

Make-A-Wish® Missouri & Kansas
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Teen ‘Wishes’ to Provide Gaming Systems to Children’s Mercy Patients through
Make-A-Wish Missouri & Kansas**

Kansas City, MO (July 22, 2021) For 18-year-old Trenton Elliot, playing video games with friends while he was in the hospital was an opportunity to forget about his medical condition and focus on just being a regular kid. It’s something most children can do at any time, but for Trenton, who suffers from cystic fibrosis and has spent a lot of time at Children’s Mercy Kansas City over the years, it was an activity that had to be scheduled due to the limited number of gaming systems available. So, when it was time for him to choose his one true wish, he decided to give back to the hospital where he was treated and allow children like him to feel the same relief through playing video games.

“I wanted to be sure there were enough gaming systems so that children in the hospital could all play together,” said Elliot. “It’s better to play with friends than it is to play alone and it helps kids take their minds off of the illness or injury they are battling and just be a kid for a while.”

On Thursday, July 22 at 12:00 p.m. outside the Children’s Mercy Research Institute building, Trenton and his family will arrive via limousine to be greeted by supporters and hospital staff, where Trenton will be presented with five Xbox Series X and five PlayStation 5 gaming systems to deliver to the hospital. On top of the gaming systems provided, Gamers Outreach, a nonprofit that empowers hospitalized families through play, is also involved. “When we heard about Trenton’s wish we knew immediately we wanted to be involved. I reached out to one of our supporters Anthony Kongphan who, together with his community, recently funded a set of GO Karts. Anthony was moved by the story and graciously offered to donate one of his GO Karts to fulfill the wish”, said Dave Fraser, Director of Development at Gamers Outreach. GO Karts are portable gaming kiosks built specifically for hospitals that provide access to play for patients and families. Inclusivity was crucial to Trenton, and he made sure to select video games that would be appropriate for all ages and genders so that everyone could participate in playing the games.

“There are so many things Trenton could have done with this ‘wish’ for himself, but instead he chose to put others first and help brighten their days,” said Children Mercy representative Micaela McKenna. “He loves gaming and this wish allows him to share his passion and leave a lasting impact on the lives of other children.”

Ambassadors from Children’s Mercy, Make-A-Wish staff, Trenton’s family, and an ambassador family from Children’s Mercy will attend the wish event and will speak about the impact of Trenton’s wish to give back.

Make-A-Wish Missouri & Kansas hopes to grant 333 life-changing wishes such as Trenton’s this year and looks to surpass its 9,000th wish this summer.

Make-A-Wish Missouri & Kansas

Make-A-Wish® Missouri & Kansas creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. We are on a quest to bring every eligible child's wish to life, because a wish is an integral part of a child's treatment journey. Research shows children who have wishes granted can build the physical and emotional strength they need to fight a critical illness. Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, Make-A-Wish is the world's leading children's wish-granting organization, serving children in every community in the United States and in 50 countries worldwide. The local chapter is headquartered in Ballwin, Missouri and serves all counties in Missouri and Kansas.

Since 1983, Make-A-Wish Missouri & Kansas has granted more than 8,900 wishes to local children with critical illnesses. For more information about Make-A-Wish Missouri & Kansas and how you can transform lives, one wish at a time, please visit our website (mokan.wish.org) and connect with us on Facebook ([makeawishMOKAN](https://www.facebook.com/makeawishMOKAN)), Twitter ([@makeawishMOKAN](https://twitter.com/makeawishMOKAN)), Instagram ([@makeawishMOKAN](https://www.instagram.com/makeawishMOKAN)) and YouTube ([MakeAWishMOKAN](https://www.youtube.com/MakeAWishMOKAN)).

Children's Mercy Kansas City

Founded in 1897, Children's Mercy is a leading independent children's health organization dedicated to holistic care, translational research, educating caregivers and breakthrough innovation to create a world of well-being for all children. With not-for-profit hospitals in Missouri and Kansas, and numerous specialty clinics in both states, Children's Mercy provides the highest level of care for children from birth through the age of 21. U.S. News & World Report has repeatedly ranked Children's Mercy as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals." For the fifth consecutive time in a row, Children's Mercy has achieved Magnet nursing designation, awarded to only about 8% of all hospitals nationally, for excellence in quality care. More than 850 pediatric subspecialists, researchers and faculty across more than 40 subspecialties are actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research and education of the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. Thanks to generous philanthropic and volunteer support, Children's Mercy provides hope, comfort and the prospect of brighter tomorrows to every child who passes through its doors. Visit [Children's Mercy](https://www.childrensmercy.org) and the [Children's Mercy Research Institute](https://www.childrensmercy.org/research) to learn more, and follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ChildrensMercy), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/childrensmercy), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/ChildrensMercy), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ChildrensMercy) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/ChildrensMercy) for the latest news and videos.

Gamers Outreach

Gamers Outreach is a 501(c)(3) charity organization that provides recreation to children in hospitals through the power of video games and the gaming community. Hospitalization can often be a lonely, isolating, and scary experience for young people. Gamers Outreach eases those burdens through equipment, technology, and software that help kids cope with long-term treatment. Visit <https://gamersoutreach.org/> to learn more.