

wishful THINKING

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
MAKE-A-WISH® WISCONSIN
2024 ISSUE 1

FINDING JOY IN A WISH

I wish to have a Multi-Season Hockey Rink

**WORLD WISH
MONTH®** *WishMakers Wanted!*

WishMaker Impact
Grateful Hearts at Hail & Farewell

Make-A-Wish
WISCONSIN

★ CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WISHES ★



wishful THINKING

Since 2004, Wishful Thinking has showcased the hope, strength and joy found in every wish story. From the medical professionals who refer a child, to the trained volunteers from across Wisconsin who aid us, to the donors whose gifts fuel our mission, it takes an entire community to make a wish come true for a child with a critical illness.

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wish.org/wisconsin

Happy 40th Birthday, Make-A-Wish® Wisconsin! There have been many changes over the past forty years, but our mission to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses remains the same.

We have a lot to celebrate throughout this special birthday year:

- From just a single wish granted in 1984, the Wisconsin chapter has granted wishes for more than 8,000 children.
- This year, the Wisconsin Chapter is budgeted to grant a record-breaking 405 wishes.
- An established network of medical professionals across the state. These vital referral sources know that a wish can be an important part of a child's treatment plan.
- An army of 415 dedicated trained volunteers statewide. From granting wishes to helping at events to assisting office staff, their support brings smiles, laughter, joy and memories to our wish kids.

We would also like to give a special shout-out to the dedicated donors, Board members and staff, past and present, for serving as goodwill ambassadors for the Make-A-Wish mission statewide.

You have helped make magic for the special children we serve. And for that, we are deeply grateful. Thank you!

Warmest wishes,


Joe Imhoff
Board Chair


Patti Gorsky
President & CEO



WISH NIGHT: HELP NEEDED



Wish Night, our largest fundraising event is on April 11, 2024 at the Pfister Hotel. We need auction items that will help raise critical funds to give kids battling critical illnesses hope through a wish come true.

Sign up now to donate an auction basket at wish.org/wisconsin/auctionbaskets or donate auction items at wish.org/wisconsin/auction.
Note: We need the auction items at our Wauwatosa office no later than March 7.

For questions or to make arrangements for pick-up, please contact Mallory at mmadison@wisconsin.wish.org.

WORLD WISH MONTH®



It started with a single wish on April 29, 1980: 7-year-old Chris, struggling with leukemia, wanted to be a police officer for a day. Six people answered the call, rallied the entire community, and granted a wish that lifted Chris up during his darkest days. These original WishMakers were inspired by the impact the wish had on Chris and vowed to do more. A global movement was born.

Today, over a half-million children have received wishes that replace fear with confidence, sadness with joy and anxiety with hope. The connection, optimism, inspirational generosity and kindness surrounding each wish have united countless communities.

But the work is far from done. In the next 20 minutes, a child will learn that they have a critical illness. And 20 minutes later, another. As long as children face this devastating reality, they'll need WishMakers to help give them piece of their childhood back. Each April, in honor of the founding wish and the original WishMakers, **Make-A-Wish is recruiting the next generation of mountain movers, heart-forward make-it-happeners, donors, volunteers, partners and collaborators.**

Everyone has the power to help make a wish come true. Everyone has the power to be a WishMaker. It's as easy as sharing your unique talents or giving some of your precious time or treasure. Every little bit makes a difference. But we need more. We need you. Because all it takes to make wishes come true, is you. **WishMakers Wanted:** wish.org/wisconsin/wishmakerswanted

WELCOME, NEW STAFF

We are pleased to welcome two members to our Make-A-Wish Wisconsin team who will be working to make more wishes come true in the years to come.



Anna Lopez-Camacho
Wish Coordinator



Lyn-Le Buus
Wish Coordinator

40 YEARS OF IMPACT *Wish Alum. Where are they Now?*

In 2013, wish alum Esmeralda was an 18-year-old high school student, battling Hodgkin's lymphoma when her wish to go to Hawaii was granted. Her wish changed everything, giving Esmeralda hope and strength to keep fighting. **She is now 29 years old and thriving.**

She says, "Since then, I went to college and studied psychology. I started volunteering for Make-A-Wish Wisconsin with my mom while in college. Volunteering has brought me so much joy, meeting other wish families and sharing special moments with them.

I went back to school to earn my Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. I have been counseling in the school setting for three years now. I had the feeling I wasn't done yet. I knew I had the potential to reach even more people to inspire by applying for a doctorate program. I am currently a doctoral student at Mount Mary University in the Counselor Education and Supervision program. I am gaining experience supervising Master's level students, teaching Master's courses in the counseling program, and sharpening my clinical skills through counseling undergraduate students on campus. It is extremely rewarding to watch the students grow.

On a personal note, I continue to be a competitive swimmer since the age of 12. If cancer didn't stop me from going to swim practice and competing in swim meets, nothing will!"



MARCH 1-3 @ CENTRAL WI CONVENTION & EXPO CENTER, ROTHSCHILD, WI

D.C. EVEREST GAMING CLUB CHARITY AUCTION



Evercon 2024, Central Wisconsin's largest gaming and anime convention, is hosting a silent auction benefiting local wish kids.

For tickets and details, visit evercon.org

MARCH 23 @ CARROLL UNIVERSITY, WAUKESHA, WI

WAFFLES FOR WISHES



Join Carroll University's Chi Omega's for a delicious \$5 breakfast including waffles, sausage and more. There will also be raffles and a silent auction! All profits will go help make 13-year-old Mason's wish to meet YouTuber Mystic7 come true!

APRIL 13 @ ST. NORBERT COLLEGE, DE PERE, WI

RHYTHM & WISHES



Join the St. Norbert Wishmakers on Campus for their annual Rhythm & Wishes event, complete with an impressive auction, musical ensemble & an inspiring program as they raise critical funds for local wish kids battling critical illnesses.

MAY 16 @ BISHOPS BAY COUNTRY CLUB MADISON, WI



Experience the power of a wish at this exquisite reception on the shores of Lake Mendota. This event features inspiring wish stories, food, beverages, entertainment, a silent auction, and a raffle. For tickets and details, visit wish.org/wisconsin/wishes-bay



AUDIO ADRENALINE

35 plus wishes funded over two days and 24 hours!

This past December, our friends at iHeartMedia hosted our 15th annual Wish-A-Thon presented by Kesslers Diamonds on 92.1 REWIND, Z104, Fox Sports 1070, 1310 WIBA-AM and U100.9 in Madison, 95.7 BIG FM and 97.3 The Game in Milwaukee, 93.9 The Game in Wausau, 1440 WNFL in Green Bay. Wish kid Adaya (pictured above with her siblings) was one of many families to speak on-air about their wish experience.

Thanks to the support of our sponsors, Wish Club and Diamond Club members and donors, the event raised \$233,000 which will result in more than 35 wishes being granted.



MAKE-A-WISH HITS THE ICE

On January 20, the Milwaukee Admirals hosted their annual Make-A-Wish Night, providing complimentary tickets to more than 1,000 Make-A-Wish supporters. Volunteer wish granter and Wishmakers of Wisconsin member, Mariah represented Make-A-Wish on the Zamboni and wish alum Megan (whose wish to meet the Disney Imagineers was granted in 2023) and her family did the Jumbotron Interview.

Thank to you to the Admirals for their ongoing support over many years!



The 3rd annual **Skating with Santa presented by Landmark Credit Union, The Good Dentist and Fiserv**, was another huge hit! Hosted by Wishmakers of Wisconsin, families were able to spend time enjoying the holiday season, sipping hot chocolate, ice skating and meeting Santa Claus!

Thanks to our generous sponsors and attendees, more than \$30,000 was raised to make wishes come true. Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 15, 2024 for the 4th annual event.



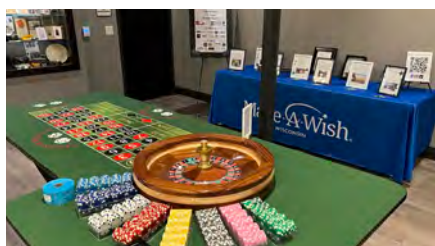
The **UWGB Phoenix Women's & Men's Basketball Teams** took to the court with local wish kids to help raise funds.

Sponsored by **Bergstrom Automotive**, the event was complete with raffles, a pre-game wish program and an exciting miracle minute.



The 1st annual **Think You Can Axe-Scape?**, hosted by Wishmakers of Northeast Wisconsin, raised nearly \$2,500 in critical funds to help grant life-affirming wishes for local children!

They partnered with Appleton Axe to host an event with raffles, silent auction, escape rooms, axe throwing and more to spark inspiration into their community.



Suburban Asphalt Co., Inc. hosted a casino night and raised enough funds to grant four local wishes!



Houdini Elementary Girls on the Run raised over \$1,000 through a coin drive to help grant wishes.



The **Kettle Moraine ATV Association, Lakeshore ATV/UTV Club, and Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association** hosted the 16th Annual **ATV/UTV Charity Ride** this past October at The Washington County Fair Park in West Bend. Thank you for helping grant so many life-changing wishes for local children!



Holidays in Sheboygan held the 4th annual **Guest Bartender Night** in support of local wish kids.



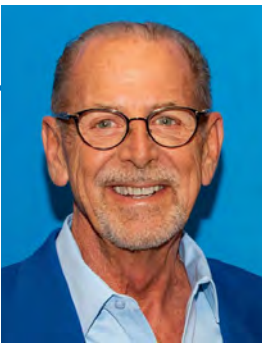
Thermal Chaos Pub hosted an **ATV Poker Run** this past October and raised over \$3,000 in critical funds.



The **Wisconsin Underground Contractors Association** hosted a night of delicious food, great music and awesome raffles which raised over \$35,000 to help grant wishes.



The annual **Can't Depend on Snow** dog sled race took their last ride after over 20 years of granting local wishes through their critical fundraising efforts.



Donor Spotlight **RICHARD KESSLER**

Fifteen years ago, founder and former owner of Kesslers Diamonds, Richard Kessler, was introduced to the magical Make-A-Wish mission through the Wish-A-Thon, hosted by iHeartMedia. Richard had been a client at iHeart and sponsored the event. Richard met many wish families at the radio station, and he was hooked – for life!

Richard was so inspired by the wish kids and their families, he wanted to continue sponsoring the event every year. To this day, Kesslers Diamonds is the presenting sponsor of Wish-A-Thon.

Over the years, Richard increased his support of Make-A-Wish Wisconsin both through Kesslers Diamonds and personally. Richard has donated auction items to Wish Night, including diamond jewelry and a cruise on his own personal boat. He has also made significant financial donations over the years and has given over \$250,000 to help make wishes come true for kids battling critical illnesses.

This year, Richard decided to give \$1,000 to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin for every field goal scored by the Green Bay Packers throughout the regular season and playoff games. The total came to \$29,000!

Richard says, “I’m so grateful to have a healthy family and healthy grandchildren, and because of that, it’s important to me to help make wishes come true for kids who are battling critical illnesses. I want to help give them hope, strength and joy to keep fighting and to have a rich and full life.”

“We are so thankful for Richard and his generous and caring heart,” says Patti Gorsky, President & CEO of Make-A-Wish Wisconsin. “Richard steps up on a regular basis to make sure we are granting the wish of every eligible child. His commitment and dedication to Make-A-Wish are selfless examples for us all.”

WISHMAKER IMPACT



Kathy & Joe Bartel (above) and Rich Kraemer & Family (below).



This past November at our annual Hail & Farewell Board dinner, Make-A-Wish Wisconsin was thrilled to present the **Todd Lappin Volunteer Leadership Award** to longtime dedicated volunteer wish granters, Joe and Kathy Bartel. Joe and Kathy have been volunteering as wish granters for 20 years. Kathy has granted over 100 wishes and Joe has granted more than 90 wishes. Congratulations and thank you Joe and Kathy.

We also presented the **Marilyn Mueller Donor Award** to Rich Kraemer and family. Their family has hosted the Kraemer Wisconsin Cheese Golf Outing, benefiting Make-A-Wish Wisconsin for more than 30 years, and have raised over \$250,000 for Make-A-Wish. They also provide in-kind support through donations of cheese, sausage and fudge to Make-A-Wish events. Thank you for your shining example, Rich Kraemer and family.

MAKE YOUR VALUES LAST FOREVER

“Why” is a word that drives us. Why do we love the people we love? Why do certain sights, sounds and smells stir our souls? Why are we moved to empower children battling critical illnesses? The answer always comes with a story. It’s the best part about “why.”

Your relationship with Make-A-Wish® is driven by your “why.” There may be a deeply personal reason you care so much about the children and families we serve, a story that compels you to help us turn their wishes into a reality.

That story also reinforces your values. Compassion, hope and community aren’t important to you by accident. They have a source – an inspiration – and they connect you to Make-A-Wish on a personal level.

This is what makes your relationship with Make-A-Wish so special. You share our values and invest in the longevity of our mission. Your “why” and our “why” are the same.

A legacy or planned gift is a meaningful way to share your love, and it is simpler than you might think. Learn more with our free tool at wish.org/wisconsin/legacygiving.

Our sincere thanks to the donors listed below and on the following pages, who made contributions and in-kind donations to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin between October 1 and December 31, 2023. We have made every effort to acknowledge these gifts correctly and completely. Please contact us and accept our apologies should any error or omission be discovered.

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I wish to have a Multi-Season Hockey Rink

"EVEN ON TOUGH DAYS THERE IS LIGHT"

At three-months-old, Ethan was at the doctor for a routine checkup. The doctor noticed Ethan was a bit jaundiced and decided to run some tests. Hours later, his parents were told "Ethan will need a liver transplant to survive." His mother, Gail, shares Ethan's story:

"Our doctor believed Ethan had something called biliary atresia (BA), which is a rare disease that affects the bile ducts of the liver. I didn't comprehend at that moment what all of that meant, but the words to survive hit me hard in my gut. After hanging up, I bawled my eyes out right there in that parking lot while Ethan was peacefully asleep in his car seat.

The next day we headed off for Ethan's first of many surgeries. These surgeries were beyond tough and challenging. However, we knew in our hearts that we were right where we needed to be to give Ethan the best chance at improving his liver function and extending his life. Ultimately, Ethan received a liver transplant from our nephew, Adam. Adam saved our son's life, and we are forever grateful to him for making the choice to be a living organ donor.

The first few years, post-transplant was a roller coaster of illnesses, hospitalizations, road trips, and ambulance rides for checkups and treatments. Unfortunately, getting a transplant doesn't mean your medical journey is done.

In January of 2020, Ethan went in for a routine eye exam. After the exam, the doctor came out to share with me that he thought Ethan had a brain tumor and we should rush to Children's Wisconsin. My heart sank. The medical team recommended we start genetic counseling since there were markers that made the doctors believe Ethan had Alagille syndrome, and not BA that he had been diagnosed with as a baby. Less was known about Alagille syndrome 13 years ago.

Not every day is easy for Ethan. Being a teenager these days is tough enough, let alone adding in 10+ different specialists to talk with about his medical journey. Thankfully Ethan is an energetic, fun-loving, witty, and kind-hearted 13-year-old. Through all of these ups and downs, Ethan continues to be a ROCK STAR at life.

Ethan LOVES hockey - he has from a young age. He isn't allowed to play hockey, due to his transplant - they don't want him to get hurt in contact sports - but he loves hockey. When Ethan was told he would receive a wish, he truly had this multi-season hockey rink as his only wish.

Ethan was really struggling, being a teenager, starting high school and learning to deal with all of his medical world - it's a lot... so having this wish brought joy to Ethan, which in turn brought our whole family happiness. **We are so very grateful to Make-A-Wish and to all of you that helped bring back the happiness and smiles to our Ethan this past year!!!**

8 | Ethan's Wish Granters: Caren Krueger & Scott Thompson



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Wishmakers of Wisconsin Think You Can Axe-Scape?
Wishmakers of Wisconsin Chili Cook Offs
Wishmakers of Wisconsin 11:11
Richard and Sharon Witt
Peter and Vicki Wright
Sean Zacher
Dominic Zarcone
\$500 to \$999
141 Charities
Abbot Charitable Foundation
Affiliated Dermatologists
Albany International Corp.
Terry Albrecht
American Power Transmission LLC
George and Julianne Archibald
AT&T Employee Giving Campaign
Bridget Balogh
Roger Bardoel
Aaron Barrett
Bradley Barrington
Heather Bawyn
Dave Beattie
Melanie and Michael Bender
Monte Bertram
Charles Bilek
James and Debbie Birenbaum
Mary Blaney
BMO Financial Group Employees
Charlotte Bouche
Brewbaker Housing & RV Co.
Calvin Brockmann
Patrick & Carla Brotherhood
Jill Brzeski
Ryan and Theresa Chimenti
Chippewa Falls High School
Corporate Valuation Advisors, Inc
Aaron Cousineau
Emilie Cousineau
William Cozzens, III
Custom Glass Products
Amy Davis
Thomas De Lacy
James Derricks
DeWitt LPP
Megan Dickman-Renard
Jill Dickson-Kesler
Brian Doriott
Dave Dougherty
Jonathan and Debra Eder
Brian and Mary Ellis
Enel North America
Kevin and Wendy Entwistle
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mt. Horeb
Anthony Fabris
Robert and Patricia Fink

Lucinda Foster
Christopher Fugman
Kyle Gauthier
John Gehl
Joe Gehrke
John Greenwood
Sarah Griego
Todd Gudausky
Gail Gunderson
Steve Hack
Sherri Hampel
Kathleen Hart
Miles Harter
Richard and Sharon Hassemer
Haunted Trail
Carol Heacox
Robert and Elizabeth Heinzel
William and Carol Hiller
David Hirsch
Steven Hirt
John and Susan Honkamp
Humana
Neil Jaehnert
Michele Janak
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Janick
Johnson Controls Inc.
Barbara Johnston
Gerald Jonas
Eric Junot
John Kadletz
Jim Kersten
King for a Cure
Peter and Mary Kirschling
Stephanie Klurfeld
Mike Kluz
Steven Knapp
Andrew Knoernschild
Nichole Knott
Shannon Kobylarczyk
Kohl's Department Stores, Inc.
Thomas and Lee Ann Kristiansen
Margaret Krueger
Dustin Kuderer
Jody Kudick
Celine Labouret-Mondadori
David Lake
Langer Roofing & Sheet Metal Inc.
Mary Sue Lavin
Lee's Contracting/Fabricating, Inc.
Larry Leff
Kimberly Lin
Kristin Lindblom
Timothy Lorang
Cathy Ludwig
Dean and Rhonda Maas Fundraising Party
Elisabeth Madagame
Roger and Wendy Mair
Barbara Maloney
Aaron Mannisto
Ali Mauermann
Donald and Karen Mayer
Jessica McCoy
Sandy McGee
Ryan McGovern
Sheryl McLeod

William McNamara
Jillian McNulty
Raymond Miller
Mary Miller
Susan Miller
Deb Murphy
Amanda Mutchler
Ryan Napstad
Mark Niedziejko
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Deborah Olszewski
Shea O'Rorke
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Richard and Lynn Blackburn Charitable Giving Fund
Gregory Romano
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Christina Schanhofer
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Lori Snith
Steve Sorenson
Jakie Sperberg
Robert Sprengel
Megan Statz
Hannah Statz
Jeff Stelpflug
Jesse Stuart
Ian and Nicole Taylor
Don Terkel
The Village Companies
Ashley Thomas
Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing
Thrivent Financial/Choice
Tierney Family Fundraiser
United Way of Dane County
Usinger Foundation, Inc.
Curt and Lorri Vacek
Karen Valient
Sandra Van Groll
Jean Vandenlangenberg
Nicole Vandervest
Waupun Truck-N-Show
Randy and Shelly Weeks
Ryan & Laura Welsh
Betsy Wischer
Wishmakers of Wisconsin Egg Roll Sale
Yoga For Wishes
Wishmakers on Campus - UW Madison
Michelle Wolfe
Caitlin Workmaster
Yeng Xiong
Cathy Zembroski
Barb Zucco



I wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort

Rose, 4 rare disease

IN-KIND DONATIONS

\$20,000+

Give Kids The World
Sheraton Waikiki

\$10,000 to \$19,999

Allegiant Airlines

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Todd Adams
Hilton Waikoloa Village
Hyatt Regency Waikiki
H.J. Martin And Son, Inc.
Wishlane Aesthetics

\$1,000 to \$4,999

1919 Kitchen & Tap
Frank Abnet
American Airlines
Paul Anderson & Family
Aqua Creek Products
Avis Rent A Car Systems, Inc.

Bay Area Burger Co.
Blue Wolf Transformations
Jolene Bradley
City Center Condo Owners Association

Cody Transportation
Crew Concrete
Crossmark Graphics
Custom Limousine
Dave & Buster's
Dolphin Quest Oahu
Encore Limo

Enterprise Holdings
Fury Water Adventures
Great Lakes Amusement
Green Bay Packers
Green Bay Packers Foundation

Justin Hewitt
Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort
Hilton Milwaukee City Center

Hollander Chocolate, Inc
Hotchandani Laser, Vein & Cosmetic Surgery
iNet Web PC

Major League Baseball
Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club

Milwaukee Bucks
Miron Construction
Petland Racine

Pmi Entertainment Group
PS Seasoning & Spices
Republic Chophouse

Rummele's Jewelers

The Scan Group
Seymour Lumber
Sport Court Wisconsin
The Osthoff Resort
Universal Studios Hollywood
Verizon Wireless
WG&R Furniture

\$500 to \$999

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Active Chiropractic
Ally's Powerhouse Cafe & Ally's Bistro

Amusement Devices
Ann Vande Hei
Avenue Jewelers
Avis Rental Car

BelAir Cantina
Best Mobility Products
Butz Guide Service

Carma Laboratories, Inc.
Cheeca Lodge And Spa
Custom Limousine Service

Encore Transportation
Festival Foods
Fromm Family Foods
Green Bay Gamblers Hockey Club

Hawaii Turtle Tours
Jon Horst
Hyatt Regency Mission Bay & Spa Marina

Jet Air
Stephanie Klurfeld & Family
Kualoa Ranch

Lodge Kohler
Lowe's Hotel
Magic Coach
Transportation

Mullett Ice Center
Orlando Medical Rentals
Brian O'Shaughnessy and Debbie Murphy

Prohibition Spirits And Cigar Lounge
Racine Danish Kringle
Sea Life Park

The Capitana Key West
The Day Spa
The Wandering Table
Traveling Bags

Universal Studios
Waseda Farms
Wheelers of Hawaii
Wisconsin Herd
Wixon Inc.

MEDICAL SPOTLIGHT

Corynne Meiser, APSW
 Pediatric Social Worker
 Children's Wisconsin



How have you seen Make-A-Wish impact children and their families?

Receiving a wish brings children joy and confidence. It helps children feel acknowledged and cared about. As well, a wish bring families closer together in times of great stress. I feel Make-A-Wish gives families hope for their child's future.

Why should medical professionals refer kids with critical illnesses?

A wish is more than just a fun day or "thing." It creates lasting memories and hope for a better tomorrow. As well, I have witnessed that wishes motivate children to adhere to their treatment plans.

How has working with Make-A-Wish impacted your work and your life?

The impact on my work and life allows me to see the silver lining in hardship. It also motivates me to give back to my community. Children with life threatening diseases inspire me every day with their resilience and positivity. I admire all who help to make a child's wish come true. It reminds you that there IS good in the world.

MAKE-A-WISH® REFERRAL SOURCES

Our thanks to those who referred children with wishes granted between October 1 and December 31, 2023:

Children's Wisconsin

Gina Lewis, NP; Sheila Dodds, MSW; Latoya Stamper, MSW; Dr. Stephanie Handler, MD; Stacy Boyce, MSW; Cindy Dunst, MSW; Robin Kostroski, MSW; Carrie Torkilson, MSW; Dr. Nicholas Antos, MD; Dr. Jessica Schnell, MD; Amanda Schlosser, MSW; Molly Paul, RN; Amy Sheahan, RN; Maura Brophey, APNP; Michelle Honeck, MSW; Dr. Donald Basel, MD; Dr. Joshua Kovach, MD; Lindsey Katzmark, APNP;

Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare

Dr. Charbel El Kosseifi, MD

Gundersen Health System

Cheri Hill, CTRS; Theresa Falk, RN

HealthFirst Network

Darcy Wall, SW

HSHS St. Vincent's Children's Hospital

Ashley Thompson, CCLS

Marshfield Children's Hospital

Dr. Peter Holzwarth, MD; Lindsey Welch, CCLS

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital

Dr. David Holz, MD; Lorrie Busche, MSW; Bridget Leonhardt, RN; Dr. Andrea Rock, MD

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Jessica Bolding, LMSW

UW Health American Family Children's Hospital

Craig Becker, MSW; Cory Sieburg, CPNP; Joyce Kilgore-Carlin, MSW; Dr. Amy Peterson, MD; Eden Jackson, RN; Kim Sue Lamster, MSW; Jill Bowdish, CAPSW; Solomy Ntambi, MSW

REFER A CHILD TODAY

Make-A-Wish® relies on referrals from caring individuals to reach more kids with critical illnesses each year. Learn more about wish eligibility, who can make a referral and how the process works at wish.org/refer.

Below: This past October, Payton's wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort came true.



WISHES IN FLIGHT® TELETHON

The Wishes in Flight Telethon took place on Wednesday, January 31 on FOX6 News Milwaukee and raised 1,754,238 miles for Make-A-Wish Wisconsin. All miles donations were matched by the Deena Hatch Foundation and the Henry H. (Sr.) & Marion (Polly) S. Uihlein Foundation up to 900,000 miles.

Special thanks to wish kid Kaelynn and wish alum Payton, Esmeralda and Josh & Holly and their families for sharing their stories.

THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted October 1
- December 31, 2023

...to have an Adele Concert Experience

Aldo, 19
Wish Granters: Diana Moreno,
James Corona & Patricia Miller

...to have a Basement game room

Braxton, 7
Wish Granters: Jennifer DeBruin &
Susan Lamprich

...to have a Camper

Ivan, 3
Wish Granters: Dawn Marcott &
Cheryl Muller

Christopher, 5
Wish Granters: Amanda Burton &
Tara Buringa

Jaxon, 6
Wish Granters: Michele Bergstrom
& Mayme Hoffman

Sawyer, 6
Wish Granters: Mariah Tremain &
Teresa McDowell

Tiago, 7
Wish Granters: Corinne Kennedy &
Linda Ryfinski

Kameron, 8
Wish Granters: Peggy Van Grinsven
& Julie Carr

Maxwell, 9
Wish Granters: Kim Christensen &
Stephanie Martell

Gino, 10
Wish Granters: Bryce Schreiber &
Brooke Schreiber

**...to go to the Walt Disney World®
Resort**

Naeliz, 3
Wish Granters: Georgette Stamm &
Barbara McCarthy

Oliver, 3
Wish Granters: Christina Reschke &
Debra Mikulski

Payton, 3
Wish Granters: Elizabeth Sobczak &
Emily Mayer

Theodore, 3
Wish Granters: Peggy Van Grinsven,
Laurie Wetterau & Lisa Rice

Iker, 4
Wish Granters: Bryan Pauls & Holly
Young

Krew, 4
Wish Granters: Lynn Wagner &
Kelly Durham

Rose, 4
Wish Granters: Elizabeth Sobczak &
Emily Mayer

Zyaire, 4
Wish Granters: Larry Levy & Daniel
Rogan

Cayden, 5
Wish Granters: Tamara Engelke,
Ronna Monahan & Kathy Woolford

Ella, 5
Wish Granters: Torrey Calkins & Juli
Moen

Everly, 5
Wish Granters: Daniel Giles & Kim
Christensen

Logan, 5
Wish Granters: Kayla Thorne,
Sherry Miracle & Carol Nelson

Mason, 5
Wish Granters: Kara McManus,
Jennifer Mrdutt & Kim Christensen

Ryland, 5
Wish Granters: Lisa Jermain & Sara
Derks

Adelyn, 6
Wish Granters: Nancy
Schimmelpfennig & Sherry Miracle

Amarion, 6
Wish Granters: Robert Rode & Kim
Christensen

Avery, 6
Wish Granters: Lynn Wagner &
Jennifer Wenzlaff

Ayaan, 6
Wish Granters: Angela Perez,
Michele Schaetz & Rachel Langer

Calliope, 6
Wish Granters: Jeanna Stiadle &
Evan Pagel

Sloane, 6
Wish Granters: Lisa Rice & Tracey
Dorsey

Charli, 7
Wish Granters: Beth Schuster,
Janice Holling & Miranda Metzler

Cheyenne, 7
Wish Granters: Jan Berkholtz &
Sunny Scott

Jane, 7
Wish Granters: Marilyn Stoll, Sherry
Miracle & Debra Mikulski

Levi, 7
Wish Granters: Peggy Van Grinsven
& Vicky Ellie

Pepper, 7
Wish Granters: Todd Beland &
Shari Beland

Sebastian, 7
Wish Granter: Angela Shea

Teagan, 7
Wish Granters: Carrie Cookson,
Ann Leonard, Paige Leonard, Ryan
Lien, Whitney Lien & Maurine Braun

Anthony, 8
Wish Granters: Courtney Nachreiner
& Tara Buringa

Eloise, 8
Wish Granters: Larry Levy & Dana Mejic

Isaac, 8
Wish Granter: Michelle Wolfe

Mykenna, 8
Wish Granters: Cheryl Anderson,
Georgette Stamm & Sunny Scott

Amiya, 9
Wish Granters: Daniel Giles &
Candace Richter

Axetyn, 9
Wish Granters: Tammy Dahl, Robert
Rode & Kim Christensen

Briella, 9
Wish Granters: Susan Lamprich &
Jennifer DeBruin

Lewis, 9
Wish Granters: Mike & Carolyn Conley

Tomisha, 9
Wish Granters: Lisa Yursis & Julie
Vanlaanen

Esther, 10
Wish Granters: Patricia Adams &
Michele Schaetz

Mariana, 10
Wish Granters: Daniel Rogan & Ellen
Stark

Peter, 10
Wish Granters: Holly De Long &
Patricia Rodencal

Kian, 11
Wish Granters: Jennifer & Terry
Hoepfner

Adalyn, 12
Wish Granters: Kim Christensen &
Heather Schuette

Daijah, 12
Wish Granters: Michele Rivera &
Donnie Rivera

Grady, 12
Wish Granters: Bridget Stargardt &
Travis Stargardt

Joseph, 13
Wish Granters: Laurie Wetterau &
Daniel Rogan



*Special thanks to **The Walt Disney Company**
for providing complimentary admission
and special perks for every family who
experiences a Disney wish.*

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

Eloise, 8
nervous system
disorder



MAKE-A-WISH VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Behind every wish are volunteers who donate their time and talents to make the impossible possible. The following volunteers have gone a step beyond:

WHO GETS A WISH?

A child with a critical illness older than 2½ years and younger than 18 years and has not received a wish from any other wish-granting organization is potentially eligible for a wish from Make-A-Wish Wisconsin.

After a child is referred, Make-A-Wish will work with the treating physician to determine the child’s eligibility for a wish, i.e. suffering from a progressive, degenerative or malignant condition that, despite adherence to the treatment plan, is currently placing the child’s life in jeopardy.

These are the only criteria used to determine a child’s eligibility.

If you or your child meets all of the above qualifications, we invite you to begin the process today by contacting the Make-A-Wish Wisconsin office at 800.236.WISH (9474), or refer online at wish.org/refer.

Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. With help from a thriving community of donors, medical professionals and volunteers, we are working toward granting the one true wish of every medically-qualified child!

Above: 8-year-old Jahyda's wish to go to Hawaii came true this past November.



OCTOBER 2023
JULI MOEN

"I volunteer for Make-A-Wish because it brings me a lot of joy," says Juli. "I have learned so much from each wish kid and their families. They have shown me their journey of love, resilience, patience and gratitude. My favorite part is meeting such wonderful kids and their families, and of course helping kids discover their one true wish and witnessing it come true."



NOVEMBER 2023
BETH SCHUSTER

Having served as a Make-A-Wish Wisconsin volunteer for more than 10 years, Beth says, "my favorite part of volunteering for wishes is the all the joy you get to witness in people. The pure joy of the wish kids, their families and my volunteer peers. That there is joy and hope in every situation."



DECEMBER 2023
JAMI RACETTE

Serving as a volunteer for more than seven years working events, Jami says that "My favorite part of volunteering is meeting so many incredible people—resilient wish kids and families, dedicated staff, kindhearted volunteers, generous donors—and observing this compassionate community work together in offering hope to children with critical illnesses. My experiences have further cemented my beliefs that children are unbelievably inspiring and we can learn so much from them!"

VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

10 YEARS

Darcey Nett

5 YEARS

Jade Pekol
Diana Moreno

Jennifer Mrdutt
Megan Davis-Rosandich

¿CONOCE A ALGUIEN BILINGÜE?

¡Siempre estamos buscando más interpretes! Si usted conoce a alguien bilingüe que le gustaría ayudar a cumplir deseos, por favor comuníquese con nuestra Gerente de Voluntarios, Ali Schilz al 800.236.WISH (9474) o aschilz@wisconsin.wish.org.

THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted October 1
- December 31, 2023 (Cont.)

Kylie, 13
Wish Granters: Daniel Rogan, Debra Mikulski & Larry Levy

Madison, 13
Wish Granters: Mary Streveler, Lynn Wagner & Jeanette Dickinson

Tiana, 13
Megan, 17
Wish Granters: Shannon Seymer-Tabaska & Tracey Dorsey

Kayla, 18
Wish Granter: Laurie Wetterau

Zakariah, 18
Wish Granters: Elizabeth Sobczak & Emily Mayer

...to go to the Florida Keys

Mason, 16
Wish Granters: Jennifer Peabody & Rebecca Paulson

Anders, 17
Wish Granters: Kristen & Jeff Hurt

...to go on a Florida Keys Fishing Trip

Kevin, 10
Wish Granters: Kathy & Joseph Bartel and Hnub Vue

...to have a French Bulldog

Stephen, 17
Wish Granters: Anna Flores & Larry Levy

...to have a Gaming computer

Logan, 16
Wish Granters: Larry Levy & Deea Breunig

...to golf the PGA Course - TPC Sawgrass

Noah, 18
Wish Granters: Carmen Bruss & Deea Breunig

...to go to Hawaii

Beckett, 9
Wish Granters: Beth Schuster & James Corona

Jahyda, 8
Wish Granters: Larry Levy & Daniel Rogan

Lukas, 10
Wish Granters: Holly De Long & Lisa Yursis

Kennedy, 11
Wish Granters: Juli Moen & Carolyn Griese

Kendall, 12
Wish Granters: Tiffany Vanburen & Debra Mikulski

Hayden, 14
Wish Granters: Polly Frisque & Tori Lynn Hrubesky

Tyreese, 15
Wish Granters: Larry Levy, Peter Wilson & Anna Flores

Asia, 16
Wish Granters: Julie Carr, Kelsey Rice, Amy Reineking, Andrea Falk, Joy Cantrall & Melissa Kotsakis

Trystan, 18
Wish Granters: Kathy Woolford & Ronna Monahan

Avery, 19
Wish Granters: Tammy Kreger & Shannon Seymer-Tabaska

Kaleigh, 20
Wish Granters: Peggy Van Grinsven & Patricia Adams

...to have a Hot Tub with Lift

Harold, 6
Wish Granters: Peggy Van Grinsven & Kriste Simonson

...to have an Indoor Water Room

Roland, 9
Wish Granters: Dilarom St. Louis, Jennifer Mrdutt & Daniel Giles

...to go to Lake Tahoe

Marie, 13
Wish Granter: Laurie Wetterau

...to have a Shopping Spree

Kareema, 18
Wish Granters: Larry Levy, Teresa McDowell & Daniel Rogan

...to go to Los Angeles

Zhenlei, 12
Wish Granters: Tammy Grace & Angela Shea

...to meet Giannis Antetokounmpo

Brayden, 13
Wish Granters: Mike & Carolyn Conley

...to have a Milwaukee Bucks Game Experience

Zachary, 13
Wish Granters: Denise Selje & Jennilyn Parulski

...to go to the MLB World Series

Benjamin, 17
Wish Granters: Debra Mikulski & Jean Zoulek

...to have a Multi-Season Hockey Rink

Ethan, 14
Wish Granters: Caren Krueger & Scott Thompson

...to have an Online Shopping Spree

Joseph, 19
Wish Granters: Mary Pitzen & Michele Schaezt

...to go to a Packers Game in Las Vegas

Kiptyn, 13
Wish Granters: Cynthia Slane, Laurie Wetterau & Tammy Kreger

...to have a custom PC Desk

Liam, 15
Wish Granters: Jade Pekol & Bryan Nothem

...to have Portable Mobility Lifts

Emmett, 7
Wish Granters: Patricia Adams, Karen Kaempffe, Michele Schaezt & Peggy Van Grinsven

...to go to San Diego

Benjamin, 5
Wish Granters: Robert Rode, Jennifer Mrdutt & Carolyn Griese

...to be in a Star Wars Canon

Aidan, 20
Wish Granters: Mary Gruchow, Jean Zoulek & Larry Levy

...to meet Danny Duncan

Parker, 15
Wish Granters: Jeanna Stiadle & Evan Pagel

...to meet Roman Reigns

Allen, 6
Wish Granters: Dana Mejic & Larry Levy

...to meet the Green Bay Packers

Jaxon, 10
Wish Granters: Heather Danke & Kaelyn Martin

...to go to the Rockefeller Christmas Tree Lighting in New York

Tess, 14
Wish Granters: Mike & Carolyn Conley

...to go to Universal Studios

Giselle, 17
Wish Granter: Megan Davis-Rosandich

Laurence, 10
Wish Granters: Brooke Schreiber & Bryce Schreiber

Aria, 10
Wish Granters: Renee Weiss, Kelly Johnson & Linette Britt

Vienna, 12
Wish Granters: Jaime Mueller, Claire Ruggiero & Jennilyn Parulski

...to go Whale Watching in Cape Cod

Grace, 18
Wish Granters: Marie Waddell & Sandy Strack

*I wish to meet
the Green Bay
Packers*

Jaxon, 10
heart condition



PATTI GORSKY
25 Years of Magic

This year is an exciting one for Make-A-Wish Wisconsin! We are celebrating its 40th birthday AND the 25th anniversary of our President & CEO, Patti Gorsky. Patti's journey with Make-A-Wish began well before her official work here. She was introduced to the mission by former FOX6 Chief Meteorologist Vince Condella in 1988 when he helped start Walk For Wishes® and she volunteered in several capacities for the fledgling Foundation.

When the opportunity to work with Make-A-Wish came up, Patti jumped at it and has been leading and growing the organization to the point where the Wisconsin chapter is one of the most respected and successful Make-A-Wish chapters across the country. Patti and team spearheaded its growth from 125 wishes a year with a \$1M budget to more than 400 wishes annually with an \$8-9M budget.

On May 17, we will celebrate Patti's official 25th anniversary, and as part of the celebration, we are offering those who wish to do so, an opportunity to make a donation in her honor. We are working to raise at least \$150,000 to grant a wish in Patti's honor in perpetuity, forever and ever. We also want to raise enough funds to grant 25 wishes – one for every year - in Patti's honor.

Learn more at wish.org/wisconsin/patti25sponsor or make a donation at wish.org/wisconsin/patti25. You can also leave a special message for Patti at wish.org/wisconsin/pattikudos.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY

Our sincere thanks to everyone who gave gifts between October 1 and December 31, 2023 in honor or memory of the people and businesses listed below. We have made every effort to acknowledge these gifts correctly and completely. Please contact us and accept our apologies should any error or omission be discovered.

IN HONOR OF

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tracy Alpert | Kelley Kopacz | Randy Bergstrom | Stuart Kester |
| Alex Anderson | Benjamin Korger | Nancy Blom | Sara Knezic |
| Henry Bargaenquast | Kenneth and Christina Kunda | Shelbey Bomkamp | Janice Knuth |
| Margaret Barton | Ethan Kurtz | Ed Chart | David Lamberty |
| Jeremy Berg | Wyatt Letvitski | Gary and Melissa Cleary | Frank Lorenz |
| Birth of Lenny Blake | Birth of Adi Lurie | Tom Cohran | Sylvia Mackey |
| Ann Bonchek | Dr. David Margolis | Jonathan Connor | David Mews |
| Jeremy Bouchard | Kathie Miller | Tammy Cornford | John Miles |
| Joan Bratz | Darren Mosal | William Cozzens | Fay Mitchell |
| Birth of Oliver Brooks | Sally Newbenn's Birthday | Grace and Karen Crippen | Tony Moreira |
| Kathy Bubeck | Jillie Olsen | Helen Crippen | Eunice Mueller |
| Grant and Harper Carr | Ronald Patz | Daniel Dunn | Leo Nienas |
| Brandtly Clark | Mark Radtke | Freddy Dziejwior | Matthew Nienas |
| Carolyn Conley | Michael Roelke | Albert and Minnie Eckstein | Kevin O'Toole |
| Lysa Dorgay | Leo Rosario | Chuck Ehemann | Adele Patz |
| Mike and Tracey Dorsey | Oliver Schmitz | Harold and Marcella Eichstadt | Daniel Roever |
| Dr. Ben George and the Health Care Professionals at Froedtert's Tru & Faith Clinics | Renee Schmitz | Alexander Schultz | Sharon Ryczek |
| Daniel Dub | Xander Sell | Lynn Evenson | Robert Sanderson |
| Isabelle Dunai | Mark Selzler | Mark Ewe | Jordan Lynn Schadrie |
| Jason Dupuis | Jarra Senghore | Katelyn Fehrman | Todd Schonfeldt Sr. |
| Sarah Engedal | Make-A-Wish Staff | Barbara Garibaldi | Catherine Schroeder |
| Dr. Jay and Linda Fierke | Sprecher Grandbabies | Ann Gerrits | Luke Schuster |
| Amy Giuffre | Caleb Teisl | Elaine Goldman | Mark Selzer |
| Joan Giuffre | Laura Vacek | Karen Goodreau | Jerry Sherman |
| Patti Gorsky | Travis Wagy | Larry and Patricia Gray | Billy Skurzewski |
| Deb and Al Gresch | Sawyer Wickman | Mike Groessl | Juel Smith |
| Mike Haddad | Amelia Zimmer | Ingrid Haagensen | Zachary Sprader |
| Victoria Halter | IN MEMORY OF | Joan Hampton | Leonard and Grace Stein |
| Ashley Hill | Joyce Altman | James Hauke | Tracy Sweet |
| Travis and Amber Holman | Jolene Anderson | Richard Heacox | Jim and John Taylor |
| Drew Johnston | Mary Ball | Jack and Joan Heckel | Gina Toutant |
| Milo, Keenan, and Ciel Brown | Bridget Balogh | Glen and Sue Herman | Louis Toutant |
| Mirabel Klug's 10th Birthday | Henry Bargaenquast | Nicole Hirsch | Ed Tritz |
| Dennis Klumb Sr. | Barker Family | Tracy Hook | Colleen Truckey |
| | Bathey Family | Mark Huber | Karen Trzecinski |
| | James Bathey | Kate M. Huppert | Michael Trzecinski |
| | Patsy Bathey | Randy Ingelse | Maria Tully |
| | Dennis Behnke | Charles Jacobson | David Wood |
| | Tom Bergen | Clayton Kapp | Kathleen Wood |



WISH SPONSORS

Thank you to the following sponsors who contributed at least \$4,000 or more to sponsor the wishes granted between October 1 and December 31, 2023.

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albert & Shirley Schmidt
Alternative Machine
Tool LLC | Evelyn M. & Amil C. Bach
Foundation | Joseph & Phyllis
Sprangers | Northwestern Mutual
OnMilwaukee | Suburban Asphalt
Team Sarah STRONG |
| Archive's Bar & Grill | Exact Sciences | JP Morgan Chase & Co. | Orbis Corporation | The Frieda and William
Hunt Memorial Trust |
| B.O.Bz Car Club | Festival Foods | Justin & Amanda
Boedecker | Palmer's Steakhouse | The Shepherds of Bock
Fund |
| Badger Mutual Insurance
Company | Forest County
Potawatomi
Foundation | K.C. Stock Foundation,
Inc. | Patricia's Annual Birthday
Poker Run | The Village Companies |
| Bauman Nursery -
Midsummer Night's
Garden Party | Forrest Doolen -
Frosty's Polar Plunge | Kaden's Wish Tailgate
Kelly Sawyer Polar
Plunge | Patrick & Janet
Thompson Family
Foundation | Theodore W. Batterman
Family Foundation,
Inc. |
| Bergstrom Automotive
Drive for Dreams | Foti Chiropractic LLC | Klumb Family Foundation | Payton Alexander
Memorial Golf Outing | Uline |
| Bleser Family
Foundation, Inc. | FOX6 WITI-TV | Disney Wish Fund | PDQ Manufacturing, Inc. | Vandervest
Harley-Davidson of
Green Bay |
| Blue Frog Property
Management | Gavin Hattersley | Kraemer Wisconsin
Cheese Golf Outing | Realtors Association
of Northeast
Wisconsin, Inc. | von Briesen & Roper, S.C. |
| Brian Gottlieb | GE Healthcare | Ladish Company
Foundation | Renewal by Andersen -
Windows for a Cause | WaterStone Bank |
| Burns Legacy Foundation | Greater Milwaukee
Foundation - Hal and
Joyce Kuehl Fund | Landmark Landscapes | Rheem | Wausau West High
School |
| Caddy Day Golf Outing | Green Bay Packers | Laps for Charity | Richard Kessler | Wheels for Wishes |
| Caleb Teisl - Team Caleb | Gruber Law Offices LLC | Latoya Stamper | Robin & Terry Van
Zeeland | William & Sandy Heitz
Family Foundation |
| Carma Laboratories, Inc. | Habush Habush &
Rottier S.C. | Luke Homan Foundation,
Inc. | Ruth & Patrick Crawford
Family Foundation | WIXX 101 |
| Cars, Croissants &
Coffee | Harris Turer | Maggiano's Little Italy | Sartori Cheese Company | WWE |
| Christopher Lowe | Helen Blenker Charitable
Remainder Unitrust | Eat a Dish for
Make-A-Wish | Schreiber Foods, Inc. | Xiogenix |
| Craig Jorgensen | Henry H. (Sr.) & Marion
(Polly) S. Uihlein
Foundation, Inc. | Maggie's Angels | Skogen's Festival Foods | Y100 |
| Culver's of Darboy | Holidays Pub & Grill -
Guest Bartender Night | McKee & Associates | Snap-on Incorporated | Yacht Blast for Kids |
| Culver's of Little Chute | In Memory of William
Cozzens | Meijer | St. Norbert College | Zacher Family |
| Cypress Homes Golf
Outing | Jack Warden | Men with a Purpose | Wishmakers On
Campus | |
| Daniel Conklin | Jan Wade | Michael Donohue | Staff Management SMX | |
| David Lee Scrima | Jerry Kissinger - Waupun
Truck N Show | Michael's Team | Steve Stricker American
Family Insurance
Foundation | |
| Design Air | Jersey Mike's Subs | Milwaukee Admirals | StoneRidge Piggly Wiggly | |
| Dr. Catherine Long | | Muchow & South Central
Heating & Cooling | | |
| Estate of Mary Shea | | Mukwonago for Wishes | | |
| | | Nan Gardetto | | |

WE REMEMBER

This issue of Wishful Thinking is dedicated to the following wish kids, who have passed:

- ★ *Brady*
 ★ *Parker*
 ★ *Hannah*
★ *Ashley*
 ★ *Gavyn*
 ★ *Chance*
 ★ *Addyson*

Inside this Issue:

Wish Alum. Where are they now? Hear first-hand the impact of 40 years of wishes.

Donor Spotlight: For 15+ years this amazing donor has given over \$250,000 for life-changing wishes.

25 Years of Magic: We invite you to make a gift in honor of our President & CEO's 25th anniversary.

Cover Story: Evan's wish to have a multi-season hockey rink has brought him immense joy.



Help keep our mailing list current!

Report address changes, receipt of multiple copies or cancellations at info@wisconsin.wish.org or 800.236.WISH (9474).

Golf Season

IS ALMOST IN FULL SWING!



Join us at any one of these golf outings and you'll help make wishes come true for children with critical illnesses. Bring your friends, co-workers, clients or family and enjoy a great day of golf.

For more information, including a complete listing of events, please visit wish.org/wisconsin/golf.

JULY 15, 2024

Golf for Wishes,
Butte Des Morts Country Club,
Appleton

AUGUST 12, 2024

Golf for Wishes,
Blackwolf Run, Kohler

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

Golf for Wishes,
Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva