

Make-A-Wish®
NORTHEAST NEW YORK

Wishmaker

VOL 31 ISSUE 1 / SPRING/SUMMER 2022



2,000!

*Anthony's
Wish a Chapter
Milestone
Page 4*

With our gratitude



Lisa M. Clifford
Board Chair



William C. Trigg, III, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

To Our Valued Donors and Volunteers,

We are excited to present to you this issue of *Wishmaker* showcasing so many wonderful wishes that have (finally) been granted over the last six months since the COVID pandemic began to loosen its grip on our lives, including our 2,000th wish in early April (see cover story). We have waited a long time to achieve this tremendous milestone! Our Mission Delivery Team of Abby Connor, Jessica Liburdi, Scott Liloia and Karen Dominguez has done a tremendous job in making all of the wishes featured in this issue come true in stellar fashion. We are, indeed, on the road and in the air again with a robust wish granting program!

And speaking of Jessica Liburdi: In the three short months she has been with us as our new manager of volunteer engagement, she has had an impressive impact on our wish granting volunteers, wish families and the team. This is not to mention the fact that she is a wish alumna and one of the wish granters of Wish 2,000! She also organized and hosted our 2022 Volunteer Celebration in late April with great success.

Of course, our ability to grant so many memorable wishes these past six months would not have been possible without the generous response from our donors, be they individuals, civic groups, businesses, private and corporate foundations, and schools. For example, we are grateful to the more than 3,000 donors who supported our 2021 Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign, raising \$180,000 for wishes.

It was also gratifying to welcome back 280 donors to our live 2022 Wish Gala in late March after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. It felt really, really, REALLY great to celebrate several inspiring wishes together in person, including the reveal of Drew's wish to go to the WWE event in Texas last month. The celebration raised more than \$300,000, helping to ensure our continued commitment to granting the wish of every eligible child in our chapter region.

Thank you for sharing your time, talent and treasure to make life-transforming wishes come true for local children with critical illnesses. Together, we create hope and spread joy among our wish families and all who believe in **"the power of a wish!"**

Best wishes always,

Lisa M. Clifford
Board Chair

William C. Trigg, III, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer



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ON THE COVER: Wish kid Anthony, at Walt Disney
World® Resort, is the chapter's 2,000th wish.

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Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren and Washington counties in Upstate New York.

Anthony's Wish a Milestone for Chapter

After Anthony went through the Workshop of Wishes and was told his wish to go to Walt Disney World® Resort would be granted, he was shown a video in which a worker from Disney's Animal Kingdom told Anthony how much she was looking forward to his visit.

At one point, the 7-year-old from Niskayuna asked, "Is this real?"

Yes, Anthony, it is.

Anthony's April trip to Disney was a first for him. But for Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, it's the 2,000th wish since the chapter began granting wishes in 1987.

"This milestone is a powerful reminder of all the lives that have been impacted by the power of a wish over the years," said Make-A-Wish Northeast New York CEO William C. Trigg, III.

Trigg has been CEO since 2006, and has overseen more than half of the chapter's 2,000 wishes to date.

"A wish, whether it be a trip to Disney, a backyard playset, meeting a celebrity or whatever else that can be conjured by a child's imagination, is not just a nice thing to do for young person battling a critical illness," Trigg continued. "A wish provides hope, strength, joy and confidence, and is a lifelong gift that can transform the lives of that child, their family, and even entire communities."



The beaming child and his family returned from the wish and were greeted at Albany International Airport by singer Madison VanDenberg and a news conference, where Anthony answered questions like a pro.

"It was amazing at Animal Kingdom and all the other parks," Anthony said. "At Sea World I got to see a shark, dolphins and I got to feed some sea lions and I got to see a killer whale show."



The family expressed appreciation of Anthony's place in chapter history, and what the wish meant during the 7-year-old's battle with leukemia.

"COVID started, and six, seven, months later Anthony got sick. The last two years have been a very long time in our life,"





wish dad Anthony said. "It's been very difficult in many ways. This gave us time away from the reality of what we've been going through. It gave us time to just soak it up, enjoy and live the life that we dreamed we would be having right now.

"This has been special from start to finish," the dad continued. "They really did treat Anthony and our whole family like royalty from the moment we stepped into the wishing room the first day, to the airport, to Florida and back.

"Having this time really gave us time to reconnect and get time we would not have had otherwise. It's something that we will always remember."

When the younger Anthony waited with his family at the airport to depart on JetBlue Airways for Orlando on his wish, he was bouncing in anticipation.

"Best day ever EVER," he said.

Upon his return, he summed up his milestone wish in words that brought smiles to everyone:

"The greatest week of my life."



Make-A-Wish Northeast New York began granting wishes in 1987. The chapter steadily built itself, extending beyond the Capital Region into the North County, to the point where today we can grant up to 100 wishes in a normal year.



As we celebrate the chapter's 2,000th granted wish, here are other milestone Make-A-Wish Northeast New York wishes:

- 300 **1998** Chapter grants its **300th wish**: Joey's wish to visit Walt Disney World® Resort and meet Winnie the Pooh.
- 500 **2002** Chapter grants its **500th wish** when Billy and his family enjoy a Disney Cruise Line Land/Sea Vacation.
- 600 **2004** The chapter grants its **600th wish**, to 8-year-old Lashanna from Schenectady.
- 700 **2005** The **700th wish** to 6-year-old Benjamin of Glenville. Volunteer wish granter Toni Cowie is responsible for granting this milestone wish, as she is for milestone wishes 500 and 600.
- 800 **2006** The chapter's **800th wish** is granted to Gary from Leeds, whose wish for an adaptive hobby room came true in February.
- 900 **2008** Lindsay from Colonie becomes the chapter's **900th wish** — and published author. Her wish includes publishing of her book, "Cracked Up," complete with a book signing and reception.
- 1,000 **2009** The chapter's **1,000th wish** is granted, with 9-year-old Zachary being "slimed" at the Nickelodeon Hotel and Studios in Florida.
- 1,100 **2010** The **1,100th wish** granted, with Kaitlin from Corinth receiving a customized bicycle and swing.
- 1,200 **2011** Wish teen Julia is granted the chapter's **1,200th**: a trip to the Jersey Shore.
- 1,300 **2012** Megan, an 18-year-old from Wynantskill, and Melissa, a 16-year-old from Schenectady, each picked a shopping spree experience, and the pair together marked the milestone **1,300th wish** granted by the chapter.
- 1,400 **2013** An Albany International Airport celebration upon the return of wish kids Christopher, Austin, Zachary, and Emily and their families from Disney marks the chapter's **1,400th wish**.
- 1,500 **2015** Wish teen Hannah's wish to go to Los Angeles for the People's Choice Award show in Los Angeles is the chapter's **1,500th wish**.
- 1,600 **2016** Lucia's wish to visit Hawaii and swim with sharks is the chapter's **1,600th wish**. ... Wish kid Landon is sent to Italy to meet and be blessed by Pope Francis.
- 1,700 **2017** Cameron's wish to go on his senior class trip to Europe is the chapter's **1,700th wish** granted.
- 1,800 **2018** Before taking off on his wish — the chapter's **1,800th** — to Walt Disney World, 15-year-old flight enthusiast Ben (see photo) gets a complete tour of Southwest Airlines' operation, from the ground crew operations to the cockpit.
- 1,900 **2019** Liam's wish for an adaptive playset is the **1,900th** granted by the chapter. A first-time wish granter on the wish is Justice White, who received her wish in 2005.
- 2,000 **2022** Anthony's wish to go to Walt Disney World is the **2,000th** granted by the chapter. The 7-year-old from Niskayuna is most excited to see Disney's Animal Kingdom.



On the Road (And In the Air) Again

Travel Returns as Wish Option

The limo rides. The first-ever trips, and the lifetime of memories they provide. The airport greeting of the returning families — some excited, some weary, but many if not most transformed by their experiences.

It's back. All of it.

After being grounded by the pandemic, Make-A-Wish travel wishes have returned. Vaccinated children and families are traveling again to Walt Disney World® Resort, and Hawaii and Alaska, and other U.S. destinations, reopening a wish category.

“We are thrilled to once again be sending off wish kids and their families to their dream destinations,” said William C. Trigg, III, CEO of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York. “While we granted high-quality wishes throughout the pandemic after a brief initial pause, the one missing option was *I wish to go.* And now our wish kids are on their way!”

This edition of *Wishmaker* is filled with examples of such wishes, some of which

have been idling for two or more years.

Hot and Cold

While some kids pine to see the bright lights of the big city, Emily yearned to see the Northern Lights. So, in February she and her family bundled up and headed to Alaska to take in the wondrous natural show. And, yes, it was spectacular.

“Due to Covid-19, the wait for Emily’s wish was longer than expected; therefore she was upset at times,” wish mom Melissa said. “However, once we found out about the final wish she was extremely excited.

“We have never witnessed Emily so carefree and excited about everything in life. Her appetite improved, her

mood improved and her sleep quality improved,” the mom said. “This trip not only helped her forget about her harsh realities, but it helped her move toward a healthier life.

“From the moment we stepped out the door we were able to let our worries go. ... Every moment of our trip was absolutely perfect.”

Wish teens Emma and Brianna also headed west, but had a slightly different climate in mind. For their wishes, they went to Hawaii.

Drew had a less peaceful idea: He learned at our *Spark Joy* Gala! (page 11) that, at long last, he was going to WWE WrestleMania in Dallas, Texas.

And there were others.



Gates To The (Magic) Kingdom Reopen

These pages are full of Disney trips, starting with our cover and 2,000th wish kid Anthony. Declan chronicled his wish experience in Orlando (page 9), while Jackie got to participate in a personal Disney-themed fashion show at Macy's before heading off to the Magic Kingdom (page 25).

There is value to every wish, whether it be a camper or a shopping spree, meeting a celebrity, or having a bedroom makeover or the myriad other possibilities that can be conjured by a child's imagination. But trips, with the uninterrupted family time away from medical appointments and worries, had been sorely missed the past two years in the Make-A-Wish world. Especially by children anxiously waiting to go on them.

Deepansh's wish to go to Disney so moved his dad Sandeep that that he wrote us soon after returning.

"This trip was beyond words," he wrote. "We were amazed by the hospitality, love and how much the WISH community takes care of the families to the very minute detail.

"From the time we stepped out of the house until the time we stepped back, you guys made sure that we were comfortable and happy. ... OMG it was raining surprises all along.

"You guys pampered our family like parents taking care of a newborn. We thank you guys from the bottom of my heart. This trip will be remembered."

Make-A-Wish is on the road again, and memories are being made.



IMPORTANT NOTE

Make-A-Wish has not, does not and will not deny the opportunity to have a wish granted for children who are not vaccinated. Make-A-Wish will not require anyone to get vaccinated to get a wish. There are many wish options for children and families who are not vaccinated. The list of wish possibilities is as expansive as a creative child's imagination, and it includes road trips, celebrity wishes, playhouses, campers, shopping sprees, staycations, pet wishes, computers, room decorations and more. ... Make-A-Wish is not granting international or cruise wishes at this time, regardless of vaccination status.



Noella's New Room

Make-A-Wish Northeast New York wish kid Noella dashed into her new bedroom especially designed for her, made her way to the corner and silently took it all in.

And there was a lot for the 8-year-old to take in.

First, there is the special lighting, overhead and hanging in strands and even in a water tank, designed to create a calming effect. And over there was a ball pit, just in front of the hanging swing.

To her left: An ornate bed, with its mattress low to the ground. Noella, who in addition to battling an autoimmune

disorder also lives with autism, likes to sleep on the floor. Beyond the bed is a chalk board taking up a full wall. Next to that is an interactive touch screen attached to wi-fi, where Noella can either stream her favorite shows, create art with a stylus or — via a split screen — do both.

“This is a calming room,” wish dad Justin said. “These are things, typically, autistic children like.”

Noella pondered her sensory room, then slid herself into the ball pit, which also captured the attention of her 5-year-old sister, Bria. Noella proceeded to take her time with each and every facet of her wish.

Noella is primarily non-verbal, but grew excited the more she explored her new room. (The room originally belonged

to her older sister, Lilian, who gave it up for a smaller bedroom.) Finally, she let out an excited “Oh, man” — much to the delight of her family.

“For Noella, this will be a place for therapy and a place for fun,” wish mom Deidra said. “With her having autism, she has a tough time out in the world, and this will be her safe space.”

Joleen Bruyette and Bonnie DiGirolamo served as the wish granters for Noella’s wish, which was sponsored by Price Chopper/Market 32 employees.

The chapter would also like to thank Nancy Narcavage, Dorwin Dawson Associates, Bellevue Builders, Curtis Lumber and Town Decorators for their support.



Logan Gets a North Country Welcome



When Saranac Lake learned Make-A-Wish Central New York wish kid Logan was coming to the Adirondacks for a cabin wish, the local folks didn’t just welcome him: They welcomed him with his own parade and ice castle!

In short, they created a second Winter Carnival just for the teen.

“What you see here, hundreds of people, is simply by emailing the people in the community saying, ‘Hey, come out here and support Logan,’ and this is what Saranac Lake does,” said Jeffrey Branch, chairman of the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival. “We had a bunch of volunteers, probably 30 or 40 volunteers, come down last Saturday to build an ice palace for him.”

The parade took place a day before Logan’s 14th birthday.

“He was super excited, I think he was overwhelmed with so many people came to tell him happy birthday,” wish mom Brandi said.

“It was so awesome.” North Country, that you are.



Blue Milk, and the Droid I was Looking For

By Wish Kid Declan

Declan, a 14-year-old Make-A-Wish Northeast New York wish kid, takes us through his wish to Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge at Walt Disney World® Resort. Here are excerpts from his daily entries, edited for space.



Monday

We were supposed to leave on Sunday, but our flight got cancelled. The nice people from Make-A-Wish got us rescheduled for the next day.

At the (Give Kids the World) Village ... everything was lit with Christmas lights.

Tuesday

Dad and I wore our Star Wars shirts today.

We went to Star Wars land. We rode Rise of the Resistance first. It was great but moved fast and required a transfer midway through to a vehicle.

I asked to go to the market. I got a stuffed Bantha and a baby Porg that can sit on my shoulder. ... After the market, we went to Savi's to build a lightsaber.

Next, we went to find some drinks and saw Chewbacca and a Resistance fighter. We got a blue milk and a green milk to

share. Dad and I like the blue milk better, but Mom likes the green best.

Since we have time before the droids, we went over to Toy Story Land to ride Toy Story Mania. On the way we have our picture taken and the photographer says that a special character will appear later. (When we finally see it, it's Grogu!)

After that, we went back to the Droid Depot (more bumpy ground!) and got to build our droids. Dad and I both picked "Scoundrel" personality chips, but different colors.

Wednesday

We went to Harry Potter land at Universal. ... I really like the Butterbeer.

Thursday

We got up early to have our picture taken with our house sign, then we went to breakfast at the Gingerbread Restaurant. After that, we made my star and got my pillow. There are so many stars. ... I made

a wish and threw a penny in the well. I heard it fall and then someone say, "Ow!" I'm keeping my wish secret.

Friday

Then we head to Magic Kingdom. I get to see the "Wish Room" and know I could use it for a rest tomorrow if I need it.

Saturday

We go to Magic Kingdom again. A nice attendant helps us find parking and gives us a cone to make space for the ramp.

Mom and Dad have to figure out how to pack all the souvenirs and droids while I rest.

Sunday

We have to get up early to catch the plane back. It starts raining hard while Dad's loading the van. I'm not a fan of early or rain and I'm not keen on doing the aisle chair again but we make it, and the plane goes well. (I sleep a bit.)

Saluting Our Essential Volunteers



Above and Beyond *Dave Perritano and Mike Smith*

We are compelled to honor both of these do-everything volunteers with this award. When there is a wish to be granted, or a fundraiser to be held, or an event to be staffed, you can count on Dave and Mike to be there. As wish granters and all-around volunteers, they always step forward.

Every volunteer is essential to our mission, but each year Make-A-Wish Northeast New York recognizes a handful of standouts.

“I say this repeatedly, because it is an essential truth: There is no Make-A-Wish without our dedicated volunteers,” said William C. Trigg, III, CEO of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York. “These exceptional individuals make possible the creation of life-changing wishes.”

We are grateful for, and humbled by, each and every one of the people who give of their time for wish kids and families. In particular, the chapter recognizes these exceptional volunteers:



Wish Champion Award

Karen Kaufman-Wachs

Karen toiled on a complex medical equipment wish, and with Maria Lutz and the Epilepsy Foundation to create the chapter’s fifth-ever give-back wish. A wish granter since 2013, Karen has always been able to tackle the most complicated and unique wishes with professionalism and compassion.

Wish Team *Diane Roberts and Kismet McCormick*

The North Country tandem handle challenging wishes and travel great distances with grace and warmth. No obstacle is too great for them when it comes to fulfilling the heartfelt wish of a child.



Rising Star *Matt Armstrong*

Since becoming a wish granter last year, Matt has taken on four wishes in various stages, offering to step in when needed, no questions asked. He brings unwavering empathy, dedication and enthusiasm to each and every wish.



Wish Star *Andrew Weibrecht*

When this three-time Olympic skier could not hold his North Country ski fundraiser for the chapter in 2020, he created a one-man event, skiing all 46 High Peaks. The Board of Trustees member also often assists on North Country wishes in and around the Lake Placid area.



Special Recognition *Patrick “Wack” Nolan and His Volunteers*

After roaring through the Tri-County Region for 14 years, Wack’s Make-A-Wish Ride came to an end in the summer of 2021. But we can’t let this fundraiser ride off into the sunset without saluting namesake organizer Wack Nolan and his army of fellow volunteers and bikers for all they have done for wish kids since 2008, raising more than \$800,000 for wishes in the greater Lake George Region. Ride on, Wack!

Drew's Maniacal Wish



In the middle of the elegance that was the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Spark Joy! Gala, two professional wrestlers burst into the Hall of Springs.

Blaze Hiram, a villain by trade, and Garrett Holiday, his in-ring nemesis, had no interest in the fine dining or the dancing to follow. They were there for one reason: Drew.

Hiram growled for the 11-year-old to come to the stage, where the ICW wrestler then figuratively body-slammed the stunned wish kid with the news that Drew's wish, to attend WWE WrestleMania, would be coming true the next week.

Drew, his brother EJ and their parents flew to Dallas, where they were feted by WWE, met star wrestlers and had prime seats for the two-night event.

"It was the best and so amazing," Drew said. "I was so happy. The best part was watching the shows and meeting the wrestlers. They were so nice in real life."

Wish mom Amy could only agree. "Everything was beyond amazing," she said.



'We Got a Camper!'

Amelia knew she was going to Albany Med that December Thursday for treatment. What the Catskill 6-year-old didn't know was her family was stopping first at Diederich's RV Mart for her wish reveal – and her new camper!

Even her parents didn't realize beforehand that the Slaters at Diederich's had worked with vendors and local businesspeople to throw in a whole host of extras.

Amelia beamed – "We got a camper!" – as her 2-year-old sister Kimber fished through all the goodies inside (including



Disney fishing poles). Amelia's 4-year-old sister Hayden said, "Best day ever!" over and over.

"This is her dream come true," wish mom Casie said. "We want to take it wherever we can make memories."

Kathy Ventura

and Allison Smith served as the wish granters.

In large part because Diederich's had enlisted so many area businesses, and the community had become so invested in Amelia's wish (and joy), the photo gallery of her wish went on to become the most popular Facebook post in the chapter's history.

Her smile had a lot to do with that, too!

the power of a wish



'I wish to HAVE'

I Wish to Have a Playset

Zavier, 3, from Selkirk

Wish Granters: Christine Hyatt and Pamela Moore
Wish sponsored by Hudson River Bank & Trust

I Wish to Have a Gaming Computer

Joseph, 16, from Watervliet

Wish Granters: Jim Bettini and Kiki St. Jacques
Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

I Wish to Have a Travel Trailer

Amelia, 6, from Catskill

Wish Granters: Allison Smith and Kathy Ventura
Wish sponsored by Diederich's RV Mart

I Wish to Have a Custom Tandem Wheelchair Bicycle

Moses, 18, from Rome

Wish Granters: Christina McCarthy and Chrissy Schumate
Wish sponsored by Wish Exchange Program

Beatrix, 18, from Rome

Wish Granters: Christina McCarthy and Chrissy Schumate
Wish sponsored by Wish Exchange Program

I Wish to Have a Virtual Shopping Spree

Aveguil, 17, from Schenectady

Wish Granters: Joleen Bruyette and Francesca Casaregola
Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

I Wish to Have a Playroom Makeover

Nola, 11, from Cambridge

Wish Granters: Jesse Matteson and Russell Matteson
Wish sponsored by Cole Collision Centers

I Wish to Have a Sensory Room Makeover

Noella, 8, from Schenectady

Wish Granters: Joleen Bruyette and Bonnie DiGirolamo
Wish sponsored by the Employees of Price Chopper/Market32

I Wish to Have a Virtual/In-Store Shopping Spree

Haven, 5, from Coxsackie

Wish Granters: Allison Smith and Kathy Ventura
Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

I Wish to Have a Gaming Computer

Nicholas, 18, from Albany

Wish Granters: Rob Roemer and Theresa Roemer
Wish sponsored by Wish Jump



These wish granters also participated on wishes that cannot be publicized: Matt Armstrong, Jim Bettini, Christopher Fain, Tanya Haas, Rob Iannacone, Michelle Iannacone, Diane Roberts, Cathlyn Lamitie, Kismet McCormick, Cathy Scala, and Mary Schow.

the power of a wish

'I wish to GO'

I Wish to Go see the Northern Lights in Alaska

Emily, 11, from East Schodack

Wish Granters: Erin Mangene, Stephanie Mangene and Karen Paquette

Wish sponsored by Gross Electric



I Wish to Go to a Morgan Wallen concert in New York City

Brooke, 19, from Hudson

Wish Granters: Kimberly Clark and Diane Duquette Burl

Wish sponsored by Naked Turtle Golf Tournament

I Wish to Go to Hawaii

Emma, 16, from Niskayuna

Wish Granters: Toni Cowie and Laura Mazzara

Wish sponsored by Banner Industries



I Wish to Go to Hawaii

Brianna, 17, from Ballston Spa

Wish Granters: Sarah McKinney and Lauri Mullin

Wish sponsored by Swagelok

I Wish to Go to WrestleMania

Drew, 11, from Johnstown

Wish Granters: Melissa Faville and Frank Valiante

Wish sponsored by Robert Lee Walsh American Legion Post 337 Golf Tournament

'I wish to go to Walt Disney World® Resort'

Declan, 14, from Rexford

Wish Granters: Jen Cullen and Abby Todd

Wish sponsored by Dave and Danielle Druzynski

Deepansh, 5, from Clifton Park

Wish Granters: Kristen Cecala, Carey Hickey and Michael Smith

Wish sponsored by Wish Jump

Abigail, 5, from Albany

Wish Granters: Kate Bukowski and Dena DeLude

Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

Gabriel, 6, from Delmar

Wish Granters: Jeff Avella and Linda Tepper

Wish sponsored by Banner Industries



Jacqueline, 17, from Niskayuna

Wish Granters: Laurie Abelson and Sandi Worona

Wish sponsored by Kingsway Community Golf Tournament

Anthony, 7, from Niskayuna

Wish Granters: Jessica Liburdi and Karen Paquette

Wish sponsored by Tech Valley Charity Golf Tournament

Kyriae, 13, from Troy

Wish Granters: Katie Krzys and Danielle Sanzone

Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign



Schulyar, clutching tight to her mom, Amber, didn't quite know what to make at first of the guy in the tattered top hat and tails who greeted her and her family at the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York office. He said his name was Tiddlywink Higgins, and he was, well, strange – in a funny and charming way.

Confusion, Giggles, Then *Glee*

Schulyar's Disney Wish Reveal Opens The Workshop of Wishes

Tiddlywink soon had the shy 8-year-old giggling. And he did know Schulyar's name, and even showed her it was written in a really fancy book, which she signed with a feathered quill pen. She then banged a gong to make her presence as the first-ever wish kid to visit the Workshop of Wishes official.

Schulyar initially thought she was coming to the office with just her mom to sign some paperwork. She was surprised when she saw her wish granters Jim Bettini and Sabra Venezia – and the rest of her family. And with Tiddlywink as her guide, Schulyar found out the real reason for the visit: Her wish to go to Walt Disney World® Resort was going to be granted!

"Do you know how hard it was not to tell you?" her dad Kevin asked her over lunch and cake afterward.

The reveal is the first for the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Workshop of Wishes, seven years in the making. The initiative transformed part of the chapter's office into a special place where wish children can contemplate and declare their wishes, and find out their wishes will be granted.

"We are trying to make the first part of the wish journey more magical," Make-A-Wish Northeast New York CEO William C. Trigg, III, said.

The journey through the Workshop of Wishes is led by volunteer actors from the community called storytellers.

"Being a storyteller means that I help a child know that their wish is going to come true, and that we are going to make that possible with the wish granters," said Tiddlywink, aka Kristoph DiMaria. "We make the magic for them."

In the Workshop of Wishes, the child visits the chapter's Library of Wishes to discuss their wish. If they are decided upon their wish, they proceed down the hall to a special workshop room, where their wish is magically granted. (Yes, we keep the details sketchy to keep the surprise going for the next wish kid and family.)

"This was absolutely wonderful," wish mom Amber said. "The whole experience was just amazing."



"This was absolutely wonderful," wish mom Amber said. "The whole experience was just amazing."





SPARK JOY!

2022 GALA

After Two Years Apart, A Night to Remember

After two years being tucked away in the closet, the tuxes and gowns came out for the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York *Spark Joy!* Gala at the Hall of Springs in Saratoga Springs.



The pandemic had relegated the chapter's annual formal fundraiser to a virtual event in 2020 and 2021. But this year, revelers returned, wish ambassador Drew's wish to attend *WrestleMania* was granted (see page 11), and the chapter raised a little more than \$300,000 that will go toward creating life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

Make-A-Wish Northeast New York CEO William C. Trigg, III, expressed his gratitude to the nearly 300 on hand that he could thank them in person for the role they play in creating wishes.

"It is hard to believe that it was three years since we last celebrated our Wish Gala together here, in person, at the Hall of Springs," Trigg said. "I cannot tell you how really, really, REALLY good it feels to be back to share this celebration of our wonderful mission together, with all of you.

"As challenging and heart-wrenching the past 25 months have been for all of us in dealing with the COVID pandemic, it

is so very important that you remember the vital role you played during that time in keeping hope alive and vibrant for our wish kids and their families," he continued. "Whether you are a donor, a corporate partner, a Board Trustee, a volunteer, a member of our professional team or of the pediatric medical community, a vendor, or a combination thereof, you helped us to navigate through the treacherous straits of the pandemic successfully."

Chad O'Hara of B95.5 FM and wish ambassador Maria Lutz served as co-hosts. Maria was joined as a wish ambassador by Finn, Sofia and Cheyenne.

The last ambassador was Drew, after he was surprised at the Gala with his wish reveal that he would be leaving for Dallas and *WrestleMania* the following week. That and the Shield Raffle were among the highlights.

But the biggest highlight may have been just being able to gather again.

Special Thanks

We thank our *Spark Joy!* sponsors:



Edward P. Swyer



Kyle and Danielle Kinowski



JudyAnn Wade



The Shield

There has never been a Make-A-Wish Northeast New York fundraiser quite like The Shield Raffle.

The raffle of the one-of-a-kind signed Marvel memorabilia netted the chapter nearly \$50,000. The winning ticket, held by Kara Lakatos of Burlington, Wisconsin, was pulled by wish ambassador Sofia at the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York *Spark Joy!* Gala.

The story of the coveted piece begins in 2021, when Sebastian Stan, the Marvel Cinematic Universe actor best known for playing the Winter Soldier, donated the metal shield autographed by himself and fellow MCU stars Chris Evans, Anthony Mackie and Wyatt Russell. Stan's connection to the chapter? He is a college classmate and friend of our senior manager of wish granting, Scott Liloia.

We printed some flyers on social media, then put out a notice on social media.

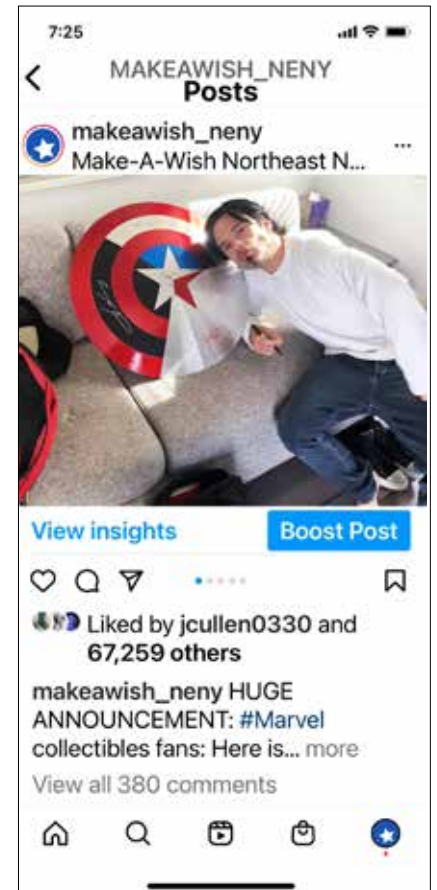
Which got shared by Stan and Evans. Check out the photo of our original Instagram post and the number of likes: The most likes we had previously received for any social media post was in the hundreds.

So the phones started ringing. And ringing. And did not stop until we almost ran out of tickets – nearly 2,500. The calls came from Delmar and Spain, Albany and Australia, California and Colonie and Ireland. Many bought hundreds of dollars' worth of this one-of-a-kind collectible; several purchases were in the four figures.

The winner bought two tickets. She is not even that big a Marvel fan. But her 15-year-old daughter Mia, is – as in huge, down to the comic book collection she

has from her dad and her Marvel-themed bedroom in the works.

"It took us a while to realize it is real," mom said.





The Ripples of a Wish

Like a stone tossed in water, a wish doesn't just make a splash. It ripples – sometimes for years on end, touching lives in unexpected ways.

Matthew Rosato was 8 when he was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder. Around his 10th birthday, Make-A-Wish Northeast New York granted his wish to travel to the Great Wolf Lodge Water Park in Pennsylvania.

“As Matthew splashed in that water from morning 'til nightfall, with nothing but light in his eyes and a perpetual giggle, I watched in awe at his complete and utter disregard of his illness while he leaned into each and every joyful moment of life,” dad Steve Rosato recalled.

“Personally, I was forever changed. Something in that Make-A-Wish weekend made me, as Matthew's Dad, feel not alone and that it's all going to be OK. I don't quite know how or why. ... It's just a feeling one gets when love and hope are offered up so freely. And that hope still sits in my deepest core today.”

That wish was more than a decade ago. But that wish touches the lives of other wish families, and one in particular, to this very day.

Lasting Impact

As manager of the Saratoga Olive Oil Company in Saratoga Springs, Steve Rosato enthusiastically took part in the recent Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign, organizing the selling of wish ambassador stars at the company's Saratoga Springs and Lake Placid locations.

“This was very personal to me,” he said.

“That Make-A-Wish weekend was over 12 years ago for my son. And while textbooks still say his disease is incurable, Matthew, now 21, defies the odds. He sees only with the wonder of a child's eyes and miraculously loves all unconditionally.”

You may not be surprised to hear that Saratoga Olive Oil was accommodating when one of its vendors needed flexibility due to family health struggles. Now consider the company had no idea the impact its Make-A-Wish fundraising efforts had on that same family.

“One of our former neighbors sent us a photo from your Lake Placid location, which showed lots of stars on the wall,” vendor Jerome Lauzon wrote to Saratoga Olive Oil Company owners Clint and Barbara Braidwood. “The little girl on the teal star is our Isabella. She was granted a wish a year and a half ago [a sensory room makeover] and was chosen to be an ambassador.”

“Your participation directly affects so many children and families in ways most people don't realize. It's very personal to us and we can't thank you enough.”

Neither Steve Rosato nor Jerome Lauzon knew the other is a wish dad. But Matthew's wish, more than a decade ago, impacted the Lauzon wish family today, just as both wishes families' fundraising efforts touch the wish families of tomorrow.

And the ripples roll on.





New York State Correctional Officers
& Police Benevolent Association, Inc.
"Keeping New York Safe"

Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign

Stars Rise Again for Wishes



The 2021 Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign, again hampered by the coronavirus pandemic, still brought in more than \$180,000 to fund wishes for children with critical illnesses in the 15 counties we serve.

Added by the buoyant presence of eight wish ambassadors — Andrew, Gabe, Isabella, Jaxon, Makaila and Portia in the Capital Region and Brandon and Del in the North Country — the 29th edition of the campaign

and its paper stars once again proved popular in malls, area business and schools.

"The Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign is one of the most essential and representative of all our Make-A-Wish fundraisers, because it involves everyone in our chapter community, from our biggest sponsors down to children donating dollar bills at schools and malls,"

said Kirsten Broschinsky, director of development of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York.

The fourth annual Day of Wishes Telethon, hosted by CBS6 Albany meteorologist Alyssa Caroprese, aired on Ch. 6 and B95.5 FM, contributing more than \$16,000 to the campaign.

We thank Presenting Sponsor NYSCOPBA, Star Sponsor M&T Bank, all our sponsors and those who contributed and especially our volunteers for once again making this vital campaign a success.



Make-A-Wish.
2022 WALK FOR WISHES®



Walk to Hit its Stride Again

In 2020, we just tried to keep our feet moving. Last year, we were on surer footing, but still tentative.



But come this August, we hope the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Walk For Wishes will return in full stride, raising funds for life-changing wishes and bringing our extended community together as one.

This year's Ninth Annual Walk For Wishes will be held on Saturday, Aug. 13, Joseph L. Bruno Stadium in Troy, with gates opening at 8 a.m. The 10 a.m. Walk will be preceded by open ceremonies at 9:45 a.m.

The annual gathering at The Joe serves as a family reunion of sorts, where the extended Make-A-Wish family gathers to celebrate the power of a wish, and each other's kinship.

"The Walk is one of our most inclusive events, bringing together wish families and volunteers, donors and other supporters of the Make-A-Wish mission in a fun, relaxed environment," said Kirsten Broschinsky, the chapter's director of development. "Together, we share moving wish stories while raising the funds necessary to grant wishes for future wish kids."

A family friendly event that is wheelchair accessible, the three-mile route in and around the campus of Hudson Valley Community College in Troy begins with a "Victory Lap" around the ballpark. (There is also an optional one-mile route.)

Participants can set up teams, share their stories, and ask for support from family and friends. If you raise at least \$100, you get a prized Walk For Wishes T-shirt. Teams are already raising money: You don't want to fall too far behind in this race! Register your team today at wishwalknyny.org and share why wishes matter to you!



Recruit and register your Team TODAY at WishWalkNENY.org!



Share your story: Tell people why wishes matter to YOU!



Ask for support! Remember, raising just \$100 gets you the official 2022 Walk For Wishes T-shirt!

**Walk with Me,
 Wish with Me!**





REGISTER at
WishWalkNENY.org

Upcoming Events

MAY

- Saturday, May 21: Go Topless – Jeep Event**
 Au Sable Forks
 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, May 24: Walk For Wishes Corporate Breakfast**
 The Desmond Hotel, Albany
 Breakfast at 7:30 a.m., Program at 8 a.m.

JUNE

- Monday, June 6: Kingsway Community Golf Tournament**
 Mohawk Golf Club, Schenectady
 11 a.m.

JULY

- Saturday July 9: Wish Fest**
 Riverlink Park, Amsterdam
 Details to Come
- Wednesday, July 20: Naked Turtle Golf Tournament**
 Plattsburgh
 Details to Come
- Sunday, July 24: Wish Family Picnic at the Tri-City ValleyCats**
 Joseph L. Bruno Stadium, Troy
 Gates open at 3 p.m., Picnic at 4 p.m., Game at 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 27: NYS Laborers’ Charity Golf Tournament**
 Saratoga National Golf Club, Saratoga Springs
- Saturday July 30: Robert Lee Walsh American Legion Post 337 Golf Tournament**
 Holland Meadows Golf Course, Gloversville
 Shotgun start at 8 a.m., Lunch at 2 p.m.

AUGUST

- Thursday, Aug. 11: Play It Forward 518 Golf Tournament**
 Van Patten Golf Course, Clifton Park
 Golf begins at 9 a.m., Reception at 1:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 13: Walk For Wishes**
 Joseph L. Bruno Stadium, Troy
 Registration at 8 a.m., Walk at 10 a.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 21: Bobbie Arsenault Memorial Family Fun Day**
 Details to Come

SEPTEMBER

- Thursday, Sept. 8: 13th Annual Tech Valley Charity Golf Tournament**
 Saratoga National Golf Club, Saratoga Springs
 7 a.m.
- Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 8-10: Adirondack Nationals Car Show**
 Fort William Henry, Lake George
 12 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 19: Coldwell Banker Prime Properties Golf Tournament**
 Van Patten Golf Club, Clifton Park
 9 a.m.

Be sure to check our calendar on wish.org/neny for updates.

CALENDAR

Luxuriating in Joy



Finn initially wanted to go to the South Pacific for his Make-A-Wish wish. Instead, a touch of the islands was brought to him — and along with it daily benefits.

“Finn wanted to go to Hawaii, but due to Covid we decided travel wasn’t best right now, and he decided on a hot tub,” wish mom Miranda said. “He remembered being in one at a hotel and absolutely loving it, so he decided that he wanted something he could have at home.

“So, he decided he wanted a hot tub and wanted it to be

decorated like Hawaii — the best of both worlds! Our wish granters (Maura Fox and George Sicard) did such a special job of making his hot tub party a little luau!”

For the 6-year-old battling leukemia who served as one of the chapter’s *Spark Joy!* Gala wish ambassadors, the hot tub is not only a refreshing place to hang out, but also a vital therapeutic tool.

“Finn has used the hot tub almost daily and looks forward to us getting in it as a family daily,” the mom said. “It has also

helped his pain tremendously! His back is often in a lot of pain from having multiple spinal taps, and this has helped his back and his legs and feet from nerve damage caused by chemo.”

Aloha, Finn!



A Wish Full of Giggles

The giggling could be heard from an unseen Zavie, growing louder as he wound his way, and gained speed, down the corkscrew tubular slide.

Finally, he emerged, smiling and talking and still giggling as he hit the ground. The only word you could make out from he was saying: *Again.*

There was a lot of smiling and giggling from the 3-year-old Make-A-Wish Northeast New York wish kid this perfect autumn afternoon as he explored his wish: An intricate backyard playset. Joining him in the joy were family members, including his twin 2-year-old sisters, Autumn and Meadow.

“This is really incredible,” wish mom Amanda said, pushing Zavie and Autumn on swing seats as Meadow played nearby and dad Glen and grandparents looked on. “It’s more than I could have hoped for.”

Zavie, between his running and giggling and swinging, paused long enough to say, “Thank you, Make-A-Wish.” Watching the joy on the faces of him and his family, it’s easy to say it was our pleasure.

Christine Hyatt and Pam Moore served as the wish granters. Special thanks to Swing Kingdom, Garden Time and Caked With Love By Steph for making Zavie’s wish so memorable.



Staff News

Historic Hire: Wish Alum Liburdi to Lead Volunteers

Jessica Liburdi, a wish alum and wish granter, has been named the new manager of volunteer engagement for Make-A-Wish Northeast New York.

Liburdi is the first wish alum to be later hired by Make-A-Wish Northeast New York since its formation in 1987, according to chapter records. Her wish came nearly three decades ago.

“As a wish child, volunteer and now staff member, Jessica embodies and embraces Make-A-Wish,” chapter CEO William C. Trigg, III, said. “Not only is she steeped in our culture and mission, but she has the relevant professional experience that will allow her to excel in her new role.”

Liburdi arrives after serving the past three and a half years as care coordinator supervisor at Tri-County Care,

where she coordinated a variety of services for adults and children with developmental disabilities. Liburdi, who has other prior experience in the nonprofit world, holds a bachelor’s degree from The College of Saint Rose and a Master of Social Work degree from Boston University.

“The Make-A-Wish mission has always been close to my heart,” Liburdi

said. “I look forward to working with our team of dedicated volunteers to help create joy for local wish kids and their families.”

Born with a birth defect that required multiple surgeries, Liburdi’s wish to go Walt Disney World® Resort nearly 29 years ago still resonates with her as an adult.

“Spending a week with my family, my sister, without medical treatments — and at Disney? I could not imagine,” Liburdi wrote in a story that appeared in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue of the chapter’s magazine, *Wishmaker*.

“I do not hold many distinct memories of age 6. But that wish will never be forgotten. ... It remains one of my limited childhood memories not clouded by the bright lights and harsh sounds of a hospital.”

The Latham woman replaces Ray Gawlak, who left for a position outside of Make-A-Wish.



COO Bullock Departs Chapter

Robert Bullock, who has been with Make-A-Wish Northeast New York since 2017, is exiting as chief operating officer.



His departure coincides with an organizational restructuring of the chapter.

During his tenure, Bullock worked under CEO William C. Trigg, III, in overseeing the management of the chapter’s programming, philanthropy, human resources, marketing and communications, information technology, strategic planning and financial management.

“Bob has been a valued and dedicated member of our team, and a great ambassador of our mission,” Trigg said. “Above all, he has represented our staff’s commitment to serving our wish kids and their families with professionalism and enthusiasm.”

A retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, Bullock previously served as deputy director for operations for the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government and as president of the New York State Archives Partnership Trust, among other roles.

“I will always cherish my time with Make-A-Wish,” Bullock said. “Being part of the mission to bring joy to children and their families when they need it most has been fulfilling beyond words.”

BE THE DIFFERENCE

**YOU can create joy.
YOU can make a lasting
difference in the lives of
critically ill children and
their families.**

YOU can be a Make-A-Wish Northeast New York wish granter.

By investing a few hours a month of your time and talents, you will be helping craft life-transforming wishes and memories for local children in the 15 counties we serve. Interested? Contact Manager of Volunteer Engagement Jessica Liburdi at jliburdi@neny.wish.org or 518-456-9474.

Create the difference. Be the difference. Be a wish granter.



Five Questions for ... William Trigg, III CEO, Make-A-Wish Northeast New York

The longest-tenured CEO in the history of Make-A-Wish New York, Bill Trigg has transformed the chapter since coming on board in February 2006, overseeing 1,200 of the 2,000 wishes it has granted since its inception in 1987.

As part of a regular *Wishmaker* feature, we asked five questions of the boss:



1. In your 16 years with Make-A-Wish Northeast New York thus far, what has changed most about your job and the organization?

We continually improve every aspect of our work and business practices to make sure we are giving every wish child/teen and family the most magical, life-affirming wish experience possible, and in the most cost-effective way possible. The evolution of our professional team stands out in how the chapter as a whole has become more sophisticated as an organization.

2. Much of what the chapter looks like today can be traced to your tenure. Of all you have been able to accomplish, what do you value the most?

Everything good we have accomplished has been, and will always be, a team effort. That said, I am most proud of: our work to improve and advance the health and effectiveness of our professional team; the establishment of three memorial wish endowments (totaling \$800,000), and the creation of the Workshop of Wishes to make the wish journey more magical and special for our wish kids and their families.

3. The chapter recently celebrated its 2,000th wish – and you have been CEO for more than half of them. Can you pick one wish that stands out on a personal level?

That is a difficult question to answer, if but I had to choose one that was

particularly compelling for me on a personal level, it would be Kelly's wish to go to the Summer Olympics in England in 2012. Kelly dreamed of being an Olympic swimmer until she was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. Knowing that her being able to see the U.S. Swim Team at the Games was her heartfelt wish motivated me to raise the funds to make it happen.

4. In addition to being the CEO of the chapter, you are also a volunteer wish granter. Which Make-A-Wish role is more fun? The one you get paid for or the one you do for free?

Actually, both! Being CEO is very gratifying and fun, with face-to-face interactions with wish kids and families, engaging donors person-to-person about the joy of making wishes come true and working with my team to meet our fundraising and wish granting goals. Being a volunteer wish granter with my partner Heidi (who is also my fiancée) allows me to surprise our wish kids along their wish journey.

5. What would many people be surprised to learn about Bill Trigg?

That I am a big fan of the original "Star Trek" series and movies. I was able to meet William Shatner (aka Capt. James T. Kirk) not once but twice at the Star Trek museum in Ticonderoga. That was a lot of fun!

Wish Study Illuminates

This spring, Make-A-Wish released new research in the form of the 2022 Wish Impact Study that provided quantitative data to lend credibility to the anecdotal feedback heard regularly from wish families. The powerful results of the Wish Impact Study added to a growing body of research demonstrating how wish-fulfillment promotes mental and emotional well-being for children and their families who are facing trauma stemming from a critical illness.

The online study surveyed three groups of individuals: parents of wish kids, wish alumni and doctors. The parents and alumni who were surveyed experienced a wish between 2009 and 2019, allowing them to look back and assess the lasting, long-term impact of the wish. In total, 3,411 people completed the survey.

Wish parents made up the majority of respondents with 93% of parents acknowledging that their family experienced traumatic stress due to their child's critical illness. After their child's wish was granted, 94% of parents recalled seeing improvements in their child's emotional well-being, so much so that 91% of parents reported the wish gave their child a better chance of surviving their illness.

The wish alumni who completed the survey affirm the wish parents' sentiments. 87% of alumni stated that they and their families experienced traumatic stress during their battle with a critical illness. Their wish played an integral role in counteracting the mental and emotional distress. More than 90% of the alumni agreed that the wish improved their quality of life, brought their family closer together, boosted their self-esteem and gave them hope for the future. Interestingly, 60% of the alumni indicated that they had fully recovered from their illness, helping to dispel the common misconception that children must have an end-of-life prognosis to be eligible for a wish.

Perhaps the most overwhelmingly positive feedback on the impact of a wish came from the pediatric doctors who participated in the study. More than 90% of the doctors said they witnessed their patients overcoming feelings of sadness, hopelessness, anxiety and depression after their wish. Furthermore, 95% of the doctors reported the wish improved their patients' emotional and physical well-being; 75% of the doctors went as far as to state that a wish could improve a child's medical outcomes.

Heading to Disney in Style

Jackie thought she and her family were at the Colonie Center Macy's for a sale. It turned out the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York wish teen was really there for a fashion show — and she was the star!

Jackie was led to a red carpet outside fashion stylist Karina Marte's office. After Jackie posed for photos, the 17-year-old learned her wish to go to Walt Disney World® Resort would be soon granted — and she could pick out new ensembles to

take with her, thanks to Macy's! "Omigod. This is adorable," Jackie said as she entered an interior dressing room filled with tops, pants, dresses and footwear, among other goods. "I have no words. I really have no words at all."

"Try on all of this," said Ola Mancellari, Macy's manager of business administration.

So Jackie did, under the watchful eyes of mom Amy, dad Tom, sister Caroline, Macy's staff and wish granters Sandi Worona and Laurie Abelson. (Store manager Hillary Simpson also stopped by the wish reveal/show.)

Jackie tried on clothes, and for certain outfits made her way back to the red carpet. After a few



trips, she navigated the runway like a seasoned pro.

We are grateful to our partners at Macy's for making Jackie's day so memorable.



Gabe's Wish, Take Two

In October 2019, 3-year-old Make-A-Wish Northeast New York wish kid Gabe learned he was going to Walt Disney World ... but his older brother Caleb seemed more excited.

But that wish never happened, thanks to the pandemic.

Fast forward to early March, when now-6-year-old Gabe discovered at our Workshop of Wishes his Disney wish is back on, and he and his family would be heading to the Magic Kingdom soon. And, yes, it was Gabe's turn to be excited!

Better? The family said the trip was worth the wait!



Local Funds, Local Wishes

We thank these individuals, groups and organizations for their fundraisers on behalf of our wish program.



	Amount Raised
Saint Ambrose School	\$700
Michelle DiCarlo in honor of Evan Franz and Joe Carista	\$400
Schalmont High School	\$386
Sand Creek Middle School	\$250
Hartford Elementary School	\$202
RCS Senior High School	\$100
Laura Jacon	\$50



Make your donation go further, with less effort!

A monthly donation means your generosity can be spread out over time to fit your budget.

Your sustaining donations help ensure wishes are granted as soon as we can make them happen!

Even a gift of \$5 per month can make a difference in the life of a child battling a critical illness. That's \$60 that could be used for lunch on a wish trip, a video game during a shopping spree, or pool floats for a swimming pool wish!

Sign up online by visiting wish.org/neny and click "Donate," then select "Monthly Gift." Your donation becomes automatic, and you'll be eligible to receive exclusive benefits!

For questions, call 518-456-9474 or email neny@neny.wish.org.



A Match that Sparked Wishes

Susan Salzer, district coordinator of Stewart's Shops, stopped by the office to present a check to Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Director of Development Kirsten Broschinsky and CEO Bill Trigg. The check represents the chapter's share from Stewart's Holiday Match program.

Thank you, Stewart's, its employees and all the customers who contributed!



ShopRite Does Right By Make-A-Wish

For a second year, ShopRite held a point-of-sale campaign that benefitted Make-A-Wish Northeast New York. We are awaiting the final numbers from the 2022 campaign held the last two weeks of April, but last year's effort raised \$13,844 for the chapter – more than enough to fund a full wish!

Shoppers at the six ShopRite stores in our chapter were able to make a gift at checkout to benefit Make-A-Wish Northeast New York support life-changing wishes for local children with critical illnesses. Thank you, ShopRite and its shoppers!

Be a Champion of Hope

At Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, we have debuted our new business partnership program, the **Corporate Champions of Hope**. Over the past year, we've seen our community step up in ways big and small to help us continue granting wishes, even during a pandemic. The Corporate Champions of Hope program recognizes that your level of support and engagement is unique to you — just as each wish is unique to each child.

As a Corporate Champion of Hope, your commitment throughout the year will help make every wish come true, giving children with critical illnesses experiences of hope and joy when they need it most. You will also join a select group of philanthropic businesses who help us innovate rapidly to grant wishes in new ways now and into the future.

Throughout the year, Make-A-Wish Northeast New York promotes activities



that engage, educate and inspire our communities. As a Champion of Hope, your support can be a mixture of event sponsorship, Adopt-A-Wish support and unrestricted giving that enables the chapter to continue its outreach and make sure we reach every eligible child in our region. Our goal for you is to find the right giving and engagement level for your business and your employees. The levels of support and the associated benefits are just the beginning of a conversation that ensures your experience is meaningful and your impact is transformational.

Regardless of how you support Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, you

are partnering with one of the most trusted non-profit brands in the nation, one trusted to be wise stewards of your philanthropic support. In fact, on average, 75 cents of every dollar donated is directly spent on wish granting.

Together, we can continue to be a light of hope for today – and tomorrow.

To begin the conversation about becoming a Corporate Champion of Hope, please reach out to Director of Development Kirsten Broschinsky at kbro@nyny.wish.org.



CAP COM Pays a Visit

Our friends at CAP COM Federal Credit Union, proud supporters of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, stopped by our office to tour our Workshop of Wishes. The Workshop, a magical place where wish kids can contemplate and declare their wishes, has become a popular destination for children to embark on their wish journey — and the CAP COM folks got a taste of that excitement!





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When a child becomes a wish kid, they and their family become lifetime members of the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York community. Long after a wish is granted, many wish kids and families remain active in Make-A-Wish, including being involved in events, and acting as our ambassadors and advocates throughout the year.

When wish alumni represent the chapter and the Make-A-Wish mission, they “pay it forward,” helping to ensure that future wish kids also realize their true heartfelt wish while battling a critical illness.

Whether as an ambassador at one of our signature chapter events — our annual Gala, Walk For Wishes or Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign — hosting their own fundraiser, advocating for the Make-A-Wish mission at any number of community events, or appearing on posters or even in the media, wish alumni serve as the embodiment of hope for all the wish kids and families who follow.

Would you be interested in becoming a wish ambassador? If so, contact Director of Development Kirsten Broschinsky at kbro@neny.wish.org or 518-456-9474. We would love to hear from you again!

Hit the Summer in Style

Freshen up your spring and summer wardrobe at the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Wish Store!

Get yourself some high-quality, low-cost, limited edition Make-A-Wish Northeast New York swag, with proceeds going toward supporting local wishes!

You can do good, look good and give well at the same time. Just go to wickedsmartapparel.com/collections/make-a-wish

