

Make-A-Wish®
NEBRASKA

Year-in-Review

A LOOK BACK AT THE WISHES
FROM OUR LAST FISCAL YEAR,
SEPT. 1, 2022 TO AUG. 31, 2023



*I wish to have a
corgi puppy*

Elijah, 11 | St. Edward
malignant brain tumor

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 Holin



Dear Friends,

This year was a milestone year for Make-A-Wish Nebraska as it marked the 40th anniversary of our chapter's founding. For the last 40 years, supporters like you have helped the stars align to grant more than 3,100 life-changing wishes to children fighting critical illnesses across Nebraska.

As we reflect on the impact Make-A-Wish has had on wish kids across the state, we must also remember the wish that started it all – Chris Greicius' wish to be a police officer. Make-A-Wish traces its inspiration to Chris, an energetic 7-year-old boy battling leukemia who wished to be a police officer. In 1980, his Phoenix, AZ community came together to make his wish come true. Little did Chris know his wish would create a movement that would transform millions of lives. It has been 43 years since Chris' wish sparked a legacy of hope for more than 360,000 children in the U.S. and our Nebraska chapter is proud to be a part of that legacy.

We believe every child deserves a childhood full of joyful experiences. When a wish is granted, it marks a turning point in a child's treatment and recovery – one that is so filled with joy, that suddenly the piece of childhood they've lost is within reach. Hopelessness is replaced with the strength to fight for tomorrow.

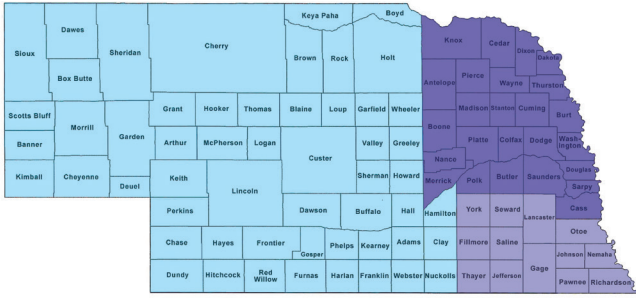
As we close out this milestone year, we want to remind you that your impact is far-reaching. Together, we are able to give the brightest of days to those children fighting a critical illness. Thank you for helping us transform lives for 40 years!



Brigette Young
President/CEO



Local Reach



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

Since 1983, more than **3,100 wishes** have been granted.

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

The average cost of a wish is **\$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, we were able to grant **116 unforgettable wishes** to children in Nebraska with critical illnesses this fiscal year.

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4 Wish Categories



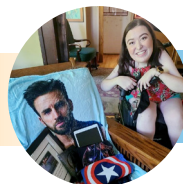
I wish to go



I wish to be



I wish to have



I wish to meet

Ruby's Wish Story



I wish to have a hot tub
 Ruby, 10 | Falls City genetic disease

WRITTEN BY RUBY'S MOM, JESSICA

Ruby was diagnosed shortly after birth with PFIC Type 1. Progressive Familial Intrahepatic Cholestasis is a genetic disease that affects the organs. The liver becomes damaged over time by bile buildup. Often, children go into liver failure before reaching adulthood. Ruby went into liver failure at age two and a half and is a two-time liver transplant recipient.

She still suffers from painful, chronic bouts of pancreatitis, which require hospitalization. She has short stature, poor absorption of nutrients, and relies on a G-J tube to receive her nutrition.

PFIC has caused us to experience every feeling imaginable. From despair over Ruby going into liver rejection to elation over good lab results. We have adjusted to the tube feedings, doctor's visits, blood work, hospitalizations, and frequent illnesses caused by immunosuppression. These



occurrences have become part of our routine, but the new feelings always keep us on our toes. If there's anything positive we have learned from this experience, it's that we have had a chance to truly feel all the emotions that life has to offer. Some call it an emotional roller coaster, but we refer to it as an adventure of sorts. Every individual gets to experience something, big or small, happy or sad. The tears we have cried on this journey are just a little different than the tears that others cry, and if not for those teary times, we wouldn't be able to bask in the beautiful yet simple moments. Watching Ruby giggle with friends, getting to snuggle with her and give good morning kisses, or just watching her dance like a rockstar gives us pure joy and appreciation for how far she has come!

Ruby loves absolutely everything about her life! She is a skin-care fanatic. She enjoys all things related to make-up, hair, beauty, and fashion. Networking is one of her biggest strengths. She's what I call an old-school networker. Much like my farmer husband, Ruby can sit down and have a full-blown, hour-long conversation with just about any individual, whether they are eight or eighty years old.

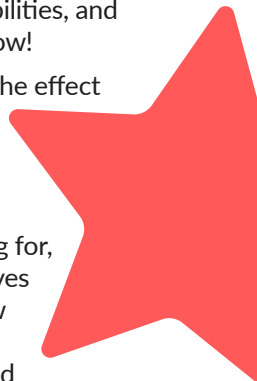
Ruby also enjoys water. Every day, she takes a bubble bath to get her morning started. Her enjoyment of the water is limited in that she is immunocompromised, so going to public pools has resulted in illness, scrapes, and bumps that don't heal properly. She cannot enjoy a popular activity in our area, going to the river, for fear that her G-J tube may get infected by bacteria found in the water.

For Ruby's wish, she asked for a hot tub. Her hot tub is a clean, safe alternative to the above, and it produces the bubbles she enjoys so much. The warm water relaxes her easily fatigued muscles. The hot tub has proven to be a place where serenity, safety, and peace can be found.

The granting of her wish was more than a spectacular item; it was the granting of good news and the realization there may be something out there just for her. The granting of her wish sparked a curiosity in her and an investigative spirit that will continue to find ways to thrive. Just because you can't partake in what is typical does not mean there isn't something wonderful or fulfilling right around the corner.

For those of you who are considering supporting Make-A-Wish, your donation is providing water and sunlight to a little flower that needs some encouragement. One day, when you look back to witness the effect your donation has, you'll find a bountiful garden full of color, possibilities, and love, and you helped it grow!

You cannot comprehend the effect your donation will have on children, who rarely get positive news. Your donation will be the good news they've been waiting for, because your donation gives hope—hope that will allow these wonderful kids to keep on realizing in a world full of medical appointments, illness, and treatments, there is still hope, there is still good, and wishes can come true!



OCTOBER 2022

Grayson's Wish Story



I wish to have a Semi-Truck playhouse

Grayson, 8 | Lincoln
congenital heart disease

WRITTEN BY GRAYSON'S MOM, SHANYA

Grayson was diagnosed with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome when I was pregnant. At my anatomy scan they saw that the left side of his heart was severely underdeveloped thus leaving him with basically half of a functioning heart. His heart relied on the right ventricle to pump blood to both his lungs and the rest of his body. The treatment typically is a series of three surgeries and at some point a heart transplant. After he was born, at just two days old, he underwent his first open heart surgery called the Norwood Procedure where the surgeon has to make it so his heart can supply his lungs and body with blood. At around 6 months old, he had his second open heart surgery called the Glenn Shunt Procedure where they essentially reroute blood flow again and reduce the work that the right ventricle has to do. Typically at a few years old they would do the third surgery in the series but Grayson was doing very well so they opted to put it off for a little while. Then Covid happened so doctors opted to once again prolong him having it until one day it was decided the surgery may do more harm than good and could potentially make him sicker. So they suggested we start going through the process of getting him on the Heart Transplant list. That was in August of 2021, and here we are two years later and we are still waiting and hoping that someday he

will get the chance to live a life and do all the things he has always dreamed of doing.

Grayson loves trucks, trains, construction equipment, and anything that goes! He also enjoys spending down time playing his Nintendo Switch or coloring pictures on days he isn't feeling up to playing outside. He also loves his family and spending time doing activities together.

Grayson chose a Semi-Truck playset as his wish because he loves Semi-Trucks! When he grows up he wants to be a truck driver and drive real "big rigs" as he calls them, so for him to have something that combined two of his favorite things, playing outside and Semi's, it is so special.

Grayson's wish was so important because it gave him a safe place to play outside. He loves to swing, go down the slide and "drive." He also wanted something that would be fun for his siblings to enjoy and something he would utilize day after day.

Make-A-Wish is an amazing organization that makes children's dreams come true. It is truly incredible the work they do to make it all come to life. There are so many people working to make these children's wishes happen and because of incredibly generous donors, they can make them all a reality. Make-A-Wish truly changed our life, and we are forever grateful.

Julia's Wish Story



I wish to go to Hawaii
Julia, 7 | Lincoln
blood disorder

**WRITTEN BY
JULIA'S PARENTS, JEN AND TYLER**

Julia, our youngest daughter, was diagnosed with a very rare bone marrow disorder, Severe Aplastic Anemia, at the age of 5 years old. Unresponsive to treatment she ultimately required a bone marrow transplant. Our life at that time was a whirlwind of hurt and heartbreak, worries and fears, tough calls and sacrifices. Bravely, with a courage greater than her fears, Julia faced each step of her medical journey...countless pokes, weekly doctor appointments, 30 nights in



the hospital, 47 blood/platelet transfusions, 5 surgeries, chemotherapy infusions, total body radiation, and thousands of doses of medication – many with terrible tastes, some in the middle of the night, and the ones in the beginning that literally took hours of begging, bartering, cheering and lots of positive self-talk to get down. Through it all her remarkably resilient spirit remains.

Julia loves spending time with family and friends - playing, singing Taylor Swift songs, going for golf cart rides around the neighborhood, watching movies, dancing, swimming, entertaining others with her performances, which are always assisted by her sisters, making others laugh, and staying up late whenever possible. She is sugary sweet and would live off ice cream with marshmallow sauce, frosting, and Nutella.

Julia's biggest wish of all was "being all better playing in the sand on a beach with umbrellas in Hawaii with my family." This wish was carefully created alongside her sisters during an impromptu family meeting held on her bed immediately upon coming home from the doctor's office where she first learned about Make-A-Wish. The little pamphlet and brief explanation had instantly sparked ideas of fun, fantasy, and faraway lands.

Vacations are not always a reality when you're tethered to a hospital, dependent on weekly transfusion, scheduled for a life-altering transplant, and placed in an immunocompromised bubble. Soon dreams and thoughts of tropical beaches, soaking up the sunshine, and playing in the sand together filled our minds. We would look out the hospital window, imagine the beach, being healthy, and plan the perfect vacation. A very welcomed distraction to our current views and situation. Make-A-Wish redirected our thoughts and worries and allowed us to dream again.

Hawaii gave us the most special week together making memories, celebrating recovery, taking a moment to finally exhale and relax in the sun and sand, experiencing the pure joy and amazement alongside a little girl swimming with dolphins, and soaking up every single second of Julia's dream come true! This vacation was exactly what our family needed...the perfect pause after a long year, amidst the holiday hustle and bustle to reflect on what matters most in this world full of God's wonders and thanking Him for all the incredible blessings. Although we wish we could say this is the grand finale of Julia's journey with Aplastic Anemia because what an incredibly happy ending that would be, as a bone marrow transplant survivor, we know it will be a lifetime of labs, doctor appointments, and apprehensions.

A million, heartfelt mahalos to Make-A-Wish for lifting the weight of the world off our shoulders for a week, giving us beautiful distractions, a chance to live carefree, and filling our hearts and minds with new memories far, far away from pain and illness. In Julia's mind she's all better. God heals. Dreams come true. And that's all we need right now.



JANUARY 2023

Fernando's Wish Story

Fifteen-year-old Fernando is a very generous and loving kid who enjoys the simple things in life. He loves to be with his family, play games with his family, play video games, and hang out with friends.

However, like many wish kids, Fernando balances being a normal kid with doctors' visits and treatments.

Fernando battles a rare cancer that damages the body's tissue. This cancer can also cause lesions in different areas of the body. To help treat his cancer, Fernando had to undergo chemotherapy treatment. According to his parents, watching Fernando go through chemotherapy was the hardest time emotionally for their family. It made his parents sad to see their smiling, happy son look sad.

Hope is the one thing Fernando and his family relied on most throughout his medical journey.

When Fernando found out his wish to go on a shopping spree was being

granted, hope was restored. He was so excited for his shopping excursion he started planning the entire day right away. He picked out all the items he wanted to purchase and talked non-stop about the wish.

Fernando's parents shared they are a family with little means and ever since he was a small child, Fernando has wanted to buy many games and toys that unfortunately, they weren't able to purchase. On his wish day, Fernando was able to buy all the toys and games he always wanted.

For many children battling critical illnesses, so much of normal childhood is taken away from them — it is exhausting, both emotionally and physically. A wish is something that gives kids the opportunity to look outside their illness — it restores a sense of childhood back to the child and normalcy back to the family.

Fernando's wish not only allowed him to just be a kid, it also brought hope, strength and joy to him and his family.



I wish to have a shopping spree
Fernando, 15 | Omaha rare cancer

FEBRUARY 2023

Elijah's Wish Story

Elijah loves a lot of things most 11-year-olds love. He enjoys spending time with his family, going camping and fishing. He enjoys sports such as football, soccer and basketball. And he loves to be silly and just have fun.

However, unlike most 11-years-olds, Elijah is battling a cancerous brain tumor, which means treatments and doctors' visits are a regular occurrence for him.

When Elijah found out he would be receiving a wish, he knew

he wanted a corgi puppy because he had seen them on YouTube. When he met with his Wish Granters, he already knew the exact type of corgi he wanted — a black, brown and white puppy. He even had a named picked out, Tucker!

On his wish reveal day, Elijah not only found his fur-ever friend, he also found hope and joy. A wish gives kids like Elijah the opportunity to look outside their illness and restores a sense of hope back to the child and normalcy back to the family.

"It is great to see your child smile and be so overwhelmed with joy after everything they've gone through. We love Make-A-Wish," said Keri, Elijah's mom.



I wish to have a corgi puppy
Elijah, 11 | St. Edward malignant brain tumor



MARCH 2023

Liam's Wish Story



I wish to have a fun exercise room
Liam, 4 | Omaha cancer

WRITTEN BY LIAM'S MOM, KAITLIN

About two months after Liam celebrated his second birthday, we found ourselves at Children's Hospital and Medical Center's Emergency Department (ED). It was August 5, 2020, and he had been experiencing "tummy aches" that had been increasing in frequency and in strength for about a month. We were sent to the ED that evening thinking he had appendicitis or maybe gallbladder issues.

Little did we know that when the ED doctors sent us to get an ultrasound, they already knew Liam had cancer; they were just trying to locate the tumor. They had run an AFP (alpha-feta protein) blood test that is a tumor marker, and it had already come back "off the charts." It was about 9 or 10 pm when the ED doctor came into Liam's room to break the news. They had found a tumor in his liver. I cried.

How did the appendicitis or other "easily curable" infection I had somehow convinced myself he had turn into a TUMOR? "Is it malignant?" I asked through tears, as I looked down at my little boy, fast asleep in the hospital bed. It was malignant. He had cancer.

After crying for about 5 minutes, a beautiful thing happened: I was overcome with an overwhelming sense of calm and peace. I suddenly just knew everything would be okay; we just needed to power through this new journey we had been launched into.

Unfortunately, Liam experienced more neutropenic fevers than most, which, due to his InfusaPort, was considered a medical emergency. We were even given a golden card, which ensured Liam received the first bed available as soon as he entered the ED, since the goal was for blood cultures and other labs to be drawn and antibiotics administered within an hour of his arrival.

Liam's first round of chemotherapy was successful in that it caused necrosis in the 12 cm tumor. While it was great news that the tumor shrunk, it unfortunately revealed the tumor was inoperable, as it was too close to major veins and arteries. Thankfully, the cancer had not spread outside of his liver which meant he was a candidate for a liver transplant. Less than 36 hours after his name was activated on the transplant waitlist, we received the magical phone call every transplant candidate prays for—there was a liver available and it was a match to Liam. An angel we will never get to meet blessed Liam and at least one other child with the ultimate gift of life by generously donating his or her liver.

Between the neutropenic fevers and the transplant, not to mention the planned admissions that initiated each round of chemotherapy, Liam and I had been away at hospitals more often than we had been home over the course of six months. Of course, this weighed heavily on everyone, especially our warrior Liam, but honestly, I think it weighed heaviest on his sister, Kaia. She was thrust into a storm of big emotions from anxiety to worry.

We're incredibly grateful for all of the amazing foundations and organizations that exist to not only assist with financial aspects of journeys like ours, but those that also exist to help kiddos

through those extra rough days or to help support the mental well-being of pediatric patients and their families. When we were connected with Make-A-Wish Nebraska, Kaia was finally able to not only be included, but was able to have a voice in some of the items we requested as part of Liam's wish!

Liam's wish for a fun exercise room also provided something to look forward to for all of us. And ever since it's been granted, it's provided the sanctuary for both Kaia and Liam we hoped it would. We carefully and extensively researched every item we requested as part of Liam's wish, trying to ensure we found items that could grow with the kids and also serve multiple purposes, too.

At the height of his fight against the cancer, Liam suffered severe muscle and protein malnourishment, in addition to a plethora of other ramifications of the chemo. Liam continues to experience ramifications from chemo and his transplant, so it's awesome we have the basement play/exercise area to practice building strength.

Liam's wish provided hope. Make-A-Wish is an extraordinary organization that brings MAGIC to children's lives. Children who are forced to fight the cruelest battles of their lives. Children who are heartbreakingly fighting potentially the LAST battle of their lives. Children who NEED that magic more than anyone else. Because the granting of these children's wishes, thanks to supporters like YOU, allows them to BE children, if only for a moment.



Josiah's Wish Story

WRITTEN BY JOSIAH'S MOM, CARRIE

Josiah was born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS) and he was also born premature at 32 weeks. That essentially meant he was a 5 pound preemie with half of a heart, as the left side of his heart is severely underdeveloped. He has had 11 surgeries with 3 of those surgeries being the "staged reconstruction" surgeries to recirculate his blood flow. Josiah has been in and out of the hospital a lot in his lifetime.

Josiah's disease has been hard, both on him and our family, but we have seen so much good shine through the pain. When Josiah was diagnosed with HLHS in utero at 23 weeks, my husband and I were 3 days from moving down to Texas from Nebraska. Michael, my husband, had just started a brand new job and we left everyone we knew back in Omaha to start over, but now with this huge medical diagnosis. It was the hardest year of our lives. Now, as our family has grown from 3 people to 5, we continue to be thankful for Josiah's health and his heart-healthy brother, Levi, and heart-healthy sister, Norah, who have been added to our family. We have also moved back to Omaha to be closer to our families. Our kids know that Josiah has a "special heart" and he has extra doctor's appointments because of that. Whenever hospital stays or long appointments have occurred, we have been blessed to have grandparents step in to love on Levi and Norah while we are with Josiah. Josiah will require life-long care, as there is no cure for HLHS, but we continue to take one day at a time and remain thankful for all of the good days.

Josiah is one of the most joy-filled people you will meet! He loves to be around people! I tend to think he got

his ultra-social personality from all of his hospital time interacting with the hospital staff. He is a fourth grader at our neighborhood's elementary school and is in their Excellence in Youth higher reading program. He was also on Student Council last year with plans to run again during this new school year. He plays the piano and drums and is working on learning the ukulele.

Josiah's wish was to have dinner with Captain America in Walt Disney World® and be served Cheez-Its on a silver platter. He chose that specific wish because Captain America is his favorite superhero and he always wanted to meet him. He has also always loved Cheez-Its! Make-A-Wish went above and beyond to get the little details of his wish for him! Josiah had a "send-off party" with his classmates at his school and Captain America was there for lunch, alongside a silver platter of Cheez-Its! Josiah was beaming! While we were in Florida, we had dinner with Captain America at the Marvel cafe in Universal Studios®. Josiah said, "I wanted to have dinner with Captain America in Disney World because that seemed like a really special place to do that. I also liked meeting Captain America's superhero friends!"

This wish was really special because we have watched as Josiah first got into Captain America as a four-year-old. He was visibly sick and going through open heart surgery, but also maintaining a level of "Super Josiah" to get through all of that. As the years have gone on, he's read Captain America's biography and put together LEGO sets and sported t-shirts with Captain America's shield on the front. To see Josiah meet this hero of his was incredible. It was a humbling reminder that this is a person who he has looked up to and has been a source of joy on dark days. Josiah finally got to give Captain America a hug during



I wish to meet Captain America and eat Cheez-Its
Josiah, 10 | Omaha
congenital heart disease

his wish and meeting your hero who brought light to the dark days in your life is really something special. That moment was the icing to an amazing week spent laughing together as a family!

"Make-A-Wish is really nice and I think people should go for it! Make-A-Wish helped me make my wish come true and it was really fun to have this trip with my family after everything I've been through." -Josiah

I can't say enough great things about Make-A-Wish! The joy they have brought our family is irreplaceable and we have memories that will last forever! The kids who get a wish are overwhelmingly deserving of this gift. I am constantly in awe of my son's vibrancy for life. He has scars and stories, but you'd never know by looking at his smile. He is so brave, as are the other children fighting diseases. Whether the wish is meeting a hero or building a backyard playground; these wishes help forget some of the pain that was on the bad days and balance the scale back to the good days. I think you should always support a cause that gives more of the good days!

MAY & JUNE 2023

DJ's Wish Story



I wish to have a gazebo
DJ, 5 | Lincoln
nervous system disorder

Five-year-old DJ loves the sounds of water. He enjoys being around people and being surrounded by laughter. Being outside in the fresh air and lounging while listening to the world around him is his favorite!

However, DJ has many diagnoses, which can limit what he's able to do. He has had 70 surgical procedures in 70 months of life and that number keeps climbing. Medical procedures and treatments have become a normal way of life for DJ and his family. Watching DJ undergo those procedures and treatments is the hardest thing his family has had to endure – both emotionally and financially.

When DJ found out he would be receiving a wish, his family knew it had to be something outdoor-related. Having his own space to lounge and play is exactly what he needed, which is why DJ wished for his own backyard gazebo space.

"Giving him a new space that was safe and comfortable for him to enjoy the outdoors has been an impactful and important part of his recovery," said DJ's mom, Kelly. "DJ is nonverbal so it can be challenging to know exactly what he thinks of things, but the moment he went into his gazebo he was all smiles and extremely content."

Because of all his diagnoses, it can be hard for DJ to regulate his body temperature naturally, so having a space his family can have some control over while being in nature is very important. His gazebo has allowed him to spend more time outside than ever before!

For children like DJ, a wish can help them, and their family, find light in the darkness of their current circumstances. A wish can transform their perspective, replacing feelings of trauma with hope for tomorrow.

"To anyone considering making a donation to Make-A-Wish, you are providing so much more than just one day or one trip or one thing to one child. You are giving hope and light and love, plus so many opportunities to not only that child but to their entire family," said Kelly. "Make-A-Wish has personally given our family things we wouldn't be able to experience otherwise."



JULY 2023

James' Wish Story



Children who are fighting critical illnesses experience extreme emotional challenges every day. For a young

mind to wrap itself around medical terms and harsh treatments is not only exhausting – it can be traumatic. When a child is diagnosed with a critical illness, everything changes.

For James, everything changed in May 2018 when he was diagnosed with Severe Aplastic Anemia right as he finished kindergarten. In February 2019, he received a bone marrow transplant. Following his transplant, he developed non-Hodgkins Lymphoma as a side-effect of the transplant. He then received both chemo and radiation to fight the lymphoma.

“Illness impacted our family in ways most may not have realized. He was severely immunocompromised, so we had to take extraordinary precautions to keep him safe,” said James’ mom Karen. “He primarily lived in Denver for two years which is four hours away from our home.



We took extra precautions to sanitize our home and we did not allow visitors in our home.”

Due to his illness, James was unable to be around other children, except for his siblings, for about two years. When James’ wish to go to Legoland® was granted, it allowed him to finally be a normal kid.

“He endured more than most can even imagine and the chance to look forward to a wish gave James something positive to strive for,” said Karen. “He is imaginative and the thought of visiting Legoland kept his spirits up!”

While he was hospitalized, James built a ton of Legos. Building Legos and imagining going to Legoland® gave James something to look forward to.

“Visiting Legoland and seeing all of the fantastic builds was a dream come true for James,” said Karen. “By supporting Make-A-Wish, you are giving a child the opportunity to live a dream... a truly positive, special experience that they rarely could have otherwise.”



I wish to go to Legoland® in California
James, 11 | Alliance blood disorder

AUGUST 2023

Evelyn's Wish Story

Four-year-old Evelyn is very outgoing, has a great sense of humor, loves to make up dances and she does her own version of gymnastics! She loves to do her makeup, nails, hair and dress up. Evelyn is also a tough little girl who has dealt with a cancer diagnosis with great strength and determination.

Evelyn was diagnosed in September 2022 with Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis, a rare blood cancer. Luckily, this type of cancer is usually 99% curable. To treat this type of cancer, Evelyn had to undergo 12 consecutive weeks of chemo. After those 12 weeks, she continued undergoing chemo treatments every 3 weeks for one year. She is estimated to be done with chemo in December!

When Evelyn found out she would be receiving a wish, she wasn't quite sure what she wanted. But then, one day, Evelyn and her mom were scrolling through TikTok

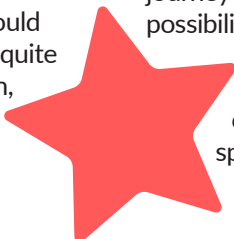
and a pink vintage camper came up on a TikTok video. Pink is Evelyn's favorite color and after seeing that camper, she insisted on having a camper that was “pinked out.”

“She was beyond excited for her wish! Often, she would ask ‘when is my pink camper coming?’ ‘Where’s my pink camper?’ said Evelyn’s mom, Aeriana. “When she got to finally see her ‘pink’ camper, it was more than she could ever imagine!”

For wish kids like Evelyn, when their wish is granted, hope is restored for that child, which can help improve their mental well-being. For many, a wish is a turning point in a child’s medical journey that opens the door to exciting possibilities. For Evelyn, her new “pinked out” camper allows her to spend time with her family camping, hanging out in a safe space, and just being a kid.



I wish to have a “pinked out” camper
Evelyn, 4 | Hastings rare cancer



2023 FISCAL

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Brooklyn, 7, Omaha | heart condition | I wish to meet Minnie Mouse | Andrew, 6, Lincoln | cancer | I wish to meet a Lego Master Builder at Legoland® |
| Laila, 5, Grand Island | cancer | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® | Elias, 10, Falls City | nervous system disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Kayla, 17, Arapahoe | leukemia | I wish to have a camper | Oliver, 5, Eagle | nervous system disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| James, 11, Alliance | blood disorder | I wish to go to Legoland® | Axton, 6, Omaha | leukemia | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Blaizen, 11, Ord | genetic disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® | Levi, 10, Greenwood | cancer | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Charlotte, 12, Kenesaw | cystic fibrosis | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® | Ronan, 9, Papillion | neuromuscular disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Daniel, 18, North Platte | cancer | I wish to go to an NBA Finals Game | Raymond, 16, Omaha | neuromuscular disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Emily, 10, Grand Island | cancer | I wish to go to Disneyland® | Reece, 7, Elkhorn | nervous system disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Remie, 5, Grand Island | kidney disease | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® | Emma, 12, Omaha | kidney transplant | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Aubryanna, 17, Gering | rare disease | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® | Ethan, 9, Tilden | congenital heart disease | I wish to go to Alaska |
| Kennedy, 12, Lodgepole | leukemia | I wish to go to the Outer Banks in N.C. | Declan, 4, Plattsmouth | rare genetic disorder | I wish to go to Colorado |
| Evelyn, 4, Hastings | rare cancer | I wish to have a "pinked out" camper | Gage, 13, Stuart | heart transplant | I wish to go to the Daytona 500 |
| Jonah, 12, Kearney | leukemia | I wish to go to Hawaii | Chitti, 16, Omaha | nervous system disorder | I wish to have a fishing boat |
| Elyn, 12, North Platte | cancer | I wish to meet Guy Fieri & be on Grocery Games | Joseph, 15, Omaha | liver transplant | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Lily, 7, Hastings | leukemia | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® | Kenzi, 8, Omaha | leukemia | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Tyger, 8, Elm Creek | cystic fibrosis | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® | Kathryn, 7, Omaha | cancer | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Anthony, 18, Boelus | cancer | I wish to go to New York City | Alexis, 18, Columbus | cancer | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Hadley, 15, Smithfield | nervous system disorder | I wish to have a 2-seater side-by-side | Zavier, 8, Omaha | nervous system disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Alaric, 9, Central City | cystic fibrosis | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® and Universal Studios® | Rylee, 7, Ithaca | cancer | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Karson, 7, Beaver City | genetic disorder | I wish to have a camper | Oakley, 4, Bellevue | cancer | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Braxton, 8, Beaver City | genetic disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® | Kaiden, 16, Omaha | cystic fibrosis | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Aiden, 18, Juniata | leukemia | I wish to re-do my truck | Anthony, 18, Yutan | cancer | I wish to have a FBI Cybersecurity experience |
| Gabriel, 15, Lincoln | malignant brain tumor | I wish to re-do my basement | Gabriel, 18, Ashland | leukemia | I wish to have a college scholarship |
| Axl, 3, Sutton | genetic disorder | I wish to go to Mall of America | Caysen, 7, Papillion | leukemia | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Nahavy, 12, Lincoln | wilm's tumor | I wish to have a gaming computer system | Wyatt, 4, Omaha | leukemia | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Everett, 4, Carleton | kidney transplant | I wish to meet the Millennial Farmer | Joslyn, 14, Omaha | leukemia | I wish to go to Hawaii |
| Haylee, 8, Waverly | leukemia | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® | Liam, 4, Omaha | cancer | I wish to have a fun exercise room |
| Hunter, 9, Waverly | neuromuscular disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® | William, 14, La Vista | bone marrow transplant | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Ruby, 10, Falls City | genetic disease | I wish to have a hot tub | Lily, 5, La Vista | leukemia | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Emberlyn, 9, Lincoln | rare disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® | Eric, 4, Omaha | brain tumor | I wish to have a dinosaur playhouse |
| Olivia, 6, Beatrice | rare condition | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® | Jonah, 9, Bellevue | cystic fibrosis | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Grayson, 8, Lincoln | congenital heart disease | I wish to have a Semi-Truck playstructure | Andres, 5, Omaha | kidney transplant | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Alaina, 11, Lincoln | nervous system disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® | Grace, 10, Omaha | brain tumor | I wish to go to Discovery Cove in Florida |
| Alaska, 8, Adams | genetic disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® | Jayden, 9, Omaha | liver transplant | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Oliver, 10, Geneva | cancer | I wish to go to Hawaii | Benjamin, 17, Omaha | cancer | I wish to go to Hawaii |
| Julia, 7, Lincoln | blood disorder | I wish to go to Hawaii | Easton, 10, Eagle | cystic fibrosis | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Carson, 13, Lincoln | cystic fibrosis | I wish to go to the Florida Gulf Coast | Grace, 10, Omaha | end stage renal failure | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| DJ, 5, Lincoln | nervous system disorder | I wish to have a gazebo | Fernando, 15, Omaha | rare cancer | I wish to have a shopping spree |

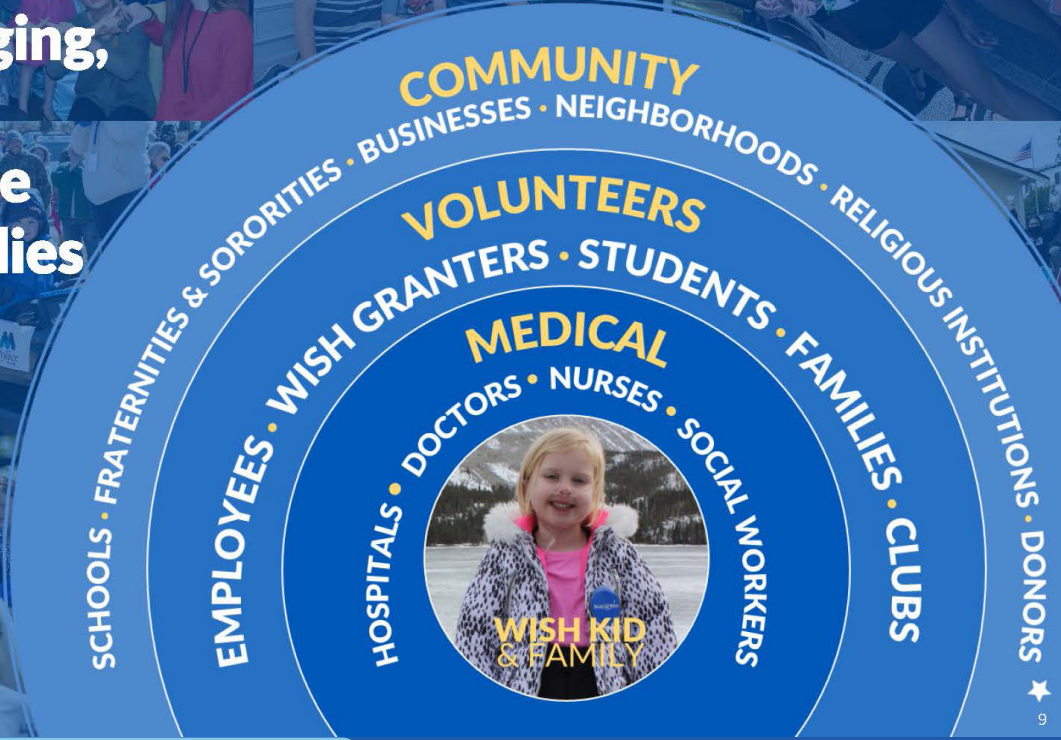
YEAR WISHES

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Caleb, 10, Papillion | cystic fibrosis | I wish to attend the Buffalo Bills Spring Training |
| Peter, 17, Omaha | cancer | I wish to go to Bethesda Game Studios |
| Josiah, 10, Omaha | congenital heart disease | I wish to meet Captain America and eat Cheez-Its |
| D'Mitri, 4, Omaha | liver transplant | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Presley, 11, Omaha | cystic fibrosis | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Leo, 10, Omaha | neuromuscular disorder | I wish to go to Volcano National Park |
| Keira, 15, Lyons | autoimmune disorder | I wish to go to Hawaii |
| Elijah, 12, St. Edward | malignant brain tumor | I wish to have a corgi puppy |
| Roland, 9, Bellevue | cystic fibrosis | I wish to go to Super Ninetendo World in California |
| Averie, 12, Omaha | cancer | I wish to have an art studio |
| Brady, 15, Omaha | congenital heart disease | I wish to go to Oahu |
| Calvin, 7, Omaha | leukemia | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Sutton, 4, Palmer | nervous system disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Reed, 11, Yutan | cystic fibrosis | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Aftyn, 9, Omaha | cystic fibrosis | I wish to go to Hawaii |
| Nathan, 14, Papillion | kidney transplant | I wish to go to Hawaii |
| Brooklynne, 13, Lincoln | genetic disorder | I wish to have a gazebo |

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Teodoro, 15, Omaha | neuromuscular disorder | I wish to have a shopping spree |
| Evelyn, 3, Omaha | metabolic disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Deshaun, 4, Omaha | cancer | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Freya, 3, Omaha | malignant brain tumor | I wish to have sensory equipment |
| Carter, 3, Omaha | nervous system disorder | I wish to go to Walt Disney World® |
| Jade, 9, Omaha | malignant brain tumor | I wish to meet Mickey Mouse |
| Anjari, 18, Omaha | blood disorder | I wish to have a professional music recording studio |
| Jacelyn, 16, Omaha | nervous system disorder | I wish to go to Hawaii |



A wish gives a sense of community, belonging, and purpose that extends beyond the wish kids and families we serve.



The Impact of a Wish

91%

of wish parents believe the wish experience gave their child a better chance of surviving their critical illness

98%

of medical providers said the wish experience has a positive impact on a child's physical well-being.

95%

of wish alumni felt more hopeful for their future after their wish

** Results from the 2021 national wish impact study*

DONATION

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

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





Lindsay Corporation

Make-A-Wish Nebraska has been fortunate to partner with Lindsay Corporation as a corporate partner since 2016. Brian Ketcham, CFO of Lindsay and Make-A-Wish Nebraska Board of Directors Past-Chair, made this partnership official in 2016 after years of personal involvement with our organization. Brian's previous employer had been a supporter of Make-A-Wish, mainly due to his wife, Lisa Ketcham's, involvement with the organization. Lisa has been a volunteer with Make-A-Wish Nebraska for over 15 years.

"I really enjoy being involved with the organization and supporting the mission of granting life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses, said Brian. "Witnessing the impact a wish can have on a child and their family is truly inspirational."

To this day, Lindsay continues to be involved with Make-A-Wish Nebraska, serving as the title sponsor of the annual Blue Jean Ball gala in Omaha, and in 2023 Randy Wood, President and CEO of Lindsay Corp., and his wife Candace Wood, served as the Honorary Chairs of the Blue Jean Ball. Additionally, Lindsay continues to engage their employees in our mission by helping grant local wishes and making any wish reveal they're involved with as special and unique as possible.

One wish that stands out to Brian and the Lindsay staff is Andrew's wish for a camper, which was granted in 2020.



(Above) Left to Right: Brian Ketcham, Lisa Ketcham, Brigette Young, President/CEO of Make-A-Wish, Candace Wood, and Randy Wood, President/CEO of Lindsay.

(Left) Lindsay at wish kid Andrew's camper wish reveal

"Hearing about wish stories is always memorable, but one time we had a group from Lindsay participate in a wish granting event. We were on hand when Andrew received his wish of a camper," said Brian. "It was awesome to see his reaction when he saw the camper pull up outside his home and the excitement as he checked it all out. It was also special being able to interact with the family and to hear what this wish meant to them."

Thanks to Lindsay's support, we are able to provide hope, strength and joy for Nebraska wish kids and their families. Wishes are truly transformational and we are extremely grateful for everything Lindsay does to ensure we can continue granting wishes for many years to come.

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

Londyn, 14, Blue Hill
tumor
I wish to have a purple she-shed
(Wish Year 2022)

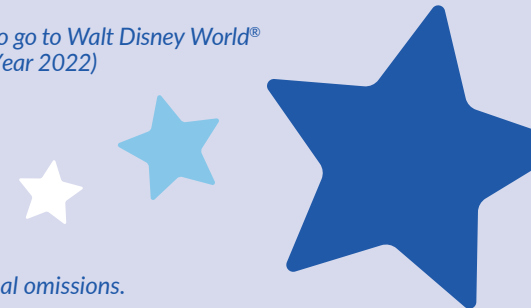
Shane, 13, Lincoln
heart condition
I wish to go on a RV trip to Platte Valley State Park
(Wish Year 2022)

Chase, 21, Gothenberg
lung transplant
I wish to go to Hawaii
(Wish Year 2014)

Ebbin, 16, Plattsmouth
cancer
I wish to have a camper
(Wish Year 2021)

Stella, 6, McCook
tumor
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
(Wish Year 2022)

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

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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 Lexi's wish to go to Universal Studios® at the 2023 Kearney Evening of Wishes gala.

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

KFRX Wheel of Wishes
December 8, 2023 | Lincoln

Star 104.5 Radiothon
December 15, 2023 | Omaha

Wish Ball
February 17, 2024 | Lincoln

Pot O'Wishes
March 14, 2024 | North Platte

Blue Jean Ball
April 27, 2024 | Omaha

Wine, Whiskey and Wishes
May 16, 2024 | Omaha

Truck Center Companies Golf Tournament
June 7, 2024 | Omaha

Evening of Wishes Gala
August 15, 2024 | Kearney