

Matthew's nervous system disorder has caused vision problems. He has had several surgeries to save his eyes and at least one surgery

to relieve pressure on his brain which caused painful headaches, short-term memory problems and loss of sleep.

Although his condition is dangerous and debilitating, Matthew has not lost his sense of humor or his great compassion. His spirit is entirely unflappable and his good nature is contagious. He's beloved at school and was unanimously voted to be the 6th-grade class president. He's also the manager of the football team, and he is said to make the best scrambled eggs in the world. The recipe is top secret, but his eggs are so good that he was asked to cook them for his entire church!

Matthew wished to have a complete Apple electronics set up. He wanted an Apple iPhone, an iPad, a MacBook and an Apple watch because Apple products work the best with his vision.

As part of his wish, he wanted to make sure that his brother received a thank-you gift for being such a good brother. "I would like to wish for AirPods or AirPod pros for my brother because he's been so nice and kind to me, and he's lifted me up so many times," Matthew said. When that package finally arrived, Matthew opened it and handed the AirPods to his brother. "Here's your pair because you've been an awesome brother," he said.





PERSONAL PROFILE

Occupation: Retired stay-at-home mom and volunteer

Family: Kyle, 25 (son), a special education teacher

Kenzie, 23 (daughter), Light the Night Campaign Manager for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society + wish alum

Kendall (husband), nearly retired. They have plans to travel in the future

WISH GRANTER PROFILE

Years Granting Wishes: 1

Wishes Granted: 1



NNER

Q & A

What would your wish be?

To remodel my home office into a craft/sewing room.

The favorite wish you've granted?

Daniel's Mickey Mouse playhouse wish.

Favorite wish-granting memory?

It was so exciting to see the reaction and look on Daniels' face when he came out to the backyard and saw the playhouse. I felt honored to be a small part of a life-changing wish for this sweet boy and his family.

What was your inspiration to grant wishes?

When my daughter was 17, she received a wish. I volunteer with my daughter and this is what inspired us to volunteer. We didn't know what to expect when she received her wish, but Make-A-Wish® went above and beyond and we are forever grateful for the experience she received. We both wanted to "give back" to Make-A-Wish as we believe in their mission and truly believe they make a difference and inspire hope in kids and families going through tough challenges.

Final thoughts?

We have two wish kids waiting on travel wishes and hope we can make their dreams a reality soon!





My name is Lori Ruiz, and I have recently joined the Board of Make-A-Wish Idaho. I am a Team Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc. in Boise.

I am so excited to start working with Make-A-Wish Idaho! Make-A-Wish's ability to bring joy and excitement when people need it most is one of the many reasons I believe so strongly in this organization.

I was first introduced to Make-A-Wish as a student athlete at Boise

State. I remember being amazed, hearing about the wishes they were able to grant that year. I promised myself if I ever became "a real adult" I would do what I could to support their mission. Here we are 10 years later!





Did you know you can make a monthly gift to Make-A-Wish Idaho? It's so simple to do! Your monthly gift will ensure that a wish kid's wish comes true!

A monthly gift can be set up automatically on our website and will provide a life-changing wish for a child with a critical illness. To ensure that your contribution goes directly to wish kids in Idaho, be sure to choose the "local" option, and choose Make-A-Wish Idaho.

Give here

One hundred and fifty-five kids are waiting for their wishes to be granted— in Coeur d'Alene, Rexburg, Nampa and communities throughout the state! Thank you for giving the gift of a wish!



Make-A-Wish® Idaho will be conducting an on-air telethon in partnership with KBOI Channel 2 all day on March 10. This is an opportunity for people around Idaho to call in and donate air miles and money. Airline miles that are donated to Make-A-Wish Idaho never expire and will be utilized to grant travel wishes in the future.

Make-A-Wish Idaho is able to accept miles from those with Alaska, Delta and United Airlines mileage accounts. The number to call the day of the telethon is 208-345-9474 or interested donors can go to the <u>Make-A-Wish Idaho website</u>

This year, we'll be asking for monetary donations as well, since



A Balancing Act: Juggling Family and Philanthropy

Caring for others and balancing your budget while still achieving your philanthropic goals offers a challenge, especially recognizing that taking care of your loved ones is the top priority. At Make-A-Wish Idaho, we understand that family comes first, especially in uncertain times such as these.

While a gift to Make-A-Wish Idaho may not be part of your plan today, you can still advance our mission to grant life-changing wishes to children with critical illnesses tomorrow. In fact, some of the most meaningful gifts are those that people leave to Make-A-Wish Idaho after their lifetimes.

Family-Friendly Gifts

There are many ways you can balance your desire to give with the needs of your family. Two popular options include:

Leaving a gift to Make-A-Wish Idaho in your will or living trust. This gift is easy to make (all it takes is one sentence). And because the gift doesn't occur until after your lifetime, it doesn't affect your current budget. You can also change your mind at any time, making it easy to ensure your gift always aligns with your life circumstances.

Name Make-A-Wish Idaho as a beneficiary of your retirement plan assets. When left to loved ones, these plans are subject to income taxes. When left to a nonprofit like Make-A-Wish Idaho, however, we receive the gift tax-free. Plus, you don't have to part with assets today. Request a change of beneficiary form from your plan administrator, or download a copy from their website, to get started.

Support Make-A-Wish Idaho and Protect Loved Ones

Future gifts allow you to remember Make-A-Wish Idaho, while still

ensuring your family members have the resources they need now. To learn more about ways you can balance your family responsibilities and giving, please contact Janie Best at 208.297.6822 or visit our website for more information at https://wish.org/idaho/planned-giving

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Make-A-Wish Idaho 310 W. Idaho Street Boise, ID 83702 idaho@idaho.wish.org



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