

Switch on the Sirens for our 20,000th Wish

*I wish to be
a police officer*

Landen, 8
cancer



Read about Landen's wish on page 2.



This issue is sponsored by
UPMC HEALTH PLAN

A publication of
Make-A-Wish
GREATER PENNSYLVANIA
AND WEST VIRGINIA

Spring 2022

Wishing Well

Celebrating our 20, **Landen's Wish to be**



Volunteers: Jean Cox, Becky Disney
and Ann Waltman
Donor: PA State Police Gettysburg
Golf Tournament

1000th Wish: a Police Officer

Every night, for as long as she can remember, Brittany creeps quietly into her son's room to check on him. Diagnosed last year with a form of kidney cancer, it required chemotherapy so aggressive that it left him in terrible physical pain most days. But on this night, she couldn't help but chuckle at the sight awaiting her. There was Landen, fast asleep – his new police hat askew on his head. In his hand, a tightly clutched police badge – badge number 100 – and in his pocket, fingerprint evidence: all cherished mementos from the momentous day before.

Landen has always been fascinated with the police and first responders because “they help people and arrest the bad guys.” When his Make-A-Wish® volunteers met with him to ask him what he would like to wish for, he quickly wished to be a police officer.

Landen loves helping others, going the extra mile to make someone else happy, and his mom was thrilled to see the roles reversed for his wish day because, ever since his cancer diagnosis, it hasn't been so easy for Landen – and his family – to be carefree and have fun.

“It was devastating when we learned Landen had cancer,” said Brittany. “I got the phone call and fell on the ground because it was just heartbreaking.”

From the initial diagnosis to the biopsies and genetic testing that followed, Brittany became scared to answer the phone, afraid the next update would be another setback. That's when she started to go through the packet of resources from the hospital. Once Brittany came across information about Make-A-Wish, she decided to refer him for a wish.

“As soon as we learned he would be granted a wish, it was a relief,” Brittany said. “He needed a break from the pain, and it gave him something to look forward to – which, as a mother, is all I could hope for.”

On his wish day, Landen was out of bed before his mom for the first time in months. It was as if all of his pain disappeared.

With the help of the York County Regional Police Department Northeast District and a local judge, Landen – dressed in his uniform – was sworn in. After taking the oath and with his police badge secured, Landen said with certainty, “I'm a real cop.”



He spent the day on patrol, explored a state police helicopter and learned how to train a K9 officer. The best part? Landen captured a bad guy, and he was, officially, one of the good guys.

Although Landen's pain has started to return, the memories of his wish day help him push forward.

“He got to be the Landen we know and love for a couple days, and to see that smile on his face again was amazing,” Brittany said. “He has been so happy about it even days and weeks later.”

Ever since his wish, Landen has made nonstop calls to everyone he knows to let them know his new title, Officer Landen.

“When I think about my wish, I feel good,” Landen said nearly two weeks after his life-changing day.

Landen truly believes he's a part of the squad, and his community knows he's a true hero.

Wishes Come True

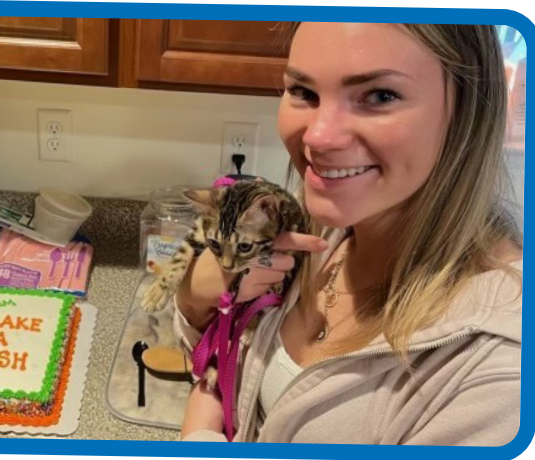


I wish to go to the Super Bowl LVI
Caden, 12 ←
cancer
Reading, PA



I wish to have an indoor play area

Eddie, 4 ↑
immune system disorder
Canonsburg, PA



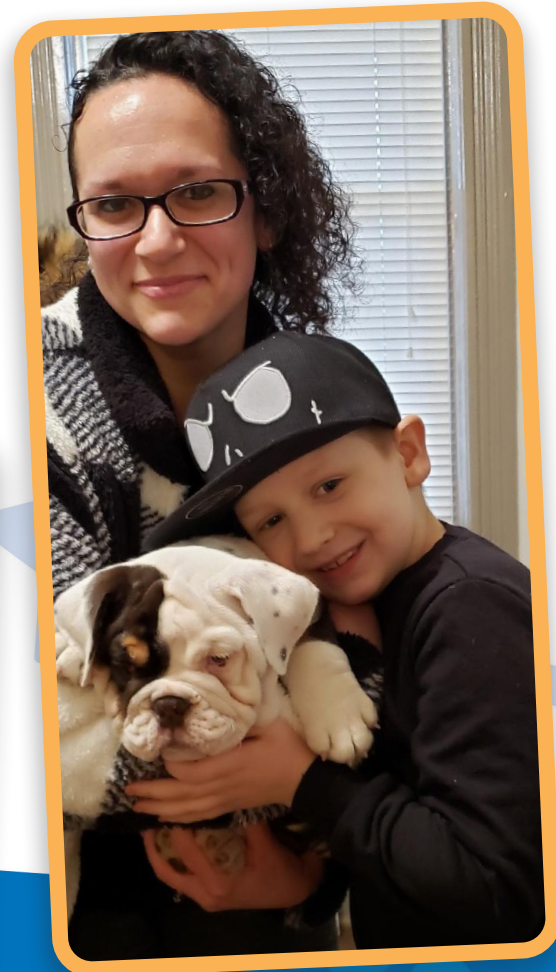
I wish to have a Bengal kitten
Alexis, 18 ←
autoimmune disorder
Baden, PA

I wish to have an English Bulldog puppy

EJ, 7 →
cancer
Uniontown, PA

I wish to have a shopping spree

Malachi, 5 ↓
brain tumor
Beaver, PA



Raise the Roof on Wishes

Whether it's a playhouse, an outdoor art studio, a clubhouse or a horse barn, these home-away-from-home wishes will put a smile on your face.

I wish to have a playhouse

Dante, 8 | cancer | Pittsburgh, PA



I wish to have an art studio

Hanna, 14 | cystic fibrosis | Chicora, PA



I wish to have a clubhouse

Cooper, 8 | brain tumor | Gibsonia, PA



I wish to have a horse barn

Haley, 14 | lymphoma | Beverly, WV



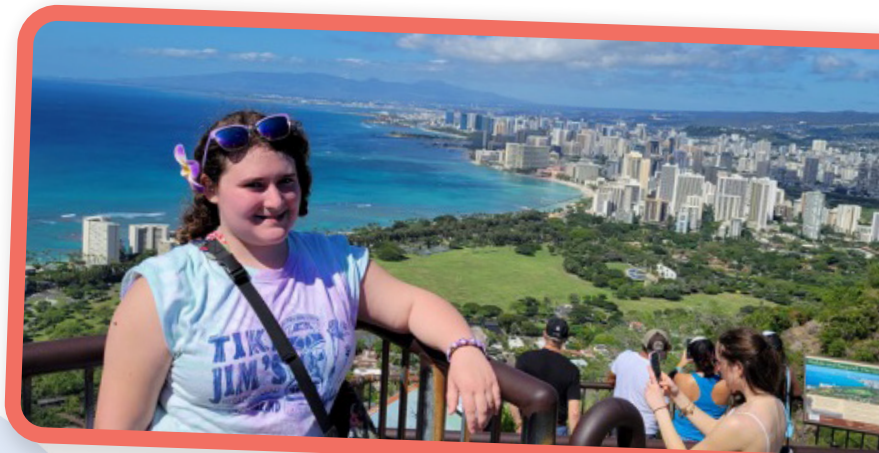


*I wish to have a
Star Wars: Galactic
Starcruiser experience*

Jaxon, 5 ←
kidney transplant
Tamaqua, PA

*I wish to go
to Hawaii*

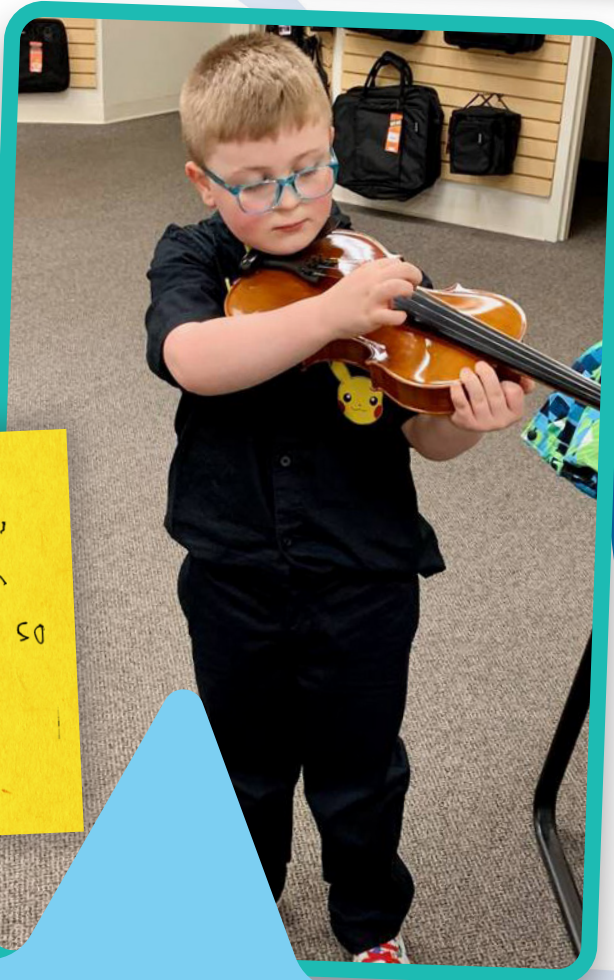
Gabrielle, 16 ↓
lymphoma
Erie, PA



*I wish to have
a violin and
lessons*
Fred, 8 →
congenital heart disease
Coraopolis, PA

A Letter from Wish Kid Fred

Dear Make-a-Wish
Thank you for my violin
and my lessons. I am so
excited to play!
love,
Fred



*I wish to have a
new gaming station*

Yechiel, 7 ↓
cancer
Albrightsville, PA



*"Thank you so very much for coordinating
Fred's wish. He has been effervescent with
excitement and telling all his family and
friends how fun it's been. We feel very
blessed to have this opportunity."*

-Fred's mom

*I wish to have a
Halloween Bash*

Summer, 3 →
leukemia
Hanover, PA



I wish to have a shopping spree

Daniel, 3 ↑
kidney transplant
Pittsburgh, PA

I wish to have a Dachshund puppy

Mikah, 5 ↓
blood disorder
Williamsport, PA



THANK YOU

FOR MAKING WISHES COME TRUE!

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Jenkins-Empire Associates
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Sheetz For the Kidz
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Shell Chemical Appalachia, LLC
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Synergy Group
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Truck Convoy for Wishes, Gettysburg
Weidmann Family
Wheels, Wings & Wishes
Williamsport Area High School

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Weakland Wreckers Octoberfest



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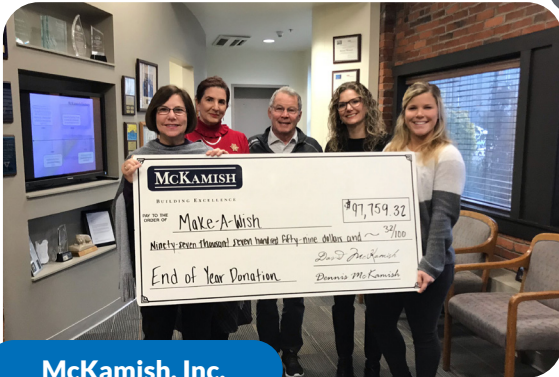
Brockway Area School District



Rutter's Vote with Your Dollars Programs



Perih Orthodontics



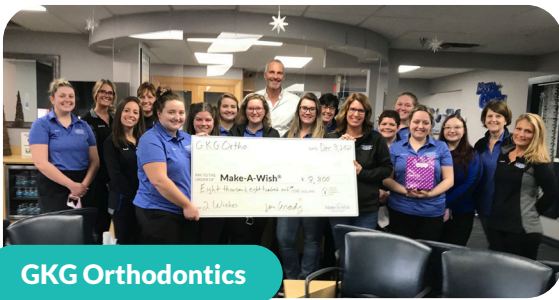
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GKG Orthodontics



Olympic Athletic Club



Grotto Pizza Harvey's Lake 2021 Parade of Trees



Penn-Trafford High School Wishes of Warriors Telethon



KOMAX Business Systems Golf Tournament



Plum School District Make-A-Wish Telethon



Phillips Family Foundation



Punxsy Pizza



Tudor's Biscuit World



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18th Annual Blue Ride
Blue Knights Law Enforcement
Motorcycle Club Chapter 16



South Hills Lincoln



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Complete Chiropractic Health



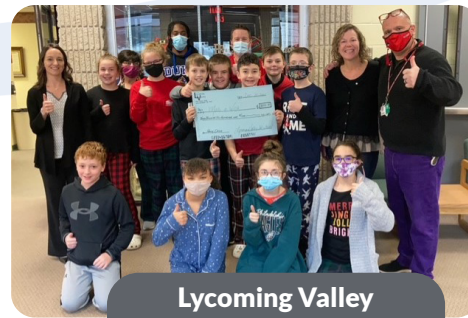
Annual Jax Stone Run



Donald J. Bennett
Memorial Ride



Erie County Technical School



Lycoming Valley
Intermediate School



Dunkin'-Erie, PA

Our Upcoming Events



April 29, 2022

Celebrate a Day of Wishes

Mark your calendar for World Wish Day® on April 29. World Wish Day honors the first wish granted in 1980 that inspired the founding of Make-A-Wish. World Wish Day not only celebrates past wishes that were granted—but wishes that are yet to come.

Together, we can restore hope with a wish.

To refer a child, make a donation or become a volunteer, visit: wish.org/greaterpawv

19TH ANNUAL GRAPEVINE

May 19, 2022

Revel + Roost | Pittsburgh, PA

Raise a Glass and Help Grant Wishes

Grapevine is our chapter's annual wine tasting event that brings together all members of the Make-A-Wish community – wish families, dedicated volunteers and dynamic supporters. Attendees will sample seven wines thoughtfully paired with heavy hors d'oeuvres and enjoy the event's highly anticipated silent auction and the ever-popular Mystery Wine Sale.

For more event information or to become a sponsor, contact Shenell Pooran at spooran@greaterpawv.wish.org or 412.471.9474.



Make-A-Wish®

TRAILBLAZE
CHALLENGE®

August 12-14, 2022

North Country Trail | Cooksburg, PA

Take the Challenge

The Trailblaze Challenge® is designed as an endurance event for hikers. Participants will have the opportunity to hike a 23.4-mile journey through the North Country Trail and the old-growth forest terrain of Cook Forest State Park. The hike will take place all in one amazing day, August 13, 2022, while raising much needed funds to grant the wishes of children.

All hikers must complete an info session via Zoom by April 30 to participate.

To schedule a one-on-one info session or to become a sponsor, contact Jake Seavy at jseavy2@greaterpawv.wish.org or 412.471.9474.





**WISH KID
MICHAEL**



Make-A-Wish.
**WISH
HEROES**

Family Art Photography

WILL YOU BE OUR HERO?

Kicking off on April 29, 2022, we will be once again hosting a Wish Heroes™ campaign. Make-A-Wish is looking for 20 Heroes to raise money for wishes in honor of our chapter's 20,000th wish!

What is a Wish Hero?

Wish Heroes is a fundraising campaign that celebrates the incredible people and organizations who have joined forces to unlock life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. They are wish families, wish kid alumni, wish-granting volunteers and donors who help us tell the Make-A-Wish story – truly our Heroes.

The Wish Heroes campaign harnesses the power of a select group of Heroes – nominated by the Make-A-Wish staff and Board of Directors – each striving to raise \$2,500 between April 29-May 31, 2022. Wish Heroes share why they are passionate about Make-A-Wish with their friends, family and community along with an ask to donate to their personal fundraising page.

The Wish Heroes campaign creates both revenue and awareness for the Make-A-Wish mission.

Will you answer the call and join the ranks of our Heroes?

For more information, contact Shannon O'Halloran at sohalloran@greaterpawv.wish.org or 412.471.9474.

Thanks to Our Donors

The next newsletter will be sent in Fall 2022, but the donor list on our website wish.org/greaterpawv is always up-to-date. In the meantime, don't forget to send us your email address for news and events. We will keep your address private.

The following lists cash and in-kind donations, totaling \$4,400 and above for the months of September through December 2021. Tribute honorees totaling \$500 or more are also listed. We extend our deepest appreciation to all of you. Should you discover an error or omission, please call us at 412.471.9474.

Whenever you donate online, please be sure to go through greaterpawv.wish.org. If you do, we will receive 100% of your donation - less a nominal administration fee.

\$100,000 or more

Luttner Financial Group, LLC
Sheetz For the Kidz

\$75,000 to 99,999

McKamish and Employees
The McKamish Family Foundation
Pittsburgh Investment Professionals
Scaife Family Foundation

\$50,000 to \$74,999

Make-A-Wish Board of Directors
Plum Borough School District
Spring 2021 Wish Heroes

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Cheers for Wishes
Children's Charity Softball Classic, Erie
Coldwell Banker Realty
Disney Wishes Come True
Erie Insurance Group
Give Kids The World
Guardian Life Insurance Company
Audrey Hillman Fisher Foundation
Franklin County Truck Convoy
Earl Luttner
Glenn and Ruth Mengle Foundation
Moyer's Grove Campground and Country RV
Olympic Athletic Club
Plum Senior High School
The Rutter's Companies
LeAnn Starner Annual Make-A-Wish Fundraiser
Weakland Wreckers, LLC
Wheels for Wishes

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Acme Machine & Welding Company and Employees
Donald J. Bennett Run 4 A Wish

Cans for Wishes
Christianpalooza
Disney Party in a Box
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DuBois Area Sr. High School
Duquesne University Miss Duquesne Pageant/Alpha Sigma Tau
The Encova Foundation of West Virginia
Erie Tec
Erie County Technical School
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Holiday Park Elementary School
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Tudor's Biscuit World
Walmart Foundation
Walmart Stores, Inc.
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\$5,000 to \$9,999

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[wish.org/greaterpawv/
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 to children with
 critical illnesses.

**Call 855.675.9474
 or visit**
pittsburgh.wheelsforwishes.org

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Our Mission

Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. We are proud to have served more than 20,000 children in 57 Pennsylvania counties and West Virginia in our 38-year history.



HIGHMARK WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Sign up to walk for
Make-A-Wish®!

Pittsburgh:

Saturday, May 7, 2022

7:30 a.m.

Heinz Field-Gate A

Erie:

Saturday, June 4, 2022

7:30 a.m.

Beach 11 at Presque Isle State Park

Register at:

www.walkforahealthycommunity.org

Connect with Us

 wish.org/greaterpawv

 email@greaterpawv.wish.org

