

Meet Thaddeus

WISH GRANTED, 2015

Seven years old and diagnosed with acute lymphoid leukemia, Thaddeus hasn't let his illness stop him from trying new things. His family describes him as having the sweetest heart and the most adventurous spirit. He is involved in football, gymnastics, wrestling, and rock climbing; he aspires to one day play quarterback for the nationally-recognized Bishop Gorman Gaels football team. However, owing to a three-and-a-half-year treatment program scheduled to end in February 2018, Thaddeus has spent too many days inside a hospital when he would rather be outside and active.

That's what made the announcement of his wish—a trip to Walt Disney World Resort—as magical as the wish itself. His Wish Granters Kady and Christy prepared an incredible Wish Reveal when Bishop Gorman Head Coach Kenny Sanchez and his team welcomed Thaddeus to their facilities and made him a Gael, complete with his own blue and orange number 1 jersey and a crowd of more than 1,000 people in the stands. He met every player and then led the team out of the tunnel and onto the field with his name on the scoreboards and the stadium full of supporters cheering for him. The Las Vegas Sun reported:

“On the field, Thaddeus lined up in the backfield and took a handoff from his favorite player, Tate Martell, and went all the way to the house while dodging defenders who fell over themselves trying to make the tackle. A PA announcer was calling the play, and when Thaddeus crossed the goal line, the crowd again erupted. After (his) touchdown, offensive linemen...put him up on their shoulders and took him for a victory lap, keeping him there for a rendition of the school's fight song.”

Thaddeus' wish to go to Disney World with his family—including his grandmother!—came true, and like his wish reveal, it was an amazing experience. He and his family journeyed to and from the airport in a limo, and upon arrival in Orlando, they headed to Give Kids the World Villa. Soon, it was off to the parks, including the Magic Kingdom! “Times when he was really feeling down, we could talk about his wish...” his mom Chrissie said. “It would really brighten his day and help him get through one more day.”

*I wish to go to
Disney World
with Grandma*

Thaddeus, 7
leukemia

