

# Meet Kaci

## WISH GRANTED, 2022

*I wish to go on  
an RV camping  
trip*

**Kaci, 9**  
leukemia

In the summer of 2018, six-year-old Kaci started experiencing swelling in her lymph nodes. After initial antibiotic treatments failed to control the swelling, Kaci endured several months of biopsies, blood tests, and ER visits before determining her diagnosis: leukemia. She immediately began chemotherapy treatments, and she entered a long and grueling road to recovery.

During that exhausting period, she found relief playing outside and spending time with her mom, dad, and twin sister, Cja. The family bonded over their love of adventure and the outdoors, and while Kaci's initial wish was to go on a trip with her family to Walt Disney World®, the added time she had to determine her wish due to treatments and the pandemic had her reimagining her wish.

Kaci had dreamed about visiting Sequoia National Park, going on hikes with her family, and casting a fishing line for the first time. An RV adventure would give her the opportunity to do all those things in one trip, so a wish was born.

In June of 2022, Kaci's dad went to pick up the family's RV rental and brought it over to Dutch Bros Coffee in Las Vegas. Kaci arrived shortly after with her mom and sister to a cheering crowd of over 100 of the drive-through coffee chain's employees from across the Valley.

"Kaci's story really stood out to us," said Dutch Bros regional operator Isaac Schaaf. "We wanted to grant her wish, not just for her, but for her family, as well. The most important part was the family's joy when they saw what was happening. Our team really showed up today."



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SOUTHERN NEVADA





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Kaci and her family were treated to VIP service from the coffee chain and received a goodie bag filled with items that would come in handy on her camping trip. She also got a tour of the RV her family was about to take to California and a run-down of scheduled activities organized by Make-A-Wish Southern Nevada.

"Today is really a celebration for us," said Kaci's mom, Asano. "Right now, Kaci is doing great. She still goes in for regular check-ups, but she is feeling healthy and really can't wait for this trip."

The family's California adventure included visits to Kaweah Marina, where they rented paddle boards, kayaks, and a fishing boat where Kaci was able to cast her line. They also enjoyed beautiful Sequoia National Park where they connected with nature by hiking; blowing dandelions; and admiring the rugged foothills, deep canyons, and vast caverns under a canopy of the world's largest trees.

From sticky s'more fingers to cheeks sore from laughing, Asano gushed that this was the wish that their family needed right now.

"Kaci is such a strong little girl," she said. "While you never want to see your child suffer through something like this, fighting leukemia really shaped Kaci in many ways, and we are just so grateful for her health and being able to do something like this as a family."



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