

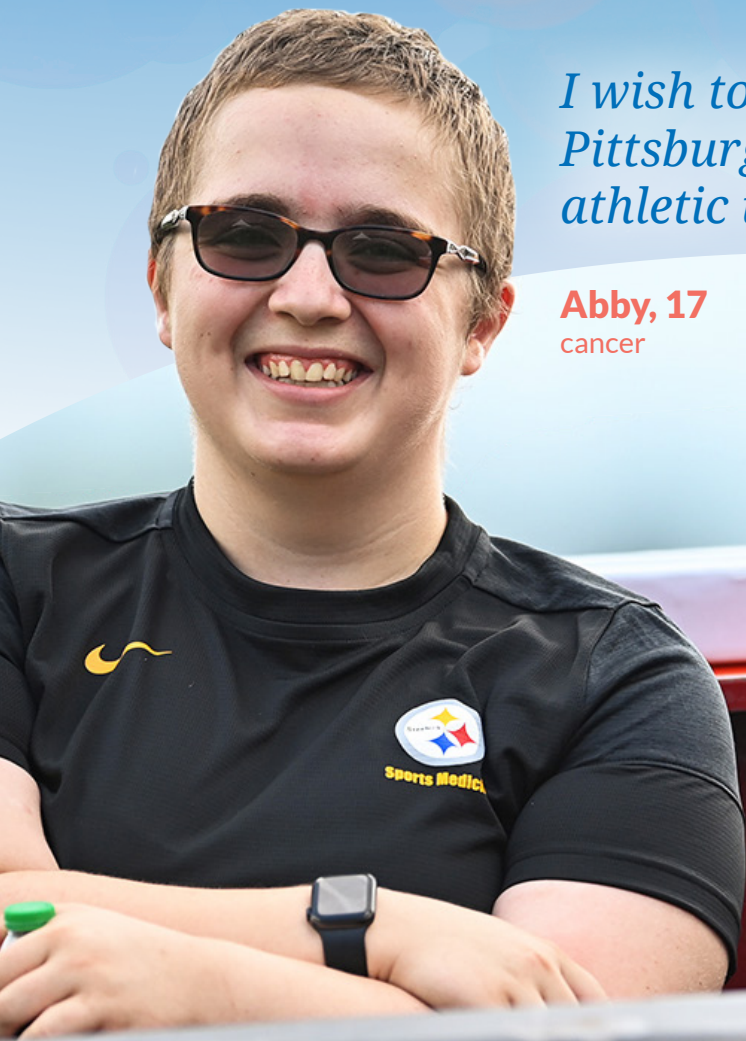
A publication of  
**Make-A-Wish**  
GREATER PENNSYLVANIA  
AND WEST VIRGINIA

Fall 2022

# Wishing Well

*I wish to meet the  
Pittsburgh Steelers  
athletic trainer*

**Abby, 17**  
cancer



Read about  
Abby's wish  
on page 2.



# TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE



Wish kid Abby with Steelers assistant athletic trainer, Sonia Ruef and Steelers running back, Najee Harris.

Abigail Dean  
/ @Pittsburgh Steelers

**When a child's wish involves the Pittsburgh Steelers, it's usually to meet their favorite player. For Abby, she had a different wish in mind: to shadow the Steelers assistant athletic trainer, Sonia Ruef, during training camp.**

This wish has been gradually forming ever since middle school when Abby first learned about the possibility of a career in athletic training.

"I love the Steelers and I want to be an athletic trainer when I grow up," Abby told the Steelers on her wish day. "It combines my love of sports and wanting to help people."

When Abby discovered Sonia – who is one of the few female athletic trainers in the NFL – that solidified her career goals. Sonia's journey showed Abby that her passions were possible, and even after being diagnosed with cancer in January of 2022, Abby stayed determined.

Deciding on her wish helped Abby envision a clear picture of what her future would look like, and her daydreams about her wish day ignited her drive to keep fighting and get through each treatment. A few months before her wish, Abby completed her last cancer treatment and has been in remission ever since. When her wish day finally arrived, she was feeling grounded... she was finally feeling good, and it was better than she ever could have imagined.

The most empowering and inspiring moments for Abby were not only getting to see Sonia in action but also having the opportunity to jump right in and learn the ropes alongside the entire athletic training team.

**2** Referrer: Kim Fleishman  
Volunteers: Maureen and Gary Ellis  
Donors: Hillview Motors, Inc., and Wheels for Dreams



Decked out in official Steelers gear, Abby was ready to help players get ready for practice in the training room. Throughout the day, she observed and asked questions as players were taped for training exercises, and she spent hours on the sidelines chatting with even more players, coaches and the rest of the training team.

"It's been surreal to see the people I see on television all the time right in front of me," Abby told the Steelers. "I was like 'Oh my gosh,' when I first saw Cam [Heyward]. Then I thought to myself, 'He is very tall.' Getting to meet someone like Cam, being the first person I saw when I walked in the door, I just kept thinking, 'Oh my gosh.'"

And for Sonia, granting Abby's wish was one of the most memorable experiences in her more than 12 years of working with the Steelers.

*"Getting to spend the day with Abby, someone who had to overcome hardships and prevail over adversity, was so rewarding knowing that I could make a positive impact on her life. I loved getting the chance to know her and hear her story. It is something I will always remember."*

**-Sonia, Steelers assistant athletic trainer**

Forever connected by their desire to help others, Sonia and Abby will have a bond that lasts for years to come. It's pivotal moments just like this – forming lasting connections and making plans for the future – that are paramount to recovery for kids, like Abby, who are facing constant uncertainty from living with a critical illness.





**WISHES NEED YOU**  
*I wish to play in the snow*  
**Daniella, 10**  
 autoimmune disorder

**Give Joy Today**  
 RESTORE HOPE FOR TOMORROW



**Light Up A Child's Life®**  
 Campaign Dates

**St. Marys**

December 6  
 The River 98.9  
 6 Franklin Center | St. Marys, PA 15857

**DuBois**

December 5-9  
 Sunny 106  
 12 W. Long Ave. | DuBois, PA 15801

**Punxsutawney**

December 12-16  
 Make-A-Wish®  
 Punxsutawney Regional Office  
 219 W. Mahoning St.  
 Punxsutawney, PA 15767

**Erie**

December 16  
 Star 104  
 One Boston Store Place | Erie, PA 16501

Please check back on our event calendar at [wish.org/greaterpawv](http://wish.org/greaterpawv)

**Pittsburgh**

Once again, Make-A-Wish is acknowledging its Wishmaker® donors in a full-page ad in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Sunday, December 25. If you have made or have committed to make a Wishmaker donation (\$4,400 or more) in the last year, you/your company will be listed in that ad.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at 412.471.9474 or [email@greaterpawv.wish.org](mailto:email@greaterpawv.wish.org).

**Daniella's joy is a light of hope for all of us.**

When you help grant a wish for a child with a critical illness, you create the greatest joy possible — and a turning point in their treatment and recovery. More kids like Daniella need the hope and joy of a wish — and you have the power to make wishes come true this holiday season.

**Donate at [wish.org/greaterpawv](http://wish.org/greaterpawv)**



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



**Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia is excited to share a free estate planning resource from our partners at FreeWill.**



**Wish Kid DONTAE**

**FreeWill** guides you through the process of creating your will in 20 minutes or less from the comfort of your home. While you're making your plans, you will also have the option to include a gift to Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia at no cost. Your contributions ensure that we can continue to spark joy and bring life to the imaginations of wish kids.

**To start your legacy of wishes, visit: [wish.org/greaterpawv/freewill-nl](http://wish.org/greaterpawv/freewill-nl)**

Amber South/ Public Opinion



# Wishes Come True

*I wish to go to the Nickelodeon Universe Theme Park® at American Dream*

**Lilo, 4 ↓**  
endocrine disorder  
Pittsburgh, PA



*I wish to have a playroom makeover*

**Emberlee, 3 →**  
genetic disorder  
Sand Fork, WV



*I wish to have a shopping spree*

**Steven, 7 →**  
cancer  
New Kensington, PA



*I wish to have a play set*

**Kyreece, 3 ↑**  
liver transplant  
Oley, PA





# Jaelyn



## SHINES LIKE A STAR



*When Jaelyn was first asked what her wish would be, she immediately decided she wanted to meet her favorite celebrity. But, after some careful contemplating, she came up with a better idea.*

Instead of meeting a celebrity, she wished to *be a celebrity*. After her arrival in Los Angeles, Jaelyn explored “The Entertainment Capital of the World” for a few days before her wish day. Her wish day was filled with a limousine tour of Hollywood, where she was then surprised with a crowd of adoring fans at the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Her fans were cheering for her while she signed autographs and posed for pictures taken by the paparazzi. She was then given her own star on the Walk of Fame to solidify her A-List status.

*I wish to be a celebrity*

**Jaelyn, 11**  
nervous system disorder  
Bridgeport, WV

*“It makes our hearts happy to see our child happy, it’s nothing you could ever imagine. It is definitely an experience that we will never forget for the rest of our lives.”*

**-Jaelyn's Mom**





# THANK YOU

FOR MAKING THESE WISHES COME TRUE!

## DONORS

Acme Machine & Welding Company  
and Employees  
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Luttner Financial Group, LLC  
Pittsburgh Investment Professionals  
Plum Borough School  
Shell Chemical Appalachia, LLC  
Christopher B. Wolf

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Monica Littlejohn  
Liz Martin  
Rebecca Myers  
Jennifer Nicholas  
Christina Sanson  
Jonathan Szolna

Lacy Bair  
April Bodkin  
Richard Bodkin  
Bert Dorazio  
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Teresa Knight  
Terri Mauersberg  
Patricia McRickard  
Julia Mumma  
Sarah Nutter  
Sora Okumura  
Robin Petermann  
Lisa Reno  
Paige Thewes  
Kelly Thompson  
Stefanie Weyandt  
Vanessa Zweig



*I wish to have an  
adaptive outdoor playset*

Xavier, 6 ↑  
endocrine disorder  
Fairmont, WV

*I wish to go to the  
Florida Theme Parks*

Deacon, 17 ↓  
nervous system disorder  
Big Run, PA





*I wish to go to  
the Walt Disney  
World® Resort*

Desmond, 6 ↓  
leukemia  
Douglassville, PA



*I wish to swim  
with dolphins*

Justine, 10 ↑  
cancer  
Latrobe, PA

*I wish to have a  
backyard clubhouse*

Abrielle, 6 ↓  
leukemia  
Erie, PA



*I wish to have a  
shopping spree*

Hannah, 17 ↑  
bone cancer  
Huntington, WV





# Donors Make it Happen



Range Resources



5th Annual Pennsylvania Chemicals Charity Golf



Chelsea McKita Memorial Foundation



Bayada Home Health Care, Pediatrics



10th Annual Brandon Denochick Memorial Race



Wishes Do Come True Softball



Trailblaze Challenge



Jax Stone 10k/5k and One-Mile Kids Run



19th Annual Grapevine: A Wine Tasting Event



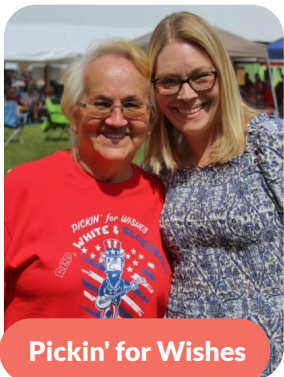
South Hills Lincoln



Brook's Lemonade Stand at Kristi Boutique



31st Annual Moms for Make-A-Wish Softball



Pickin' for Wishes



Norwin High School Girls Softball Team: Kick It For A Cure



Plymouth American Legion Shawnee Post 463





Erie Steelhead Little League Make-A-Wish Game



Keystone Chapter of Unico National



Alexis Hensen's Lemonade Stand for Wishes



Convoy for Kidz



Weakland Mechanics & Wrecker Octoberfest



Wheels, Wings & Wishes



PNC Treasury Management 18th Annual Golf Outing



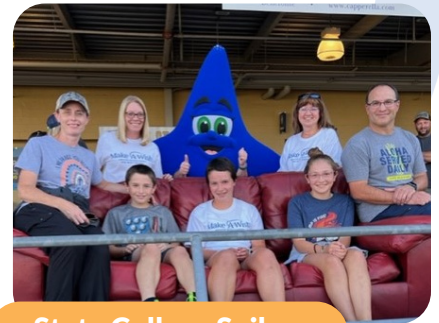
PNC Investments 20th Golf Outing & Dinner Auction



Cruise-In & Cornhole 70th Anniversary Celebration



ShopRite Point-of-Sale Campaign



State College Spikes Make-A-Wish Game



SCI Fayette



Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Independent Order of Odd Fellows



Coldwell Banker Realty Wishtober Fest





Lawrence Subaru-Hanover, PA



Fairway Subaru-Hazle Township, PA



Moon Township Subaru-Moon Township, PA



New Motors Subaru-Erie, PA



# THANK YOU SUBARU

Check out these amazing life-changing donations made by your local Subaru dealerships in 2021.

In addition to the Share the Love campaign, four local dealerships also chose Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia as their Hometown Charity, raising additional funds on top of all their contributions from the campaign.



## Go the Extra Mile: Spark Hope for Wish Kids

Help spark hope and transformation for a child with a critical illness this holiday season during the Subaru Share the Love® Event. From **November 17, 2022, through January 3, 2023**, with every new Subaru purchased or leased at one of more than 600 participating Subaru retailers nationwide, Subaru will donate \$250 to the customer's choice of charities, including Make-A-Wish.

See your local Subaru retailer for details or visit [Subaru.com/share](http://Subaru.com/share).



The 10th Annual Boo & Brew Bash raised \$10,000 for local children facing critical illnesses.

After a two-year hiatus, the Make-A-Wish Leadership Council was thrilled to bring back the annual Boo & Brew Bash. The Boo & Brew Bash is a Halloween-themed bar crawl that offers classic brews and signature cocktails from participating venues, culminating in an official After Party featuring late night bites in the heart of Downtown Pittsburgh. More than 160 attendees enjoyed a night of fang-tastic cocktails, spooky snacks, the fan-favorite costume contest sponsored by Bliss Psychological Services and the highly anticipated Scaryoke at August Henry's.

We want to give a special thank you to our phantastic partners and sponsors: August Henry's, Bliss Psychological Services, Bakersfield, Howl at the Moon, Sienna Mercato, Sotak Insurance Powered by Sebak Insurance and The Standard Market and Pint house for helping make this year's event a huge success!



See more spooktacular photos at [wish.org/greaterpawv/news-updates](http://wish.org/greaterpawv/news-updates)





**Cans for Wishes recently surpassed its \$100,000 fundraising goal to benefit Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The campaign began in 2020 to help subsidize fundraising losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.**

# CANS for WISHES

Make-A-Wish®  
GREATER PENNSYLVANIA  
AND WEST VIRGINIA

Cans for Wishes coordinator Diana Blood, accompanied by members of the organization's planning committee and Cans for Wishes "Royalty," presented Erie Regional Manager Courtney Nientimp with a \$100,000 check at an event held on Friday, September 23, at the Cool 101.7 office in Meadville, PA. In order to raise this money, volunteers exchanged metal recyclables for cash at local recycling centers and the proceeds from each recyclable were put towards the goal. To date, the proceeds total \$100,011.93.

The last drop-off event of the 2022 calendar year took place on October 16; the first drop-off of 2023 will be held in April.

If you wish to support more wishes through Cans for Wishes, you can drop off your cans at Lincoln Recycling in Meadville, PA. **Just be sure to ask that the proceeds go to the Make-A-Wish® account.**

## Do You Want to Help Grant Wishes, too?

### YOUR WORKPLACE CAN HELP SUPPORT WISHES

Rally your co-workers to join together and create an event or campaign that will help restore hope and joy for kids facing the unimaginable. Your company, no matter how large or small, can become Wishmakers® or Wishpartners by organizing fun activities like dress down days or bake sales.

To find out how to fundraise at your workplace, your chapter's regional office for more details.

Make-A-Wish®  
**WISHMAKERS AT  
WORK®**



# Thanks to Our Donors

The next newsletter will be sent in Spring 2023 but the donor list on our website – [wish.org/greaterpawv](http://wish.org/greaterpawv) – is always up-to-date. In the meantime, don't forget to send us your email address for news and events. We will keep your address private.

The following lists cash and in-kind donations, totaling \$4,400 and above for the months of January through August 2022. Tribute honorees totaling \$500 or more are also listed. We extend our deepest appreciation to all of you. Should you discover an error or omission, please call us at 412.471.9474.

Whenever you donate online, please be sure to go through [wish.org/greaterpawv](http://wish.org/greaterpawv). If you do, we will receive 100% of your donation – less a nominal administration fee. If you go directly to our national organization's website, we will only receive 80%.

## \$100,000 or more

Estate of Richard C. Arentson  
Estate of Vincent Baval  
Estate of John Busko  
Estate of Gloria Crawford  
Give Kids The World  
Macy's Believe Campaign and Register Round-Up  
Truck Convoy for Wishes, Gettysburg

## \$75,000 to \$99,999

Estate of Sylvia Asan  
Grapevine – A Wine Tasting Event  
Pittsburgh Investment Professionals  
Pennsylvania Chemical Charity  
Golf Outing/Shell Chemical Appalachia, LLC  
Sheraton Waikiki  
Subaru Share the Love Campaign

## \$50,000 to \$74,999

Brandon Denochick Memorial Race  
Franklin County Truck Convoy  
31st Annual Mom's for Make-A-Wish Softball Tournament  
Second Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Southwest Airlines  
Wabtec Corporation, Bids for Kids  
Waffles and Wishes, Erie

## \$25,000 to \$49,999

2nd Annual Trailblaze Challenge  
37th Annual Make-A-Wish Golf Outing  
Cans for Wishes  
Convoy for KIDZ, Somerset County  
The Corn Dog Open  
John R. Hornbrook, Jr. Perpetual Charitable Trust  
Krista's 23rd Annual Motorcycle Event  
Make-A-Wish® Board of Directors  
LeAnn Starnier Annual Make-A-Wish Fundraiser  
Subaru of Moon Township

David Trone  
Wheels, Wings and Wishes  
Wheels for Wishes

## \$10,000 to \$24,999

Employees of Almatris, Inc.  
Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, Sayre  
Blackwood Pipe Organ Concert  
Busy Beaver Building Centers, Inc.  
Calligan Family Foundation  
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Christmas Light Up Celebration  
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Tudor's Biscuit World  
Wheels for Dreams  
Whitehall Presbyterian Church  
World Pizza Champions Inc.  
York Brush Brigade

## \$5,000 to \$9,999

Aldi Smart Kids  
All-Clad Metalcrafters  
Alliance Realty  
American Airlines  
Amy's Wish  
Michael Balzer  
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Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Blue Mountain Elementary, East  
Brookside Bombshells Softball Team  
Buddy's Babes Softball Team  
BZ Pools and Decks, Inc.  
The Carlson Family Fund of The Erie Community Foundation  
Christmas in Color  
CJR Memorial Foundation  
Beth Clark Memorial Birthday Fundraiser  
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Complete Chaos Softball Team  
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The Dancer's Perfect Fit  
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Hillview Motors, Inc.  
Howard Elementary School  
J. P. Phillips, Inc.  
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McDowell Senior High School  
Victoria McKenney  
Danielle Mitchell Memorial Fund  
The Charles M. Morris Charitable Trust  
New Minersville Firehouse Bikers Softball Team  
North Hills High School Hands For Service Club  
Northwood Charitable Foundation  
Employees of Olympic Steel, Inc.  
Owatin Creek Elementary School

Peak Integrative Medicine  
Softball Team  
Jared S. Peters Memorial Golf Tournament  
Pocono Mountain West High School  
Rebich Investments  
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Jaime Vick-Moran Memorial Fund  
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Rebecca and Barry Wzorek and Family

## \$4,400 to \$4,999

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Charities For Children Adult Bowling Tournament  
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Isabel and Joe Prischak  
Selena M. Sleppy  
Referring Physicians of  
Walter T. Tillman, B.C.O.

## WE REMEMBER

We dedicate this newsletter  
in memory of the following  
wish kids. Each has touched  
our lives and hearts.

Angela  
Angelina  
Anya  
Ashton  
Aurora  
Avian  
Azuree  
Bradley  
Brianna  
Brett  
Dakota C.  
Dakota H.  
Daniel  
Douglas  
Elinor  
Elizabeth  
Emmalyn  
Eva  
Faith  
Ford  
Grace  
Haley  
Halie  
Hannah  
Jacquelyn  
Jade  
Jacob  
Jakob  
Joey  
Jonathan  
Jordon  
Joseph  
Joshua  
Kanen  
Katie  
Katniss  
Kaydence  
Keyley  
Kristin  
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Mason  
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Najir  
Nathan  
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Samantha  
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Victoria



# Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia

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707 Grant Street, Suite 3700  
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412.471.9705 fax

## Regional Offices

Charleston, WV  
304.342.9474  
304.345.6568 (fax)

Erie, PA  
814.868.9474  
814.866.0490 (fax)

Morgantown, WV  
304.292.5600  
304.292.5697 (fax)

Pottsville, PA  
570.622.6962  
570.622.3644 (fax)

Punxsutawney, PA  
814.938.8888  
814.938.3431 (fax)

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## Our Mission

Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. We are proud to have served more than 20,000 children in 57 Pennsylvania counties and West Virginia in our 39-year history.

*Believers of all ages,*  
bring your letter to Macy's—  
addressed to Santa at the  
North Pole—and drop it into  
the red Macy's letterbox  
until Dec. 24th. For each  
letter received in-store,  
Macy's will donate \$1 to  
Make-A-Wish, up to  
\$1 million.



## Connect with Us

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