to the wish child to keep fighting their hard battles by granting their wish. They become a special part of your family by forming a life-long friendship that continues even after the wish has been granted."

Donors like Jim and Lana are why wishes continue to be granted. Even during difficult times, we know we can count on them to be a light of hope for our wish kids and their families.

"The sense of satisfaction we get from meeting wish kids and their



families exceeds any expectations about becoming involved with Make-A-Wish," said Lana.

"It truly is a sense of comfort and joy knowing that our contributions, and more importantly, our time has brought a smile to a young person's face and helped to create memories that will last a lifetime for everyone!"

Thank you, Jim and Lana Daws for your unwavering dedication to our organization and most importantly, our wish kids!

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

Zak, 18, Springview
leukemia
I wish to have cows
(passed away before wish)

Zavier, 12, Papillion
renal failure
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
(Wish Year 2015)

Mikaelah, 24, Hastings
lymphoma
I wish to have a shopping spree
(Wish Year 2013)

Sofia, 17, Gering
brain tumor
I wish to go to Costa Rica
(Wish Year 2020)

Alyzabeth, 8, Papillion
nervous system disorder
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
(Wish Year 2019)

Terry, 6, Ogallala
brain tumor
I wish to have a shopping spree
(Wish Year 2020)

Adyn, 11, Kearney
brain tumor
I wish to have a smart TV, Disney+ and blankets
(Wish Year 2020)

November, 19, Beatrice
congestive heart failure
I wish to have a shopping spree
(Wish Year 2017)

Listed are wish kids we have been made aware of, we apologize for any unintentional omissions.

Make-A-Wish®

NEBRASKA

Headquarters
(New Address)
1005 South 107th Avenue, Suite 102
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Lincoln satellite office
8033 South 15th Street, Suite B
Lincoln, NE 68512

Kearney satellite office
412 East 25th Street, Suite D
Kearney, NE 68847

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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)

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

Events



Visit nebraska.wish.org to learn more

Radiothon

December 11, 2020 | Omaha

Wheel of Wishes

December 11, 2020 | Lincoln

Wish Ball

February 20, 2021 | Lincoln

Blue Jean Ball

April 24, 2021 | Omaha

Wine, Whiskey and Wishes

May 13, 2021 | Omaha

Truck Center Companies Golf Tournament

June 2021 | Omaha

Evening of Wishes Gala

August 2021 | Kearney

Wine, Whiskey and Wishes

September 9, 2021 | Lincoln