

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY MAKE-A-WISH[®]

GALA



*I wish to have a
backyard playset*

Jasper, 3
chronic respiratory failure



*I wish to have a
firehouse playhouse*

Makinley, 5
chronic respiratory failure



*I wish to go to my
favorite theme park*

Natalia, 5
spinal muscular atrophy



*I wish to have
a drum set*

Cameron, 3
Burkitt lymphoma

Make-A-Wish[®]
MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND

★ CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WISHES ★

Evening Schedule

- COCKTAIL RECEPTION-

5:30 P.M.

Silent and Cocktail Live Auctions, Diamond Raffle

- DINNER AND EVENING PROGRAM -

7:00 P.M.

EMCEE

Liz Brunner, Brunner Communications

WISH COMMUNITY SPEAKERS

Colby and Courtney Horvath, Wish Recipient and Wish Mom

Elivette Garcia, Wish Recipient

Macy Sullivan, Wish Recipient

Faby and Doug LeColst, Wish Parents

AWARD RECOGNITIONS

PwC, Community Hero Award

David Ortiz, Wish Hero Award

MAKE-A-WISH MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND® SPEAKERS

Sean Holleran, Chief Executive Officer

George Deveney, Chief Advancement Officer

Al Rose, Board Chair

LIVE AUCTION AND FUND-A-WISH

John Terrio, Auctioneer, Auction Knights

- GOOD DOGG BEVERAGE AFTERGLOW - RECEPTION AND DANCING

9:30 P.M.

Live Music by Night Shift Entertainment

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to our 40th Anniversary Gala sponsors

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Barnes*

PSG

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The Colony Group



*Ty Howton and
Dr. Cathy Jeon*

*The Keene
Family*

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OF NEW ENGLAND

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**DAVID ORTIZ
Children's Fund**



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WELLESLEY

Flagship

flour
bakery + cafe



NINETY + CELLARS



Saphier Events

From Our Chief Executive Officer and Board Chair

Thank you for joining us for the 40th Anniversary Make-A-Wish® Massachusetts and Rhode Island Gala. As we celebrate four decades of wish granting, tonight is about you – our Wish Community, sponsors, donors, volunteers, referral sources, and all of the people here tonight who support our mission in so many ways.

This event and fulfillment of our mission would not be possible without our sponsors, especially our Premier Sponsors the Barnes Family and PSG, our in-kind supporters, our Gala Committee members, volunteers, and staff.

We are thrilled to honor this year's Wish Hero, three-time World Series Champion and Hall of Famer, David "Big Papi" Ortiz. David has personally granted 39 wishes and made an incredible impact on those children and their families, and recognizing him tonight also pays tribute to our partnerships with the Boston Red Sox and our other local sports teams, which contribute to dozens of wishes, wish reveals, wish celebrations, and wish perks every year.

Tonight, we also recognize our partnership with PwC as we present them with the Wish Community Award. Their leadership and philanthropic support have been invaluable to us for more than half of our 40 years. We have been lucky enough to work alongside some of the incredible people who work for PwC, and their passion for and commitment to our mission are evident.

As a Make-A-Wish supporter, you already know the power of a wish. You may know that many wish recipients credit their wish for giving them the strength they need to recover from their illness. Or that medical professionals have shared that a wish can be the motivation to encourage a child to continue on with treatment. The healing power of a wish on a child's physical, mental, and emotional health is critical, and you are a key piece of delivering the boost these children need.

This year, we will grant our 10,000th wish. We need your continued generosity to achieve our vision of reaching every eligible child in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Please dig deep tonight and give as much as you can. Your support will have an important impact.

Thank you, and cheers to 40 years of wishes!

Gratefully,



Sean Holleran, CEO



Al Rose, Board Chair

The Wish Hero Award

Established in 2007, the Wish Hero Award recognizes an individual or group of individuals whose heroic efforts and unwavering support bring hope, strength, and joy to our wish children.

OUR 2023 WISH HERO AWARD HONOREE DAVID ORTIZ

David “Big Papi” Ortiz is a shining example of the ability of one person to create and spread joy. His accomplishments on the field as a member of the Boston Red Sox are well known to New Englanders, but it’s the difference the Hall of Famer has made off the field that is the real inspiration. David has and continues to support a number of worthy charities and causes, including the David Ortiz Children’s Fund. Moved by his 2005 visit with young cardiology patients in his hometown of the Dominican Republic, David started the David Ortiz Children’s Fund to provide essential support for children in the Dominican and in New England whose families cannot afford the critical cardiac services they need.

As the Wish Hero Award recipient, we recognize David’s commitment to supporting our mission by granting life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. David has granted an impressive 39 wishes through our organization. These wishes have been for children from 21 states and from as far away as Australia. He has been a standout wish granter for two decades, bringing happiness and strength to our wish kids.

In the words of his on-field rival and now colleague and friend, Alex Rodriguez, “ever since I’ve met you, you’ve been special to everybody... *you change people’s lives, that’s what you do.*”



Community Hero Award

The Community Hero Award recognizes an individual or organization that contributes significant time, talents, and resources to Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

A Community Hero honoree enhances the Make-A-Wish community's ability to bring hope, strength, and joy to our wish children.

OUR 2023 COMMUNITY HERO AWARD HONOREE



pwc

For more than two decades, PwC has championed the Make-A-Wish mission and supported our organization in many ways. Through generous financial support, PwC has funded wishes and sponsored events, including 15 years sponsoring the Make-A-Wish Gala. The philanthropy of the company and its employees has helped grant wishes for over 100 local children.

We have also benefitted from the expertise and passion of PwC leaders through membership on our Board of Directors, event committees, and our recently launched Emerging Community Leaders Council (ECLC). A dedication to the Make-A-Wish mission has been embraced by generations of PwC representatives and shared with clients and other members of the company's network.

Through their unwavering commitment, PwC has significantly broadened our capacity to achieve our vision of reaching every eligible child with the hope, joy, and power of a wish fulfilled.

Presenters



EMCEE

Liz Brunner

Brunner Communications

Liz Brunner is CEO and founder of Brunner Communications and best-selling author of *Dare to Own You: Taking Your Authenticity and Dreams Into Your Next Chapter*, recommended by Forbes and recognized with two

2023 Feathered Quill Book Awards. Leveraging 35+ years of media and communications expertise, she builds meaningful reputations and brands for high-profile individuals and organizations. Ms. Brunner hosts “Live Your Best Life with Liz Brunner,” an award-winning podcast honored for “Best Host” and “Best Lifestyle Podcast” in 2022 by the Communicator Awards. She also offers online public speaking courses at BrunnerAcademy.com and is a frequent speaker at corporate events.

Prior to launching Brunner Communications, Ms. Brunner served as an award-winning main news anchor and reporter for WCVB-TV NewsCenter 5, covering breaking news stories and conducting exclusive interviews with prominent public figures. Ms. Brunner is a passionate supporter of Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island and served on our Board of Directors for six years. She has hosted our Make-A-Wish Gala since its inception in 2006.

AUCTIONEER

John Terrio

Auction Knights

John Terrio is a longtime friend of Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island, enlivening our special event for many years. His spirited delivery, relaxed banter, and strong belief in our mission have created successful auctions for our Make-A-Wish Gala and other fundraisers. As President and Founder of Auction Knights, Mr. Terrio has helped nonprofits across the Northeast and beyond generate funds through charity auctions for 30 years, raising millions of dollars at over 1,500 auctions to-date.



Wish Stars

COLBY HORVATH



Colby, 11 years old, from Lexington, MA, joins us tonight with his mom, Courtney. When Colby was diagnosed with cancer in 2020, his and his family's lives were turned upside down. Colby fought through over 800 days of chemotherapy and dealt with excruciating side effects of treatment, some of which linger to this day. Through it all, the Horvaths chose to remember how lucky they are, and to keep perspective that, since the outlook for Colby was always positive, things could be a lot worse.

One of the things that kept Colby going through his most difficult days was the idea of his wish to meet a

Disney Imagineer. Colby has long been interested in engineering and spent time during his treatment building elaborate Lego sets and creating with his 3D printer. His family has always loved Disney, so when Colby saw a documentary featuring Imagineers, he was inspired to one day pursue such a career.

Colby and his family had a wish experience they won't soon forget. They met other wish families and created lasting bonds. Colby got to experience a ride with the Imagineer who designed it. He even found a new career path, a Disney Illusioneer, and he's more committed than ever to achieving his goal of landing the illustrious job.

STEPHAN ZEPEDA

Stephan, from Middleton, MA, was diagnosed as a child with Neurofibromatosis Type II. His wish to meet David Ortiz was granted in 2007. Stephan said it was the best day of his life. Sadly, Stephan passed away from the disease last summer. Stephan would have celebrated his 28th birthday last week.

Stephan embodied immense strength and love. His parents, Faby and Doug LeColst, his sister, Madison, and his cousin, Joshua, will present the 2023 Wish Hero Award to Stephan's idol, David Ortiz. Please join us in remembering Stephan tonight.



Wish Stars

ELIVETTE GARCIA



Elivette is from Salem, MA, and has lived with a diagnosis of Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). In late 2019, her health took a turn for the worse and she became eligible for a wish. Elivette's wish was to go to Hawaii, and when the pandemic halted travel wishes, she patiently waited for two years for her wish to be granted. When travel resumed, Elivette was able to spend her 20th birthday in Hawaii last summer. Highlights of her trip included snorkeling, sightseeing, hiking, swimming, and attending a luau.

Elivette was so moved by her wish journey that she became an intern for Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island last summer, shortly after her wish was granted. She and her fellow interns supported the Mission team. Elivette plans to return for a second internship with our organization later this year.

MACY SULLIVAN

In 2002, Macy had her wish granted when she got a playhouse in her backyard in Milton, MA. The beautiful yellow playhouse was driven cross-country and lifted by crane over her house and into the yard. Macy was (and still is) a huge fan of musicals, especially her favorite, *Annie*. Her volunteer Wish Grantors arranged for the lead from the local school's *Annie* performance to come to Macy's wish reveal to sing "Tomorrow," Macy's favorite song from the musical.

As a student in 2016, Macy interned with Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Now 25 years old, Macy works on Broadway, bringing her love of musicals full-circle.





In-Kind

501st Legion	A.M. DePrisco Wellesley	Pier 6	Warrior Ice Arena
90+ Cellars	Don Beers	PwC	XV Beacon
AIS	DriftAway Hair Salon	Red Lion Inn	Jeff Kinney
Abby Park/Nova	Dunkin' Donuts - The Original	Stockbridge	Brady's Restaurant
Acquire Goods Hingham	Quincy, MA Location Encore	Residence Inn Boston	Newport Art Museum
Alisin Gallery	Boston Harbor Envision	Cambridge	International Tennis
Alma Nove	Optometry	Russell House Tavern	Hall of Fame
American Airlines	Exhale Spa	Saphier Events	Castle Hill Inn
Amie Stevens	Fiver Iron Golf Philanthropy	Satly Days Fish	Danielle McClure
Rob Gronkowski	Flagship Printing	Semper Laser Hair	Marina Studios
Anderson Jewelry	Flour Bakery	Removal	Boston Casting Inc.
Andrew Hajjar	Fratelli's Bakery	Shawn David Allen	Horvath Family
Beech Tree Inn & Cottage	Good Dogg Beverages Gourmet	SirTank Design	Bob Paglia
Bill Weydemeyer	Caterers	South Shore Conservatory	Rhode Island
Bobbles & Lace	Hunter's Restaurant Huntington	South Shore Music	Country Club
Boston Beer Company	Theatre	Theater	The Daley Family
Boston Bruins	Hyannis Whale Watcher	Steel & Rye Restaurant	Worcester Red Sox
Boston Harbor City Cruises	Cruises	SoWa Power Station	Sarma Restaurant
Boston Bruins Warrior	Hyline Cruises	Sweet Basil Restaurant	Moona Restaurant
Ice Arena	Island Queen	Talbot's	The Dunsky Family
Boston Harbor Hotel	J. McLaughlin	The Beth Kitchen & Bar	Martha's Vineyard
Brenton Hotel	JFK Museum - Hyannis	The Boston Celtics	Playhouse
Burton's Grill & Bar	Cape Cod	The Boston Red Sox	Kramer Portrait Studios
Cafe Mangal	Carolyn & John Taylor	The Carpet Workroom	The Pond Family
Cambridge School of	Josh Saphier	The Catered Affair	Georgie's Wine Shop
Culinary Arts	Kate's Table	The Charlotte Inn	Salty Days Fish Company
Canyon Ranch	Landfall Restaurant	The Colony Group	William Cullinan
Cape Air	Levi	The Constitution Marina	Nic & Zoe Derby
Capo Restaurant	Lilibridge	Bed & Breakfast	deCordova Sculptur
Cat Boat Charter	Loeb Drama Center at A.R.T	The Cottage	Museum
Chadwick Stokes	Mallory Portraits	The Drop Kick Murphys	Weatherwane Seafood
Charles River Boat Company	Maria's Cookies	The Flynn Family	Restaurant
Cheryl Wilkinson	Montillio's Bakery	The Kraft Group	Mass MoCA
Chiara Mediterranean Bistro	Mooo	The Langham Boston	Hotel on North
Chris and Pam Willis	Muffin House Cafe	The Naismith Memorial	Symphany Hall-Springfield
Cisco Brewers	Nantucket Boat Basin	Basketball Hall of Fame	Anderson Jewelry
Coastal Pickle	Newburyport Brewing	The Red Sox Foundation	Autocamp Cape Cod
David Ortiz Children's Fund	Nic & Zoe	The White Elephant	Jill Tayabji Alpert
deCordova Sculpture Museum	NOMAI Hingham	Tim Delay	Coastal Pickle
Delaware North Sporservice	Night Shift Entertainment	TJX Companies	Levi's
Companies Boston	or, The Whale	Victoria Goldberg	Fitness Unlimited
Delicious Dips by Paige	Parker's Crazy Cookies	Victory Point Restaurant	New England Trips
Delta Air Lines	PGA Tour Super Store Braintree	Walden Local Meats	Save the Bay

Board and Committee

OUR BOARD

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THE 2023 MAKE-A-WISH GALA COMMITTEE

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About

Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses between the ages of 2½ and 18. A wish fulfilled is an integral part of a child's treatment journey, helping to replace fear with confidence, sadness with joy, and anxiety with hope, while uniting and strengthening families and communities. Together, with generous supporters, 400+ volunteers, and our staff, we have granted nearly 10,000 wishes for children in Massachusetts and Rhode Island since our founding 40 years ago.

Our vision is to grant every eligible child's wish.

Ways to Get Involved



Volunteer



Make a Referral



Donate a Vehicle



Donate Airline Miles

and more!

Learn about the many ways you can help transform wish children's lives



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Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island

A decorative border of colorful stars in shades of blue, red, yellow, and teal surrounds the central text. The stars vary in size and are scattered along the left and right edges of the page.

40

years of

wishes
