

*I wish to
have camera
equipment!*

Eldy, 17
cancer



Spring 2022

Make-A-Wish®
GREATER LOS ANGELES

RESTORE HOPE WITH A WISH!

Dear Make-A-Wish Greater LA Supporter,

Through the magic of a wish, a child with a critical illness replaces fear with confidence, sadness with joy, and anxiety with hope. I've seen first-hand how vital this is during a wish child's health battle – especially given the added stress of the pandemic.

Together, Make-A-Wish Greater LA has brought hope to children with critical illnesses for over 40 years. Throughout the pandemic we have continued to reach wish children in LA County with transformational wishes. Despite restrictions and uncertainty, we granted more than 400 wishes since the start of the pandemic – all thanks to your ongoing support.

We knew we had to adapt at lightning speed to our new virtual world and adopt advanced safety measures to reach children when they need wishes most. We pride ourselves on having reimagined and innovated quickly amidst complex and ever-changing challenges. During the pandemic we:

- Trained all volunteers and staff in virtual wish granting and digitized all our wish materials.
- Integrated virtual wishes including virtual celebrity meetings and virtual shopping sprees.
- Took advantage of SoCal weather to grant as many outdoor wishes as possible.
- Conducted virtual fundraising events to ensure we remain financially stable.
- Held our first-ever Gala in partnership with Disney (Galaxy of Wishes at *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge at Disneyland Resort®*) and broke a fundraising record for our Chapter!
- Checked in with wish families monthly so any concerns were addressed and they felt heard.

*3 out of 4 medical
professionals
surveyed by
Make-A-Wish said,
"A wish improves a
child's medical
outcomes."*

The pandemic serves as a powerful reminder that we can still live in a world of hope and meaning, great care and compassion. We are so appreciative of your support so we can continue to provide hope and spark joy for the more than 650 children waiting for their wishes in LA.

Warmly,

Peter McPartlin
Board Chair, Make-A-Wish Greater LA
EVP, Paramount Pictures

*Don't wait for hope.
Create it.*

Galaxy of Wishes Recap



In December, Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles held our first outdoor gala fundraiser at *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge at Disneyland Resort!* With Disneyland serving as Presenting Sponsor, the sold-out event raised \$2.9 million for Make-A-Wish Greater LA and Make-A-Wish Orange County and the Inland Empire.

The private, outdoor event was hosted by *Entertainment Tonight's* Kevin Frazier. Co-creators of *RWQuarantunes*, Richard & Demi Weitz, who raised \$750,000 for Make-A-Wish LA in 2021, were honored. Their award was presented by *Star Wars* actor Mark Hamill who also generously donated light saber experiences for guests. Dean & Susie Spanos and the Los Angeles Chargers were also honored for their generous support of wish kids. The nearly 2,000 attendees enjoyed entertainment by Fitz & the Tantrums, DJ Cassidy, Montell Jordan, Lisa Lisa and Morris Day.



Gabriel's Wish

Wish kid Gabriel suffers from genetic conditions causing communication challenges, but that hasn't stopped him from letting his parents know how much he loves fire trucks. Gabriel's parents started taking him to parades that feature fire trucks and to the firehouse museum. He gets so excited whenever he sees the trucks light up.

Make-A-Wish partnered with the Glendale Fire Department - Station 21 to safely grant Gabriel's wish to be a firefighter during the pandemic. Because Gabriel is non-verbal, the team created colorful signs with images of activities that Gabriel could point to. He took advantage of his many options including riding on the fire truck, taking pictures in firefighter gear, spraying the hose, and going on a tour of the fire station. He was able to take the day at his own pace and truly enjoy his wish.

Everyone could see Gabriel's joy as he looked around wide-eyed at the firehouse and waved goodbye to the fire trucks. It was an amazing experience for the entire fire crew to see this special boy get his wish. Thank you to Station 21 for creating a memorable experience for Gabriel and to Trailer Park Group for sponsoring this magical wish!



I wish to be a firefighter

Gabriel, 20
genetic disorder



Donor Spotlight

For years, Don Pell has graciously volunteered as a Wish Granter. Knowing the need for funding to grant even more wishes, Don reached out to his friends at DeBell Golf Club (his second home) to assist. They set up a challenge on the 14th hole where golfers have an opportunity to support Make-A-Wish. For a \$10 donation, if a golfer hits the green on their tee shot, they win a sleeve of golf balls. This simple challenge has brought in nearly \$20,000 in donations over the past year – enough to fund two wishes!! If you'd like to brainstorm ideas of how you can help us like Don did, please contact our team, and together we'll find a way to grant even more wishes!

Reach out to Elizabeth Espinoza at eespinoza@la.wish.org.



Don Pell with wish kid Sam at the ESPY Awards!



APRIL 29TH IS WORLD WISH DAY!

World Wish Day, held annually on April 29th, commemorates the first wish that inspired the founding of Make-A-Wish – Chris Greicius' wish to be a police officer granted in 1980. Throughout the month of April we'll be celebrating our inspiring wish kids and raising funds to reach the more than 650 kids in LA currently waiting for their wishes to be granted. You have the power to help. A community of supporters can make the unknown feel less scary for wish children and their families. By donating you can **restore hope with a wish** for a child battling a critical illness. Visit wish.org/la to give today.

Ways to Help:

- Donate—every dollar counts!
- Donate your property/car
- Donate Airline Miles
- Tribute gifts
- Host an Event

www.la.wish.org/ways-to-help



@makeawishlosangeles



@makeawishla



Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles



Planned Giving

Your will or living trust can provide for loved ones and leave a lasting legacy supporting a great cause. Naming Make-A-Wish Greater LA as a beneficiary is easy and often provides tax savings for your heirs. Naming us a beneficiary of a qualified retirement asset or insurance policy is also a great way to leave a significant gift that creates hope for generations to come. Visit wish.org/la/planned-giving.

Our spring events are here!

With nearly 650 wish kids waiting, your participation will help transform lives, one wish at a time.

*I wish to have
an ice cream
birthday party*

Sa'Jaya, 5
(right)
nervous system
disorder



Make-A-Wish.

WALK FOR WISHES.®

GREATER LOS ANGELES

April 2, 2022

Grab your sneakers and come out to enjoy the fresh air and fun at the LA Coliseum.

The event will feature wish kid ambassadors, a Make-A-Wish presentation, music, and food. Register your team today!

Make-A-Wish.

TRAILBLAZE CHALLENGE.®

GREATER LOS ANGELES

May 13 - 15, 2022

Explore new trails, build confidence outdoors, and create life-long friendships all while training for the 28-mile trek along the Pacific Crest Trail.

ACT NOW! Sign up by March 18 and get **\$100 OFF** your registration fee!



Learn more at wish.org/la/our-events or
email Elizabeth Espinoza at eespinoza@la.wish.org