



Wishing Well

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

★ Celebrating 40 Years and 20,500 Wishes ★

Spring 2023

*I wish to have
a masquerade
quinceañera*

Sarah, 15
leukemia

Read about
Sarah's wish
on page 2.

Belle of the Ball

Sarah's Masquerade
Quinceañera Wish



Referrer:
Aubrey Mora

Volunteers:
Jaclyn Rowlands
and Christie Bennett-
Zellers

Sometimes, wishes are all about timing. This is especially true for Sarah, a 15-year-old diagnosed with leukemia. After years of treatment, Sarah knew that she wanted to celebrate her remission status by incorporating the wish with her Quinceañera. This traditional Latin American celebration of a 15-year-old girl's transition to adulthood often includes dancing, gift-giving and other culture-specific traditions. This special occasion gave Sarah the opportunity to truly be the "belle of the ball".

This was long-time volunteer Christie's first time helping with a Quinceañera. "I loved being a part of something different and new to me," she said. Christie was moved by the intentionality of the traditions and the consistent themes of love, family and community throughout the day.

On the day of her wish, Sarah emerged in a stunning red ballgown with silver appliques. She greeted her guests and participated in the special events of the night with elegance and calm confidence. The celebration included a sweet dance between Sarah and her father and the changing of the shoes, a tradition where the Quinceañera ("15-year-old") is presented with her first pair of heels by her family.

Christie's favorite part of the wish was the presentation of Sarah and her court. Many Quinceañeras choose some of their closest friends and family to serve as "damas" (maids of honor) and "chambelanes" (chamberlains) to help throughout the day. The damas wore silver dresses and the chambelanes wore black and red tuxedos that complemented Sarah's ballgown perfectly. The group looked spectacular as they accompanied Sarah into the ballroom and began the celebration of a new year of life.

With cancer treatment firmly in the rearview mirror, Sarah was able to celebrate remission with her loved ones through a Quinceañera beyond her wildest dreams. We were honored to be included in this celebration of such an important moment in Sarah's life, and look forward to seeing Sarah reach many more milestones in the future.



*I wish to visit my
uncle in Texas*

Bryan, 7
cancer
1983

Make-A-Wish®
GREATER PENNSYLVANIA
AND WEST VIRGINIA

★ Celebrating 40 Years and 20,500 Wishes ★

*It all started with a
piggyback ride...*

40 Years, 20,500 Wishes, And Still Counting.

On May 5, 1983, Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia began revealing the power of a wish with seven-year-old Bryan, who was diagnosed with cancer. As our chapter's first wish kid, Bryan longed to visit his favorite uncle in Texas for one of their traditional piggyback rides. Bryan saw his uncle as a father figure, and was devastated when his uncle moved to Midland, Texas. Back in McKeesport, Pa., Bryan missed him more than anything.

With the help of caring people all over Pittsburgh who understood the importance of a child's wish, Make-A-Wish® raised the funds and made the arrangements for a trip that began two days before Bryan's seventh birthday. Bryan became the darling of the community, receiving gifts like a birthday pizza party, a mound of presents piled on his uncle's front porch, a key to the city and more.

"Bryan captured the hearts of the citizens of Midland..."
Bryan's Aunt Mary said. "He made everyone who got to know him realize how precious every moment can be when we are with the ones we love."

Thus began our chapter's story of changing lives in our communities. To date, Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia has granted more than 20,500 wishes.

We firmly believe that wishes have a life-changing impact on wish kids and their families. According to a 2020 survey commissioned by Make-A-Wish® America, 98% of health professionals said they believe the wish experience can influence wish kids' physical health. Wishes have the power to transform lives by creating an opportunity for hope and the ability to experience life beyond illness.



GIVE \$40 FOR  
 **40 YEARS**

You can spark joy for even more wish kids when you donate \$40 or more, in honor of our chapter's 40th Anniversary. Create hope for kids facing critical illnesses and help grant wishes well beyond 40 years. To make your gift, visit: wish.org/greaterpawv/40yearsofwishes

Wishes Come True

I wish to go skiing in Jackson Hole, WY

Jonah, 16 ↓
brain tumor
Pittsburgh, PA



I wish to have a hot tub

Sophia, 7 →
leukemia
Oil City, PA



I wish to have a playset

Ana, 10 →
blood disorder
Chambersburg, PA



I wish to go to the Florida theme parks

Ahmani, 11 ↑
neuromuscular disorder
York, PA



I wish to go to the National Aquarium in Baltimore

Brandon, 17 →
nervous system disorder
Bethlehem, PA



Brandon's *Aquatic* ADVENTURE

Seventeen-year-old Brandon of Bethlehem, Pa., loves nothing more than animals, especially unique fish and aquatic creatures. During his appointments, Brandon would often watch the fish in the tanks at the treatment facility. Seeing the fish swim around always brought a big smile to his face even on some of the roughest days. A visit to the National Aquarium and Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, Md., would be the perfect wish for Brandon.

During his wish, Brandon was able to see a variety of sharks, jellyfish, sea anemones, crabs, terrapins, sting rays and other ocean-life in all their glory. Brandon was so excited to see the sea creatures that inspired so much hope during treatment, and now carries that hope into each new day.

You can bring hope to more children like Brandon when you refer them to Make-A-Wish®

If you know of a child aged 2.5 to 18, who is fighting a critical illness, they might be eligible for a wish. To refer a child, visit: wish.org/refer

"He was extremely happy to have such an amazing experience with his family. We will forever be grateful."

-Brandon's Mom

THANK YOU

FOR MAKING THESE WISHES COME TRUE!

DONORS

Coldwell Banker
Danielle Mitchell Memorial Poker Run
Franklin County Truck Convoy
New Minersville Firehouse Bikers
Softball Team
Phillips Family Foundation
Sheetz For the Kidz

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Jennifer Retter
Beth Ruland
Melanie Schilling
Lindsay Shumate
Ken Sinagra
Art Sullenbarger
Brenda Sullenbarger



I wish to have a shopping spree

Sophia, 16 ↑
genetic disorder
Abbottstown, PA

I wish to go to a Harry Styles concert

Zia, 17 ↓
heart condition
Berlin, PA





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

Cole, 5 ↑
heart transplant
Cranberry Township, PA

*I wish to go on a
beach vacation*

Natalie, 10 ↑
cystic fibrosis
Tarentum, PA

*I wish to have
a playhouse*

Zane, 4 →
leukemia
Rices Landing, PA



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

Nicholas, 8 ←
nervous system disorder
Cairo, WV



*I wish to go to
Outer Banks, NC*

Victoria, 12 ↑
metabolic disorder
Wyomissing, PA



Donors Make it Happen



Erie County Technical School



Donald J. Bennett Memorial Run



Belle Valley Elementary Fundraiser



Thorn Hill Tap House



Rudairus MC Club



The Green's Make-A-Wish® Holiday Party



Gannon University Wish Reveal



Dandy Mini Mart



MPP Falls Creek



Juniata Elementary School



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices the Preferred Realty



PA State Police Golf Outing



Plum School District Make-A-Wish Telethon



Fairview Girls Basketball Fundraiser



Penn-Trafford High School Wishes of Warriors Telethon



Clarion Sintered Metals, Inc.



**Conor Amendola
Birthday Fundraiser**



**Frank Burke IV Memorial Fund of the
Scranton Area Foundation**



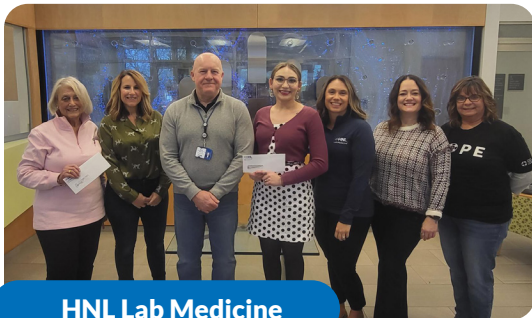
All-Clad Factory Sale



Bloomsburg University SAAC Wish Reveal



**Cheers for Wishes
Cheers for Wishes Committee**



HNL Lab Medicine



Oklahoma Elementary School



Tracy Elementary School



GKG Orthodontics



**Coldwell Banker- North Huntingdon
Celebrity Bartender Event**

Our Upcoming Events



2023 WVU Medicine Children's Walk For Wishes® *Presented by Subaru of Morgantown*

April 23, 2023
WVU Student Recreation Center | Morgantown, WV

Walk For Wishes® is a nationwide Make-A-Wish® fundraiser that celebrates more than 360,000 wishes that have already been granted, while raising funds for future wishes. It's a family-friendly event powered by wish families, volunteers, companies, donors and friends.

This year marks Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia's 40th anniversary. Walk with us to celebrate 40 years of life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. To register for this year's walk, visit: wish.org/greaterpawv/walkforwishes



Waffles & Wishes *Brought to you by our Signature Sponsors* *The Plastek Group | UPMC Health Plan*

April 28, 2023
Ambassador Center | Erie, PA

Join the Breakfast Club and support wishes!
Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia will once again be hosting its annual breakfast event in support of wishes. This year's event is brought to you by our Signature Sponsor, The Plastek Group and UPMC Health Plan. And will be streamed live by our Media Sponsor, WQLN.

Waffles & Wishes begins with breakfast for all patrons and is followed by uplifting stories from our local kids, their families and volunteers within the community. These stories offer an inside look of the life-changing impact of a wish-come-true. The live stream will be on our Facebook page and the WQLN website.

To RSVP or to become an event sponsor, contact Courtney Nientimp at 814.868.9474 or cniintimp@greaterpawv.wish.org.



UPMC HEALTH PLAN



20TH ANNUAL GRAPEVINE



A WINE TASTING EVENT

Presented by



U. S. Steel

Join us on **May 18, 2023**,
from **6-8 p.m.**, at **Revel + Roost**
in **Downtown Pittsburgh, PA.**

CHEERS TO 40 YEARS

We invite you to raise a glass and give cheers to 40 years, by joining us at Grapevine, the signature wine tasting event of Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Since 1983, amazing individuals like YOU, have helped spark joy and create hope for children battling critical illnesses.

Attendees will sample an assortment of wines thoughtfully paired with heavy hors d'oeuvres and enjoy the event's highly anticipated silent auction and the ever-popular Mystery Wine Sale.

SAVE \$10 NOW UNTIL APRIL 14

- \$90 - Early Bird registration - on or before **April 14, 2023**
- \$100 - Registration - After **April 14, 2023**, and at the door
- \$55 - Designated Driver Early Bird registration - on or before **April 14, 2023**
- \$65 - Designated Driver Event Registration - After **April 14, 2023**, and at the door

All guests must be 21 years of age or older to attend.

Register online at grapevine.givesmart.com

For sponsorship and auction donation opportunities or event details, please contact Shenell Pooran, Development Coordinator at 800.676.9474 or spooran@greaterpawv.wish.org.

Check out our Silent Auction

Don't miss your opportunity to bid on a pair of tickets to the sold out Taylor Swift's 'The Eras Tour' on Saturday, June 17, 2023, or your chance to golf at Oakmont Country Club with Make-A-Wish Board Member Jeff Troutman.



Thanks to Our Donors

The next newsletter will be sent in Fall 2023 but the donor list on our website – 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 September through December 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. Please note, that the average cost of a wish is now \$5,000 and will no longer reflect donations starting at \$4,400. This update will begin in the Fall 2023 issue.

Whenever you donate online, please be sure to go through 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

Helping Hands Foundation, Inc.
Luttner Financial Group, LLC
Estate of James R. Luzeiki
PNC Investments
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Sheetz For the Kidz
WDSN-FM Sunny 106.5
and its listeners, Dubois

\$75,000 to \$99,999

Estate of Patrick S. Brinker
Pittsburgh Investment Professionals
WPXZ-FM 104.1 and Kool 103.3
and its listeners, Punxsutawney

\$50,000 to \$74,999

Franklin County Truck Convoy
The McKamish Family Foundation
Penn-Trafford School District
Plum Borough School District
Estate of Richard R. Sweitzer

\$25,000 to \$49,999

98.9 WQK-FM The River
and its listeners, St. Marys
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The Rutter's Companies
LeAnn Starner Annual Make-A-Wish
Fundraiser
Weakland Wreckers, LLC
WRTS Star 104 FM
and its listeners, Erie

\$10,000 to \$24,999

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and Employees
Allied Resources Group, LLC
Donald J. Bennett Run 4 A Wish
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Bill's Produce & Market
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DuBois Area Sr. High School
Duquesne University/Alpha Sigma
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The Encova Foundation of
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Hopkins Family Foundation
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Charitable Trust
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Oklahoma Elementary School
Olympic Athletic Club
PA State Police Gettysburg
Association
Carol Paytas
Phillips Family Foundation
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PNC Bank Treasury Management

Shelburne Charitable Foundation
South Hills Lincoln, Inc.
Associates of Standard Bank
Steel City Harley Davidson
Sunrise Estates Elementary School
Edward Stike
Tournament of Dreamz
Softball Tournament
Wincore Windows & Doors
Terry Younkins

\$5,000 to \$9,999

9th Ward Republican Social Club
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Sandra and Charles Adams
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Plant Emergency Brigade
Wheels for Wishes
Williamsport Area High School
"Make Your Moment"
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Softball Tournament,
Kreutzer Family
Claudia Zavodnick
Zombeck Family Fundraisers

\$4,400 to \$4,999

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 New Minersville Firehouse Bikers
 Softball Team
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 The Lewis A. and Donna M. Patterson
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The Plastek Group
 Provance Truss, LLC
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 Roland's Seafood Grill, RSG, Inc.
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In Honor

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 Conor Amendola
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 Group's clients'
 birthdays
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 The Moorthy Family
 Isabel Prischak
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Make-A-Wish WISHES IN FLIGHT®

*Did you know that travel
 is the biggest wish
 expense of Make-A-Wish®
 Greater Pennsylvania and
 West Virginia?*



**You can help give
 wishes wings when
 you donate your
 unused air miles.**

**Visit:
[wish.org/greaterpawv/
 airline-miles](http://wish.org/greaterpawv/airline-miles)**



★ Celebrating 40 Years and 20,500 Wishes ★

FREEWILL

For 40 years, Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia has changed the lives of more than 20,500 wish kids and their families. We could not have done this life-changing work without the support of passionate donors like YOU and share an incredible way to join us in celebrating this day by making a planned gift in honor of our 40th Anniversary — at no cost today.

To make your planned gift, visit: wish.org/greaterpawv/freewill40



Proceeds from the sale of your car, boat, motorcycle, SUV, RV or truck donation will help to bring joy to children with critical illnesses.

**Call 855.675.9474
 or visit
pittsburgh.wheelsforwishes.org**

Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia

The Gulf Tower
707 Grant Street, Suite 3700
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1938
412.471.9474

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Address Service Requested

Headquarters

Make-A-Wish
The Gulf Tower
707 Grant Street, Suite 3700
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1938
412.471.9474
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
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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 20,500 children in 57 Pennsylvania counties and West Virginia in our 40-year history.



HIGHMARK WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

**Sign up to walk for
Make-A-Wish®!**

Pittsburgh:
Saturday, May 13, 2023
7:30 a.m.
Stage AE

Erie:
Saturday, June 3, 2023
7:30 a.m.
Beach 11 at Presque Isle State Park

Register at:
www.walkforahealthycommunity.org

Connect with Us

 wish.org/greaterpawv  email@greaterpawv.wish.org

