

WISHES

Make-A-Wish®
NEBRASKA

Official Newsletter of
Make-A-Wish Nebraska

Spring 2021



*I wish to have
a play structure*

Carmenella, 4 | Omaha
wilms tumor

wish.org/nebraska



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

Dear Friends,

What would you give for a child you love to make their wish come true? Just imagine what you'd do. Wishes need stars like you to help us make every wish come true.

Whether you realize it or not, there are shining stars all around us— special people and organizations who have given hope, joy and strength to children, families and communities who need it most.

This past year, we've all had a glimpse of what it feels like to wait for hope. We've had so many dreams deferred due to circumstances beyond our control. We're still waiting to feel hopeful again and so are our wish kids.

The hope of a wish is more than a temporary escape. It is a wellspring of strength to keep fighting for better days. In these times, HOPE is essential for children with critical illnesses.

Thank you for helping us continue to bring that HOPE of a wish come true, because together, we can give the brightest of days to those children fighting a critical illness.

Sincerely,

Brigette Young
President/CEO

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2021 FISCAL YEAR

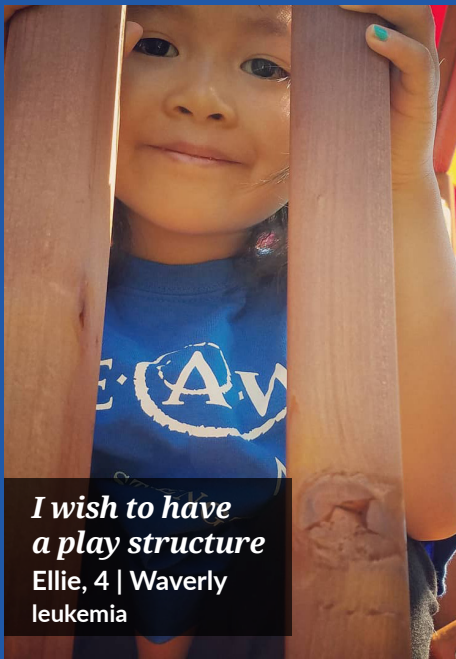
2021 Fiscal Year Wishes Since September 1, 2020

Adyn, 11, Kearney	brain tumor	I wish to have a smart TV with Disney+ and soft blankets
Carmenella, 4, Omaha	wilms tumor	I wish to have a play structure
Walker, 8, Gering	leukemia	I wish to have a camper
Jaden, 17, Bellevue	end stage kidney disease	I wish to have a gaming computer
Layla, 10, Omaha	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a hot tub
Judith, 18, Omaha	end stage kidney disease	I wish for a college scholarship
Zane, 3, Omaha	congenital heart disease	I wish to have a camper
Keegan, 11, Omaha	rare disease	I wish to have a camper
Josiah, 5, Omaha	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Mahoney State Park
Blakely, 4, Howells	genetic disorder	I wish to have a camper
Kinzlee, 7, Clarks	leukemia	I wish to have a play structure
Zamari, 4, North Platte	heart failure	I wish to have a camper
Jaxen, 3, Eagle	wilms tumor	I wish to have a play structure

Brayden, 9, Omaha	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a shopping spree
Harley, 13, Imperial	leukemia	I wish to have a camper
Kainen, 10, Omaha	genetic disorder	I wish to have an art studio
Daymen, 17, Dodge	leukemia	I wish to have a shopping spree
Joshua, 8, Riverdale	gastrointestinal disorder	I wish to have a camper
Itza, 16, Grand Island	leukemia	I wish to have a play structure
Roscoe, 18, Marquette	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a surround sound system
Isaac, 9, Omaha	brain tumor	I wish to have a Playstation 5 with a TV and games
Katy, 16, Crete	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a camper
Gage, 18, Lincoln	cystic fibrosis	I wish to have a shopping spree



Did You Know? There are over 150 kids in Nebraska waiting for their wish to be granted?
Find out how you can help at [wish.org/nebraska](https://www.wish.org/nebraska)



I wish to have a play structure
 Ellie, 4 | Waverly leukemia



I wish to have an art studio
 Kainen, 10 | Omaha genetic disorder



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

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



I wish to have a play structure
Carmenella, 4 | Omaha
wilms tumor



Carmenella's Wish Story

For wish kid Carmenella, getting her wish was a dream come true. After being diagnosed with wilms tumor, a type of kidney cancer, four-year-old Carmen was sent into a world of treatments and remedies and was unable to continue her life at preschool surrounded by constant learning, friends, and activities.

"She is so fun, fiery, smart, brave, funny, and empathetic" said Leslie, Carmen's mom.

While her life at school was taken away, she continued to fight through her treatments and maintained a positive attitude. She absolutely loved watching the Frozen movies during her treatments and even now after treatment, she still loves to

dress up and act out the movies with her parents.

As Carmen approached the end of her treatment, the COVID-19

pandemic hit. Unfortunately, this meant that while she should have been free to enjoy the world around



her, Carmen had to remain isolated out of precaution, which meant she spent even more time away from the life she knew before treatment. She had to find new ways to keep herself healthy and entertained, and that is exactly where her wish came in.

Originally, Carmen had wished to go to Walt Disney World® but out of precaution, she chose to change her wish so that she could have a more immediate, positive addition in her life.

While her family thought Disney was her ultimate wish, they did not realize that her new wish, a play structure in the backyard, would be even greater than they could have imagined. This new play structure ensured that Carmen could go outside daily, enjoy the fresh air, and be safe.

"Carmen changed her wish to a play structure and honestly, I think this was the best wish she could have," said Leslie. "Her play structure was a HUGE mood booster for her, and she has played on it every day since it was set up for her -minus the snow days."

"Her play structure was a HUGE mood booster for her and she has played on it every day since."

On the day of her wish, Cinderella came by to pay Carmen a special visit and this made her the happiest girl in the world. She felt incredibly special hanging out with one of her favorite princesses.

Prior to becoming sick, Carmen was afraid of the big slides at the park. After receiving her wish, she was excited to climb all around the play structure and go down every slide possible.

"Carmen's wish for a play structure gave her something to do during the pandemic and allowed her to be a kid. I think that is the most special part of her wish. However, I think Carmen would say the most special part was meeting and playing with Cinderella" said Leslie.

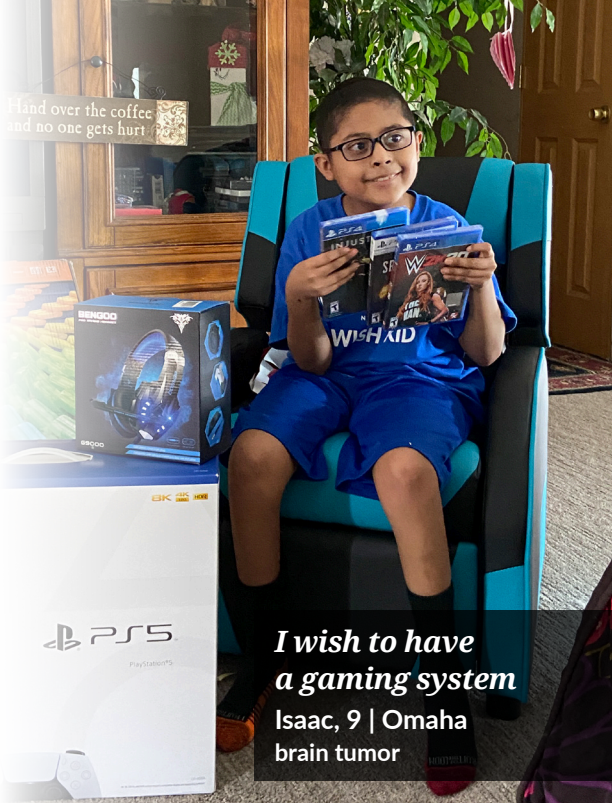
It is an absolute joy to hear about all the new adventures Carmen is experiencing on her new play structure and to see that she is able to run around, play, and most importantly, be a kid.



Isaac's Story

On his 8th birthday, Isaac spent the day recovering from surgery to remove a tumor from his brain. While this was not an ideal way to spend his special day, what awaited him would make his recovery even more special. As part of his recovery, Isaac has been relearning how to walk and talk in order to be where he was before he had his surgery. However, he has been greatly motivated by his wish to have his very own gaming system. When his play station was

delivered on the day of his wish reveal, it was a great reminder that he needed to keep persevering throughout his recovery. For Isaac, the play station was a way to not only entertain himself, but more importantly, it was a way to connect with his friends who he had not seen in months due to his surgery and the pandemic. Being able to play with his friends reminds him to continue practicing his new skills, ensuring that one day he will be able to be a normal kid again. In addition to his wish, Isaac also remains inspired by the monthly gifts he



I wish to have a gaming system
Isaac, 9 | Omaha brain tumor



receives in the mail from the Make-A-Wish team. "In a way it makes him feel like he is noticed he is here, that he matters and is thought of," said Dolly, Isaac's mom. "I want to thank everyone involved in things like this because IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE."



I wish to have a play structure
Jaxen, 3 | Eagle wilms tumor



I wish to have a camper
Harley, 13 | Imperial leukemia



Paige's Story



I wish to go to Hawaii

Paige, 13 | Omaha
gastrointestinal disorder
Wish granted in 2017

Before COVID changed everything, wish alum Paige was able to embark on a wish experience like no other. After living in and out of the



hospital, numerous trips to the doctor and various treatments, a trip to Hawaii in 2017 was exactly what Paige needed. By maintaining a positive attitude and finding

the treatments that worked, things started to look up for Paige. Her motivation to get to Hawaii was increasing daily as the strains of dealing with a chronic illness took a toll not only on Paige but on her family.



When she became healthy enough to travel, their magical week at the beach began. Not only was her trip incredible, but Paige has family that lives on the island and she was able to visit with them, which was special because they do not see each other often.

“Going to the beach and just having a peaceful first moment with my family, taking a breath of fresh air was priceless. We, as a family, didn’t realize how badly we really needed that” said Paige.

This liberating moment was just one of many throughout the entire week. Everyday was a relaxing adventure meant to be an escape from what she had been going through the last few months.

“We did not realize just how broken we had become in all the turmoil that surrounded us,” said Paige. “This wish that was granted to me was an escape from my reality for a week. To feel that there is nothing wrong, to not worry about what is going on, just have fun!”

Going to Hawaii was a unique experience for Paige and it gave her the ability to relax, be outside, and remember what it is like to truly be a teenager. It left a great impact on her life and encouraged her

to tell everyone she knew about Make-A-Wish and the incredible wish she had received. Looking back on her time in Hawaii, she said, “Knowing I was that ill and had a chance to do that made me appreciate life that much more. Looking back on photos makes me smile for the experiences I had

but it still makes me emotional when I see just how sick I was and how far I have come to stay as healthy as I can be.”

Paige’s story is one that will last a lifetime for her and her family. The experiences she had in Hawaii are unforgettable. For wish kids like Paige, a wish is more than just a moment in time. A wish experience is uplifting. It’s healing. It’s everlasting.



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

Ingrid, 6, Lincoln
heart transplant
I wish to go to an all inclusive resort in the U.S.
(Wish Year 2019)

Sarah, 18, Omaha
nervous system disorder
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
(Wish Year 2012)

Wyatt, 15, Roca
brain tumor
I wish to go on a Hawaiian cruise
(Wish Year 2019)

Emma, 8, Papillion
brain cancer
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
(Wish Year 2015)

Damian, 27, Lincoln
kidney transplant
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
(Wish Year 2005)

Gabriel, 17, Chadron
rare disorder
I wish to go to Discovery Cove
(Wish Year 2010)

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



25 Years of Helping Make Wishes Come True

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the annual Northeast Nebraska Wishes Golf Tournament benefiting Make-A-Wish Nebraska. Held each year in the spring, this event brings over 30 teams together to golf and raise money for local wishes. To date, this event has raised over \$703,000 and has helped grant over 100 wishes!

This golf tournament was started by Paul Hughes and then later, continued through the efforts of Stephen Ames and Al Throener. In 2011, Premier Marketing owners, Tom Schueth and Mike Wingate, took over organizing the event. Pat Moore and John Pieper have helped coordinate the tournament for numerous years. Premier Marketing is a large insurance marketing firm and they have continued hosting this tournament every year since and they remain an outstanding community partner for Make-A-Wish Nebraska.

As the event has grown each year, Premier Marketing has added silent and live



auctions and betting holes along the golf course to increase their fundraising efforts for Make-A-Wish.

We are excited to help celebrate this event's 25th anniversary in May and honor all the golfers who have participated in this tournament throughout the years and most importantly, supported our wish kids.

Thank you to Premier Marketing and the Northeast Nebraska Wishes Golf Tournament attendees for helping make wishes come true for 25 years!



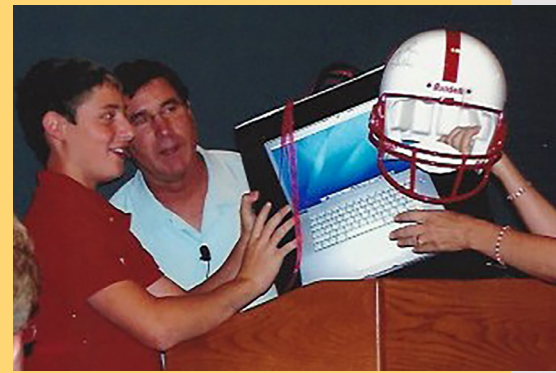
My Wish Journey

Written by wish alum Jeremy

At the age of 12, I heard the devastating news that I was living with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

My condition became the focal point of our lives and demanded everyone's attention. From diagnosis to the time spent fighting this cancer, I did not look or feel like myself. Most importantly, I was immunosuppressed and felt disconnected from the world as I was unable to participate in normal activities without fear of getting sick.

My wish was for a laptop computer. My wish for a laptop was very special because it allowed me to stay connected with my friends through social media and engage in fun activities that didn't put myself at risk, including computer

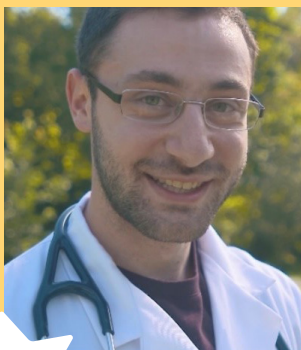


I wish to have a laptop computer
Jeremy, 12 | lymphoma | Lincoln
Wish Granted in 2007

games and making animated movies. I was also able to complete school assignments and even draft documents and bylaws for a non-profit organization I co-founded.

My wish has impacted my life to this day. A few years after I completed treatment, I began volunteering for Make-A-Wish. I continue to participate in the annual Radiothon, I'm an airport greeter and just this year, I joined the Make-A-Wish Nebraska Board of Directors. My time spent in the hospital also created the desire to become a physician. I am currently a medical student at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and about to begin an anesthesiology residency.

A wish is something that my family and I are extremely thankful for! There aren't a lot of bright spots when a wish kid is going through treatments, but Make-A-Wish is one of those bright spots. Thanks for making wishes come true!



Make-A-Wish®

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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 wish.org/nebraska
Call 800-760-WISH (9474)

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

Events

Norfolk Golf Tournament
May 17, 2021 | Norfolk

**Truck Center Companies
Annual Golf Tournament**
June 11, 2021 | Omaha

Perry's Place Golf Tournament
July 10, 2021 | Papillion

Wine, Whiskey and Wishes
July 15, 2021 | Omaha

Blue Jean Ball
August 14, 2021 | Omaha

Evening of Wishes Gala
August 19, 2021 | Kearney

Wine, Whiskey and Wishes
September 9, 2021 | Lincoln



Visit wish.org/nebraska to learn more