

Make-A-Wish®
NEBRASKA

Year-in-Review

A LOOK BACK AT THE WISHES
FROM OUR LAST FISCAL YEAR,
SEPT. 1, 2021 TO AUG. 31, 2022



*I wish to have a
lightsaber fight with
Kylo Ren & Darth Vader*

Kane, 10 | Omaha
leukemia

wish.org/nebraska

Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

Brigette Young, President/CEO
Make-A-Wish Nebraska, with
wish kid Lillie



Dear Friends,

A child's joy is a light of hope for all of us. If a child's mental or emotional well-being is suffering, we do everything we can to protect their joy of childhood – and their hope for brighter days ahead.

Hospital stays, harsh treatments and scary surgeries are not only exhausting for a wish kid – they are traumatic. Such mental distress can impair a child's long-term healing as feelings of hopelessness, depression and loneliness threaten their ability to endure the physical demands of their illness.

A spark of hope can immediately launch a child onto a journey filled with exciting possibilities, creating a turning point in their treatment and recovery. This hope can only be found in a wish.

In 2023, we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of Make-A-Wish Nebraska's founding. Thanks to the incredible support of the local community, Make-A-Wish Nebraska has granted more than 3,000 wishes across the state over the past 40 years.

In celebration of our anniversary, we're going to harness the star power in each of us, honoring the supporters – our local stars – who came before and those yet to join us. As we shine a light toward the past and future efforts of Make-A-Wish Nebraska, we align to grant every single wish, thus providing a spark of hope for local wish kids.

When you help grant a wish, you create the greatest joy possible for a child when they need it most. A wish provides much-needed relief from the trauma caused by a critical illness, through a rejuvenating experience that can give a child a better chance of surviving and thriving.

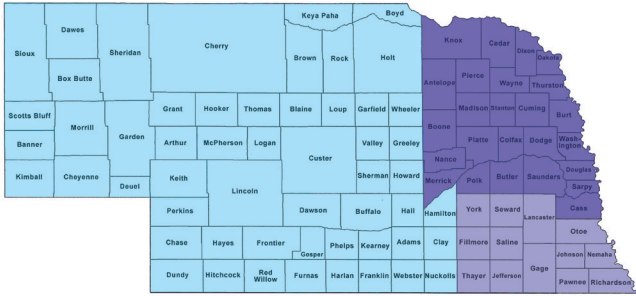
Wishes begin with hope and hope begins with you. Thank you for providing this hope and helping us transform lives for 40 years!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brigette Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brigette Young
President/CEO

Local Reach



Omaha Region Wish Area
 Lincoln Region Wish Area
 Greater Nebraska Region Wish Area

Since 1983, more than **3,000 wishes** have been granted.

100% Local – Our mission is delivered across the entire state of Nebraska.

The average cost of a wish is between **\$7,500- \$10,000**.

Every August 31st we reflect back on another incredible fiscal year of granting wishes. With the help and generosity of individuals and companies from across the state, even during these difficult times, we were able to grant **70 unforgettable wishes** to children in Nebraska with critical illnesses this fiscal year.

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Board Chair: Brian Ketcham, Lindsay Corp.
Vice Chairman: Brad Ewerth, Ewerth & Associates, CPA, PC, Lincoln
Treasurer: Brian Pierce, First Interstate Bank
Secretary: Kelly Hillman, Union Bank & Trust, Lincoln
Past Chairman: Carrie Weber, Lincoln

Medical Advisor

Dr. Jenna Allison, Children's Hospital & Medical Center

Members

Mike Abramson, Frankel Zacharia
Dr. Michael Ash, Nebraska Medicine
Dawn Becker, Jacobsen, Orr, Lindstrom & Holbrook, Kearney
Gary Byrne, Tri-City Title, Kearney/North Platte
Deb Fenton, FBI, retired
Cody Forristall, PowerTech, LLC
Kayla Hansen, Medical Solutions
Rahul Jalali, Union Pacific Railroad
Candi Kirkwood, Friends Council Liaison
Mark McQueen, Baird Holm, LLP
Dr. Jeremy Payne, Nebraska Medicine
Ryan Peterson, Truck Center Companies
Jack Struyk, Lockton Companies, retired
Pat Verkamp, Wells Fargo Bank, retired
Brigette Young, Make-A-Wish Nebraska

Staff

Headquarters

1005 South 107th Avenue
 Suite 102
 Omaha, NE 68114
 Phone (800) 760-9474

Brigette Young
President/CEO

Linda Hogrefe
Vice President &
Chief Development Officer

Jennifer Shuman
Program Services Director

Emily Marston
Director of Marketing &
Communications

Courtney Cleveringa
Director of Community Outreach

Laura Jones
Office & Database Manager

Alisa James
Office Assistant

Romy Reicks
Bookkeeper

Karen Lewis
Program & Office Assistant

Lincoln Office

8033 South 15th Street
 Suite B
 Lincoln, NE 68512
 Phone (402) 475-9474

Melissa Davis-Schmit
Regional Director - Lincoln

Mindy Lubeck
Wish & Development Coordinator
- Lincoln

Kearney Office

412 East 25th Street
 Suite D
 Kearney, NE 68847
 Phone (308) 234-6612

Courtney Hughbanks
Development Director
- Greater Nebraska

Chloe Wise
Wish and Development Coordinator
- Greater Nebraska

4 Wish Categories



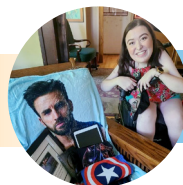
I wish to go



I wish to be



I wish to have



I wish to meet

September & October 2021

Berkley's Wish Story

In 2014, at the age of 3, Berkley was diagnosed with leukemia. Berkley, who also has Down Syndrome, underwent treatment for two years. Thankfully, Berkley is now in remission.

When Berkley found out she would be receiving a wish, she had originally wanted to go on a cruise, but due to Covid, that wish was put on hold. As the pandemic continued, Berkley decided to change her wish to a backyard play structure.

When the weather is nice, Berkley loves to play outside and specifically, she likes to play at a local park that's near her house. When selecting her play structure, she knew that swings, a slide, climbing ropes and monkey bars were all must-have items. With her new play structure, she now has her own safe place to jump around, play and use her imagination.

"She gets her use out of it," said Berkley's dad, Cory. "Who knows what she's going to jump off of and catapult through next."

For wish kids like Berkley, the hope of a wish is more than a temporary escape. It is a wellspring of strength to keep fighting for better days. There are few experiences more powerful than making a wish come true.



November & December 2021

Areal's Wish Story

I wish to have a shopping spree in L.A.
Areal, 16 | Omaha brain tumor

Wish kid Areal began experiencing vision problems that caused concern for her family. A doctor's visit confirmed their worst nightmare - a tumor behind her left optical nerve. That immediately threw the family into a medical vortex of doctor visits, hospital stays, and a treatment plan to stop the tumor from growing.

The goal was to shrink the tumor so Areal wouldn't lose her eyesight. So far, treatment has worked to control the growth, but they continue to monitor her tumor to ensure it doesn't begin growing again. Should that happen, Areal will most likely lose her ability to see out of that eye.

It's unimaginable how difficult it must be for a teenage girl to know that may be in her future.

The one bright light during Areal's medical journey was her wish — to go on a shopping spree in Los Angeles. It's something she will remember and cherish for years to come. Many stars aligned to help make Areal's wish come true.

"I think Make-A-Wish is a wonderful organization. I think it's just awesome to do something for children who are sick. If you could put a smile on these children's faces, there is nothing better in the world than to know you are doing something for a child dealing with a difficult time in their life." said Areal's grandma, Betty.



Millie's Wish Story



I wish to have a playhouse

Millie, 4 | Lincoln
brain tumor

In November 2020, at the age of 4, Millie was diagnosed with craniopharyngioma, a rare, cystic tumor that rests in the brain near the pituitary gland. The same week she received her diagnosis, Millie had her first surgery at Boys Town. Then, in January 2021, Millie and her parents went to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis where she had a second surgery and completed proton beam radiation. Millie finished treatment in March 2021. Her journey has not been easy for her or for her family.

Due to Covid, only one of Millie's parents could be with her at a time, so they had to take turns driving back and forth from Lincoln to Memphis, separating their family. Although Millie is doing better and is done with treatment, it is likely she will develop complications over time because of the radiation.

"She's doing well now but the tumor could return," said Millie's dad, Tom. "As parents, it's a tough head space to be in. Is her headache just a headache or a sign of something worse? It's always in the back of our minds, but we try to not let it change who we are or what we do as a family."

Keeping normalcy within their home is very important to Millie's family.

Millie is a vibrant and creative girl. She loves playing with her 8-year-old brother, Vincent, and running around the backyard. When Millie learned she would be receiving a wish, she wasn't quite sure what she wanted.

"I don't think she fully understood exactly what was being offered. Sometimes when we would ask her what she was thinking of wishing for, she would ask for a doll or stuffed animal," said Tom. "Because of Covid, we didn't feel comfortable traveling given her health issues. She really loves imaginative play, so having her own playhouse was just right. It gave her and her brother a place to play and create new games."

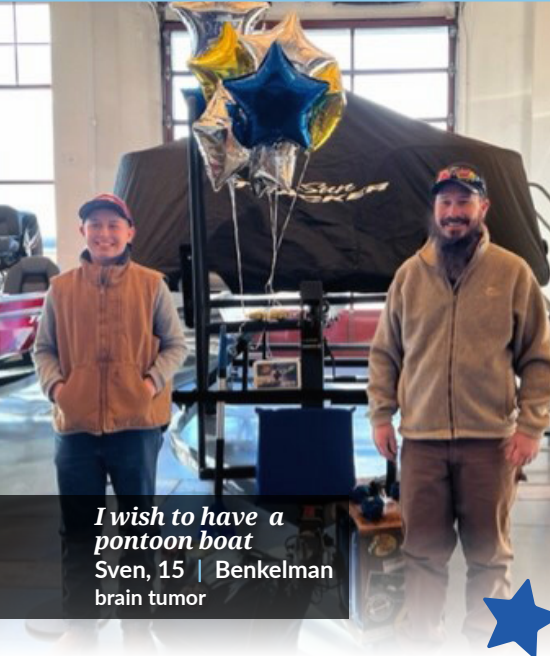
Millie's wish for a pink playhouse came true in January 2022. On her wish reveal day, Millie and her family pulled up to their house in a limo. Outside their house were their neighbors and members of the community holding signs and cheering for Millie. Millie and her brother immediately jumped out of the limo and ran up the side of the house to see her new playhouse waiting for her in their backyard.

"I think the piece for me that really stands out is the sense of community," said Tom. "On the day they delivered the playhouse, there was a whole team of people busily making sure it happened just right. They had to bring in a huge crane to get the playhouse in place. What struck me and humbled me was that these people barely knew our family or Millie. They were just there to give a little girl her wish. That fills me with awe and gratitude to this day."



February 2022

Sven's Wish Story



I wish to have a pontoon boat
Sven, 15 | Benkelman brain tumor

Sven enjoys a lot of things most 15-year-olds enjoy. He likes playing Call of Duty on his Play Station, watching TV, watching Star Wars movies, hanging out with friends, camping with his family and hunting and fishing with his dad.

However, unlike most teenagers, Sven is battling a malignant brain tumor, which means treatments and doctors' visits are a regular occurrence for him.

When Sven found out he would be receiving a wish, he knew he wanted a pontoon boat. Sven and his dad fish often, but they normally fish from the shore and watch everyone else catching fish from their boats.

By having his own pontoon boat, Sven and his dad can spend more

quality time together and catch more fish!

Not only that, but Sven

made sure his boat fit all their needs. He wanted his pontoon boat to be half party, meaning it would have tables and chairs and space to hang out, and half fishing.

For Sven and his family, this wish is more than a singular moment in time. A wish gives kids like Sven the opportunity to look outside their illness and restores a sense of hope back to the child and normalcy back to the family. A wish experience is awe-inspiring. It's uplifting. It's everlasting.



March 2022

Caitlyn's Wish Story



I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Caitlyn, 12 | Papillion genetic disorder

Caitlyn battles Trisomy 9 Mosaic, genetic syndrome. Due to her syndrome, she has issues with her lungs, bones, difficulty eating, endocrine issues and has a development delay.

However, despite her illness, Caitlyn, now 12 years old, continues to do the things she loves including hanging out with her two dogs Gracie and Daisy, attending Storm Chasers games and going to the zoo. She also enjoys learning and loves school.

As a baby, Caitlyn's favorite toy was a stuffed Winnie-the-Pooh bear and growing up, she loved watching Disney movies. That's why when Caitlyn learned she would be receiving a wish, she and her family knew it had to be a trip to Walt Disney World®.

On her trip, Caitlyn was able to experience going on all the different rides. This is a big deal because Caitlyn is in a wheelchair and thankfully, Disney World® has so many rides that are wheelchair accessible.

For Caitlyn and her family, this meant they could actually experience the rides and excitement together.

"If you ask me to pick out one specific thing that was so memorable, it would be just the laughter that we all had together as a family," said Caitlyn's mom, Leah. "Just to see the joy on her face when she was getting to experience the different rides was something we will never forget. Also, she was able to go on the Winnie-the-Pooh ride 3 times in a row!"

Wishes like Caitlyn's are so important because a wish is a turning point in a child's medical journey that opens the door to exciting possibilities. A wish forever renews emotional strength, restoring hope for a lifetime.



Colton's Wish Story

Eight-year-old Colton lives by one simple motto: "we don't let anything steal our joy!"

That motto has carried him and his family through some of the most difficult times they have had to endure. In October 2018, Colton was diagnosed with Parameningeal Rhabdomyosarcoma, a type of tumor.

Doctors' visits and treatments became the norm for Colton and his family. Colton underwent 18 months of treatment at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, received 54 weeks of chemotherapy and 8 weeks of Proton Radiation therapy.

"Having a child diagnosed with cancer is something I never dreamt would happen to me but going through this has been something that has changed our lives," said Colton's mom, Stephanie. "I think we now cherish every moment, we have truly learned to appreciate the small things."

During his treatments, Colton learned he would be receiving a wish. According to his parents, being granted a wish was important because it provided not only Colton, but the whole family, something to look forward to.

Colton's favorite animal is a penguin, so he knew right away that for his wish, he wanted to pet a penguin. When Colton first started speaking with his wish granters, Steve and Rick, his wish was a light of hope for him—something he could look forward to.

"When he was having an especially bad day, talking about the things he wanted to do on his trip would always bring a smile to his face," said Stephanie. "As he endured his treatment, the days seemed long but the trip gave him something to look forward to and was the light at the end of the tunnel."

Colton was set to go to SeaWorld in May 2020 to visit his penguin friends, but unfortunately, due to Covid, his wish was postponed. While waiting for his wish, Colton received a special video from Jo, who works with the penguins at SeaWorld, and told him they would be waiting for him. When Colton and his family made it to SeaWorld in May 2022, they were able to meet Jo and all the penguins! The best part was, Colton met the penguins on his 8th birthday!

"As he endured his treatment, the days seemed long but the trip gave him something to look forward to and was the light at the end of the tunnel."

Give Kids the World was also a special experience for Colton and his family. Colton has developed some side effects from his treatments that have left him using crutches.

During their stay at Give Kids the World though, Colton was able to just be a kid. No one there questioned his crutches or his scars. He was able to temporarily forget his illness and have fun.

"Through Make-A-Wish, we were able to make memories to last a lifetime and created a trip that we can't ever recreate," said Stephanie. "Colt tells anyone who asks him that his 8th birthday will always be the best because that was the day he was able to pet a penguin! We will always look back on his trip with a grateful heart and smiles!"



I wish to pet a penguin
Colton, 8 | Seward cancer



June 2022

Stella's Wish Story



I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Stella, 5 | McCook tumor

WRITTEN BY STELLA'S MOM, BRANDI

Stella was diagnosed on April 27th with DIPG, an inoperable tumor in the pons of the brainstem. The doctors said they can't ever guess it, but they gave Stella a year to live. Can you believe after one complaint of double vision and no other symptoms that your daughter has an inoperable brain tumor and has



been given a year to live? How has it impacted our family? Absolutely devastating.

My daughter is my best friend. She's perfect. We're in disbelief. As soon as we received the results from the MRI, we started doctor's appointments immediately the next morning. We live in a rural area so we've traveled for all our appointments and lived away from our home. We've been sad, but strong for her, as she is doing very well right now.

Home, for us, is when our entire family is together. We've had to be separated a little bit from our youngest daughter Nora, who is 1.5 years old, in order to go to doctor's appointments and understand how treatment was going to work and how it was going to affect Stella each day. This is another emotional factor for our family. Stella received a fractionated amount of radiation for 10 days and then we were able to go home for a month. This fractionated amount creates minimum side effects, and Stella was at her best. This is when Make-A-Wish rushed us on our unforgettable trip, when she was feeling her ultimate best.

Stella always wanted to go on a vacation where she could fly in an airplane, go to the beach, and go to Walt Disney World®. This was Stella's first time flying, feeling the sand and salt water, and experiencing one of the most magical places. She's five and her sister is one. We hadn't made the time to do the things we've always wanted her to experience. Now we are in this new and terrible circumstance, we don't know what to expect financially and we are supposed to be saving all our money, as we aren't working, but yet we are supposed to be giving her the best and happiest experiences of her life right now. Make-A-Wish made this possible. My husband and I felt we could give Stella the world. Make-A-Wish was able to give her every experience she wanted. She loved the fact that this was her

wish! She kept saying, "well this is my wish!"

Make-A-Wish made everything perfect. They provided us with enough spending money to have a character dining, to buy the cotton candy, the Minnie Mouse stuffy, and the balloon. My husband and I could say "Yes! This is all for you, Stella." We felt we could give her the world with Make-A-Wish!

We are addicted to everything we did on this trip, because of our happiness and moments together. Make-A-Wish made us so happy. They set the tone for our fight. We will keep smiling and having fun, and finding that happiness, as that is the best medicine for us.

Our wish was granted during our radiation treatment days. Stella would tell all the nurses, doctors, and caregivers, "I'm going to Disney when I'm finished. Mom says I have so many days left and I'm going to Disney! I'm going to fly on an airplane and go to the beach!" She had something huge to look forward too. It was her goal!! She would pick a prize from the radiation toy wagon that was Minnie Mouse related because she was going to Disney!

This organization gave my daughter her ultimate dream, and then some. Tears flowed down my face while Disney Princesses provided private visiting time with our family. Make-A-Wish did this for our little girl. Can you imagine what kind of experience you just gave a little five-year-old princess herself? Make-A-Wish gave our family our smiles back and reminded us how to be happy again. A week where we could forget about the bad and enjoy and hold one another, with no stress. This is everything to a family.



Grady's Wish Story

In April 2020, 2-year-old Grady and his parents received the news no parent ever wants to hear: "Your child has cancer." In the midst of a worldwide health crisis, Grady and his family had a whole new set of worries. Hospital stays, doctor's visits, and treatments meant their lives would never be the same. Due to Covid, the hospital was only allowing one parent to be present at appointments. Grady's mom went to a majority of the appointments with him.

"I leaned on the hospital staff to help me be strong for Grady to get through his appointments and procedures," said Grady's mom, Marissa. "It was difficult not being there as a family to support our son when he was going through one of the most challenging things he'll ever have to face. Grady spent a lot of time at home and without many visitors due to the pandemic and due to the fact he had little to no immune system during the first few phases of his treatment."

Grady is a smart, imaginative boy who loves vehicles including construction equipment, monster trucks and trains. In his free time, he loves to build

construction sites using Legos, blocks, magnetiles and rocks.

During treatment, Grady and his family didn't venture outside the home too often, but when they did, Grady knew it was special. Once Grady hit maintenance in his treatments,

he was able to do some of the things a child without cancer could do like going back to daycare.

That is why Grady's wish to go to Colorado to see trains and go on adventures was so special. Grady had just completed his treatment and he could finally enjoy a trip and do whatever he wanted!

"The joy and excitement we saw from Grady during his trip is something I will never be able to forget. He was able to be a normal kid," said Marissa. "Grady was so excited to go on his wish trip and loved telling everyone what he was going to do.... It was something he was looking forward to. He loved being able to count down the days until he finally left for his adventure."

And Grady had many adventures on his wish trip. One of the top adventures for him was when he got to ride the train at the Royal Gorge. On the train he was able to walk around, go on the open-air car, and even see how the conductor drove the train. Grady and his family were also able to go to the Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience. Grady is now a Dino Ranger and has a plaque with his name printed next to a statue of his favorite dinosaur, the T-Rex.

During a time of uncertainty, wishes like Grady's are so important. A wish helps restore hope for a child and their family. A wish is a turning point in a child's medical journey that opens the door to exciting possibilities.

"At the end of Grady's treatment, it was obviously a huge sigh of relief to finally be done. It was a weight lifted off our shoulders and we felt like Grady was finally able to be a kid again," said Marissa. "His wish truly provided a sense that we as parents could relax without worrying so much and Grady could have fun and enjoy the little things like playing in dirt. It was a much-needed vacation and a way for us to reset as a family."



I wish to go on a trip to Colorado to see trains and go on adventures
 Grady, 4 | Papillion leukemia



Kane's Wish Story

I wish to have a lightsaber fight with Kylo Ren and Darth Vader

Kane, 10 | Omaha leukemia



WRITTEN BY KANE'S MOM, BROOKE

Kane was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia on July 25, 2017. After ongoing headaches and lethargic behavior, we received the official diagnosis of ALL and were sent to Children's Hospital & Medical Center where Kane began treatment immediately and would spend the next two weeks. For the first year after diagnosis, Kane stayed at home with his grandma and little brother, while my husband and I continued to work and our oldest son went to school. At this time in our lives, Kane was 6 years old, Carson was 8, and Kalin was only 2. Managing our emotions and trying to maintain normalcy for our boys was difficult. Of course, while our attention was focused on Kane and helping him get through this, it wasn't easy for our other two children. They also endured the struggles, pain, and joys with Kane, along the way. The next three and a half years brought about routine visits to Children's Hospital, for check-ups and bloodwork, spinal taps, and chemotherapy. There were also the unexpected

trips to the ER, losing his hair twice, neuropathy in his feet, but mostly, the urge to just be a normal kid. Kane finished his final treatment...1,163 days later, on October 1st, 2020. We are absolutely thrilled to announce that Kane remains in remission and goes for check-ups every 6 months.

Kane is a very active 10-year-old who loves playing baseball, golf, and basketball. He recently made his school's basketball team for 5th grade and will be playing for them this fall. Kane also enjoys taking piano lessons, singing, and theater classes. He is most happy when he gets to play on his PS5 with his brothers or watch his favorite NBA team, the Philadelphia 76ers, play on TV. Kane loves being with his family and friends and going to school! He also enjoys family movie nights.

Kane was absolutely thrilled when he found out his wish would be granted. The announcement was unbelievable, with all the live Star Wars characters walking in to "The Imperial March" at the Blue Jean Ball gala to surprise him and make the announcement. Kane is very humbled to have received his wish to go to Walt Disney World® and have a light saber fight with Kylo Ren and he knows this was a once in a lifetime experience that he will never forget!

Make-A-Wish is an incredible organization that truly cares about children with critical illnesses AND their families. They go above and beyond to make kids' wishes come true! It's not just about the wish child, but about the whole family and making sure everyone feels special. Our wish-granter was unbelievable, from the moment Kane chose his wish, to the day it came true and we left on a plane. She really got to know Kane and our family and took the time to check in on Kane throughout our Wish journey. Without Make-A-Wish and the generous donors, going to Disney World® would not have been possible. Kane's eyes lit up

with the biggest smile every time he proudly showed his special pass in the parks and was able to lead his family onward. Experiencing this wish with Kane and our family is a dream come true...the family bonding, endless joy and laughter on our kids' faces (and ours, too), and the pride and confidence it has brought to Kane as a cancer survivor is priceless!

As a family, we have grown tighter and stronger, continuing to have hope for the best that is yet to come. We're a family of hope and faith and never give up on each other, no matter what!! Kane's Make-A-Wish experience continues to give us hope for all the other children battling a critical illness and being able to share in the happiness of making their dreams come true.



After going through 3 1/2 years of treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and being granted his wish, the attention was now on Kane as a survivor and his opportunity to be treated like a king! What a great boost of confidence and pride this experience has been for Kane!

Wish Journey and Community Engagement

A transformed life, off to change the lives of other children - many of whom will grow into adulthood.



1. Referral | A child can be referred by a family member, medical professional, or they can refer themselves.

2. Eligibility/Onboarding/Approval

We grant the wishes of eligible children who have reached the age of 2 ½ but are younger than 18 at the time of referral. Wish kids are not necessarily terminal but have been diagnosed with a progressive, degenerative, or malignant condition that puts their life in jeopardy.

Once the child's diagnosis is approved by the child's physician, the family receives information to begin the wish process.

3. Wish Discovery | Two volunteer wish granters meet with our wish children, awaken their imagination, and help them envision their one true wish.

4. Creation | Once a child's one true wish is discovered, the wish team begins the planning process, working to bring the wish to life.

5. Grant Wish/Create Joy

Our staff and volunteer wish granters create an unforgettable, personalized experience driven by the child's creativity.

6. Alumni and Family Engagement/Impact

A wish transforms the lives of children, their families, volunteers, supporters, medical professionals, and entire communities.

DONATION

You can give online, by mail, or by phone. Leave a legacy and impact future generations through planned giving.

IN-KIND

You can create life-changing experiences by donating goods.

VOLUNTEERING

You can help make the wishes of children in our community come true when you become a Make-A-Wish volunteer. Our mission is possible only with the dedication of our volunteers.

Make an Impact

REFER A CHILD

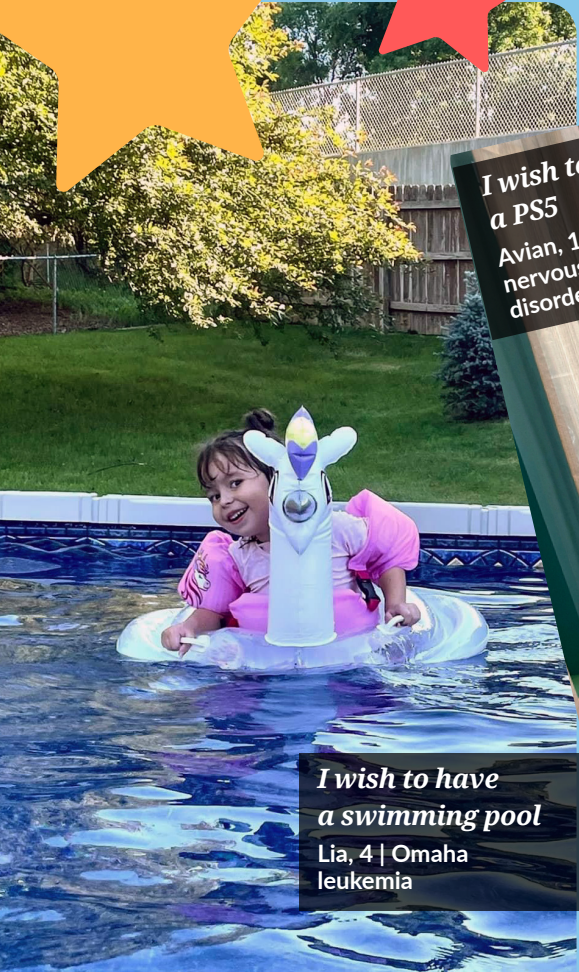
We rely on wish referrals from caring individuals to help us reach more kids with critical illnesses every year and grant them a wish that changes lives forever. The eligibility consideration process is initiated when a wish referral inquiry is submitted to the local chapter.

Learn more about who is eligible for a wish, who can refer a child and how the referral process works by visiting: www.wish.org/refer-a-child

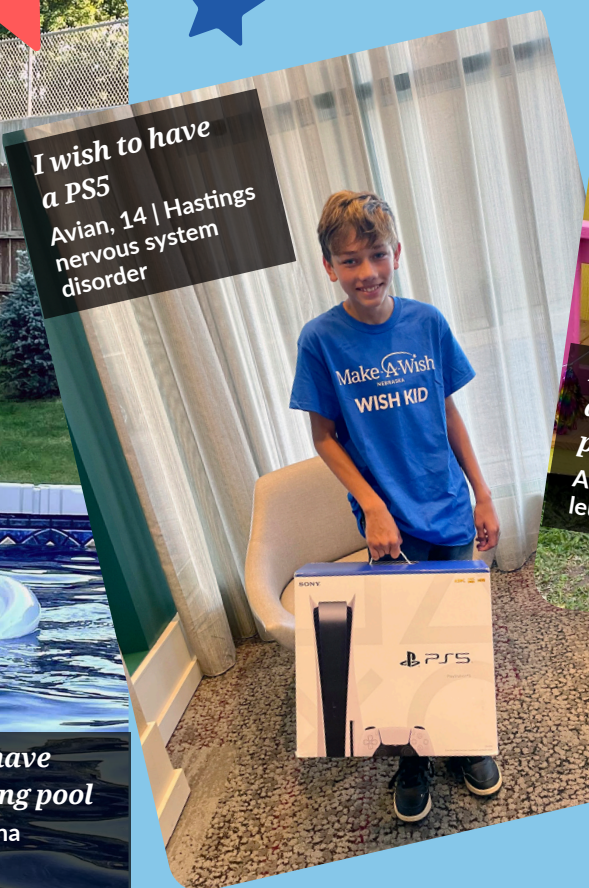
Make-A-Wish

2022 FISCAL

Berkley, 10, Columbus	leukemia	I wish to have a play structure	Harley, 18, Lincoln	cancer	I wish to see the Redwoods in Calif.
Koby, 14 Trenton	neuromuscular disorder	I wish to have a camper with a lift	Graham, 10, Lincoln	blood disorder	I wish to have a Golden Retriever
Calista, 14, Grand Island	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a swimming pool	Hunter, 18, Bellevue	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Hawaii
Joelle, 11, Lincoln	absence of pancreas	I wish to have a bedroom makeover	Kilina, 15, South Sioux City	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to the Florida Keys and go deep sea & shark fishing
Areal, 16, Omaha	brain tumor	I wish to have a shopping spree in L.A.	Parker, 18, Fullerton	leukemia	I wish to go to a football game at Texas A & M in College Station
Abigail, 7, Mills	wilms tumor	I wish to have a pink playhouse	Londony, 13, Blue Hill	brain tumor	I wish to have a purple she-shed with lots of cool pre-teen stuff
Calvin, 13, McCook	cancer	I wish to have a hot tub	Elijah, 18, Lincoln	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a camper
Benjamin, 15, Omaha	brain tumor	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Catie, 8, Omaha	blood disorder	I wish to have a play structure
Millie, 5, Lincoln	brain tumor	I wish to have a playhouse	Joel, 17, Lyons	germ cell tumor	I wish to have a shopping spree to buy items to redo my truck
Ricky, 15, Omaha	cancer and liver disease	I wish to have a shopping spree	Elliott, 4, North Platte	cancer	I wish to have a treehouse
Alex, 15, Omaha	leukemia	I wish to have a shopping spree at Hobby Town to get remote control cars	Allysa, 12, Denton	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Hawaii
Sven, 15, Benkelman	brain tumor	I wish to have a pontoon boat	Spencer, 14, Omaha	leukemia	I wish to have a shopping spree in Kansas City
Elliott, 9, Omaha	leukemia	I wish to go to Great Wolf Lodge in Minnesota	Nicholas, 13, Ulysses	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Caitlyn, 12, Papillion	genetic disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Aidyn, 8, Valley	lymphoma	I wish to have a log cabin treehouse
			Hayden, 3, Sidney	genetic disorder	I wish to have a camper



I wish to have a swimming pool
Lia, 4 | Omaha
leukemia



I wish to have a PS5
Avian, 14 | Hastings
nervous system disorder

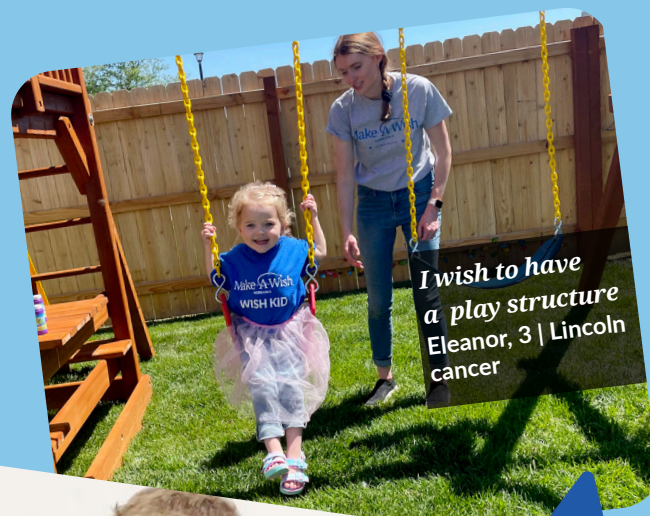


I wish to have a Jojo Siwa themed playhouse
Alessia, 6 | North Platte
leukemia



YEAR WISHES

Alessia, 6, North Platte	leukemia	I wish to have a JoJo Siwa themed playhouse	Grady, 4, Papillion	leukemia	I wish to go on a trip to Colorado to see trains and and go on adventures
Lia, 4, Omaha	leukemia	I wish to have a swimming pool	Jimmy, 10, Omaha	cancer	I wish to go to Florida to see a military base, see the ocean and go to Universal Studios
Brianna, 9, Adams	cancer	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Avian, 14, Hastings	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a PS5
Wyatt, 17, Cairo	cancer	I wish to have a L1440M Jon Boat	Emry, 7, Omaha	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Jayden, 13, Fremont	cancer	I wish to have a shopping spree	Mailey, 15, Omaha	gastrointestinal disorder	I wish to go to NYC
Colton, 8, Seward	cancer	I wish to pet a penguin	Ruby, 18, Elkhorn	nervous system disorder	I wish to travel to Florida on the 30A Hwy
Eleanor, 3, Lincoln	cancer	I wish to have a play structure	Kane, 10, Omaha	leukemia	I wish to have a lightsaber fight with Kylo Ren and Darth Vader
Luke, 8, Omaha	liver transplant	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Dawson, 12, Fremont	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Hawaii
Shane, 12, Lincoln	heart condition	I wish to go on a RV trip to Platte Valley State Park	Jade, 11, Bennington	cancer	I wish to go to Hawaii
Chelsea, 18, Omaha	blood disorder	I wish to have a shopping spree in NYC	Annika, 13, Lincoln	brain tumor	I wish to go to Hawaii
Stella, 5, McCook	cancer	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Esther, 5, Omaha	brain tumor	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Harper, 11, Hickman	liver failure	I wish to have a shopping spree in Lincoln	Naomi, 3, Ogallala	end-stage kidney disease	I wish to have a camper
Jacob, 18, Omaha	neuromuscular disorder	I wish to go to the Florida Keys	Henry, 13, South Sioux City	kidney transplant	I wish to have a shopping spree in Omaha
Dagon, 18, Scottsbluff	bone marrow transplant	I wish to have an Xbox X with accessories	Gracyn, 7, Ceresco	neuromuscular disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Pasiley, 9, Papillion	heart disease	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®			
Anna, 18, Lincoln	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a room redo			



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

TRUCK CENTER COMPANIES

\$4 Million Raised in Twenty-Eight Years!

For 28 years, Truck Center Companies, Make-A-Wish Nebraska's largest donor, has supported local wish kids by hosting an annual golf tournament and by adopting local wishes. On June 10, 2022, Truck Center Companies once again hosted their golf tournament and raised an outstanding \$402,043! This donation put Truck Center Companies' total support at over \$4 million over the past 28 years. This translates into over 575 wishes granted in the state of Nebraska. To put into perspective what an incredible milestone that is, 575 wishes translates to almost 20% of all the wishes granted in Nebraska since Make-A-Wish Nebraska's inception in 1983.

"Truck Center Companies had work to do to reach our goal this year. \$4 million was in sight but seemed like a very tall task," said Trey Mytty, CEO, Truck Center Companies. "Thanks to our staff, customers, vendors and friends, we dug in and made it happen with a \$402,043 day! We are very proud of this milestone and love being able to help Make-A-Wish Nebraska provide wishes to

children needing a break from their challenges."

To help highlight the impact Truck Center Companies has had on local wishes, wish kid Aspen and her parents attended the post-tournament dinner and shared her wish story about receiving a playhouse for her and her chickens. Aspen also surprised guests and auctioned off 2 dozen of her chicken's eggs and helped raise \$10,000 for Make-A-Wish Nebraska!

We are incredibly thankful and humbled to have an amazing supporter like Truck Center Companies. Thank you to Trey Mytty and all the staff, customers and vendors at Truck Center Companies for helping make local wishes come true for 28 years!

(ABOVE RIGHT) Truck Center Companies presents Make-A-Wish Nebraska with an outstanding donation! Pictured left to right: Trey Mytty, CEO of Truck Center Companies, Jennifer Mytty, wish kid Aspen and Brigette Young, President and CEO of Make-A-Wish Nebraska. ((RIGHT) Wish kid Aspen auctioned off 2 dozen of her chicken's eggs, and thanks to the Kelsy's, raised \$10,000 for Make-A-Wish Nebraska!



The Impact of Make-A-Wish®

Trauma Relief



9 out of 10 wish kids

reported that the wish experience relieved them from traumatic stress.

Emotional & Mental Well-Being



9 out of 10 wish parents

saw their child's emotional well-being improve with a wish.

Turning Point



9 out of 10 medical providers

say a wish increased compliance with treatment.

Strength to Fight



8 out of 10 wish kids

reported that their wish gave them the strength to fight their critical illness.

Long-Term Impact



9 out of 10 medical providers

observed that the wish experience has a positive impact on a child's physical well-being and overall quality of life.

DONOR SPOTLIGHTS

CLASSIC ROCK 105.9



2022 marks the 17th year that Make-A-Wish Nebraska has partnered with Classic Rock 105.9 to host a holiday Radiothon to help raise money to grant local wishes.

During this 8.5-hour event, listeners are encouraged to tune in to 105.9FM to hear live interviews from wish families, donors and Make-A-Wish volunteers who have had their lives transformed by a wish.

Each year, this event has grown significantly. To date, Radiothon has raised a total of over \$958,000, with 2021 being a record year and raising over \$157,000!

We are so grateful for our partnership with Classic Rock 105.9.



Not only do they help us raise the necessary funds needed to continue granting wishes, but they help us share the impact wishes have on our local wish kids and their families. Thank you Classic Rock 105.9 for everything you do to help ensure wishes can continue to be granted.

106.3 KFRX

We are so grateful to have 106.3KFRX as a community partner. In 2012, KFRX started a radiothon event benefiting Make-A-Wish Nebraska. Although the name has changed over the years—from Carousel for a Cause to Wish Fest to the present-day Wheel of Wishes—their dedication to helping raise funds to grant wishes has never wavered.

Similar to Radiothon, Wheel of Wishes is an 8-hour-long event, which encourages listeners to tune in to 106.3FM to hear live interviews from wish families and donors.

To date, the KFRX Wheel of Wishes has helped raise over \$255,000 to grant local wishes, with 2021 being a record year and raising over \$46,000!



Thank you KFRX for helping us spread our mission throughout the Lincoln community and for helping us grant the wishes of local children battling critical illnesses!

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of our wish kids who have passed away since our last publication

Aiedan, 23, Grand Island
seizures
I wish to have a play structure
(Wish Year 2009)

Grady, 14, North Platte
brain tumor
I wish to go on a Disney Cruise Line®
(Wish Year 2017)

Jimmy, 10, Omaha
brain tumor
I wish to go to Florida to see a military base, see the ocean and go to Universal Studios
(Wish Year 2022)

Zach, 22, Beatrice
nervous system disorder
I wish to go to Morgan's Wonderland and Morgan's Inspirational Island in Texas
(Wish Year 2017)

Alexandria, 18, Beaver Crossing
nervous system disorder
I wish to have a Viking 4x4 All Terrain Power Wheelchair
(Wish Year 2015)

Reece, 15, Columbus
gastrointestinal disorder
I wish to build a community playstructure so I can play with my friends
(Wish Year 2017)

Listed are wish kids we have been made aware of, we apologize for any unintentional omissions.

Make-A-Wish®

NEBRASKA

Headquarters

1005 South 107th Avenue, Suite 102
Omaha, NE 68114

Lincoln satellite office

8033 South 15th Street, Suite B
Lincoln, NE 68512

Kearney satellite office

412 East 25th Street, Suite D
Kearney, NE 68847

 /MakeAWishNebraska

 @MakeAWishNE

 @makeawishnebraska

If you know someone who would like to receive our mailings, or if you wish to be removed from our mailing list please contact our office by email info@nebraska.wish.org or call 800-760-9474.

To refer a child:

Visit www.wish.org/nebraska

Call 800-760-WISH (9474)



Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

Events



The Baldonado Family grants wish kid Emersyn's wish to go to Hawaii at the 2022 Kearney Evening of Wishes gala.

Visit wish.org/nebraska to learn more about our events

KFRX Wheel of Wishes

December 9, 2022 | Lincoln

Classic Rock 105.9 Radiothon

December 16, 2022 | Omaha

Wish Ball

February 18, 2023 | Lincoln

Blue Jean Ball

April 29, 2023 | Omaha

Wine, Whiskey and Wishes

May 11, 2023 | Omaha

Truck Center Companies Golf Tournament

June 9, 2023 | Omaha

Evening of Wishes Gala

August 2023 | Kearney