

Wishing Well

A publication of

Make-A-Wish®
GREATER PENNSYLVANIA
AND WEST VIRGINIA

★ Celebrating 40 Years and 21,000 Wishes ★

Spring 2024

*I wish to have
a playhouse*

Judah, 4
liver transplant

*Read about
Judah's wish
on page 2.*





Judah's HOME WAY from Home

At only three years old, Judah's life has been filled with upheaval and instability. Although his parents thought they had welcomed a healthy boy into the world, just seven weeks after birth, Judah was diagnosed with a liver disorder. Despite their best hopes, at six months old, Judah's liver began to stop functioning.

Every day, this brave family made the decision to choose hope over defeat, and joy over despair with the help of family, friends and the incredibly kind nurses and doctors at the hospital.

“The smallest little things in the everyday mean the most.”

-Katie, Judah's Mom

Judah was immediately put on the transplant list and thus began five weeks of anxious waiting for the call that a compatible donor had been found.

When the call finally did come, they immediately packed up the car and drove five hours to the hospital.

After hours in the waiting room, the doctors informed Judah's parents of the fantastic news: the transplant had gone splendidly.

The family referred Judah to Make-A-Wish to make their celebration of Judah's monumental victory even more special. When his parents proposed the idea of a playhouse, Judah immediately knew that was the right wish for him.

The playhouse would allow Judah to have a haven that would never go away. “We have been so uprooted,” Judah's mom reflected. “I just want him to have his own little space at home.”

When the house finally arrived, he set off running toward it, hardly able to contain his eagerness to make it his own. Pulling at his sister, Willow, he begged her to come and play with him. Willow, not wanting to steal Judah's thunder, said, “Judah, it's your playhouse.”

“No, it's our playhouse!” Judah responded resolutely.



Referrer: Katie Brooks
Volunteers: Linda Carnevali
and Shane Sarver



Make-A-Wish® Constellation

GREATER PENNSYLVANIA AND WEST VIRGINIA

SOCIETY

The Constellation Society will recognize individuals who have made a commitment to our chapter through planned or deferred gifts, through a bequest, annuity, trust, life insurance policy or other planned gift opportunity. These generous individuals are leaving a legacy to our organization and ensuring a bright future for Make-A-Wish® children, parents, siblings, community members, volunteers, staff and more.



Donor



Naming Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia in your will.



Naming Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia as a Beneficiary of your Life Insurance or Retirement Account.



Family Heirs



Meet Chuck Redslob

Longtime supporter of Make-A-Wish, dedicated volunteer and now founding member of the Constellation Society, we sat down with Chuck to find out about his connection to Make-A-Wish and what this new giving society means to him.

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself.

A: I am now retired after being in accounting all my life. During my working years, I was in a Rotary Club and we had a guest speaker from Make-A-Wish. I was impressed with his presentation which prompted me to call [the Foundation]. That was in 1994, and I've been an active volunteer ever since. Today, I help raise funds and spread awareness at Make-A-Wish events. I'm also an airport greeter and an avid wish volunteer— currently working on my 156th wish. I am the proud parent of two children and grandparent of two grandchildren.

Q: Why is the Constellation Society important to you? And was it easy to join?

A: As a volunteer of 30 years, I have met and worked with many wish kids and their families. The experience has been life-changing for me because of the difference a wish can make for a child. Creating a legacy is not an easy decision because it involves your own family. I am blessed that I have the support and understanding of my children. It is easy to make a will, provide copies of that will to family and an executor and to Make-A-Wish. It is not complicated and takes very little time. I am at peace with my decision and am glad to have made it. Knowing the caliber of the staff at Make-A-Wish, I am confident my legacy will be well spent and meaningful.

Want to create a legacy of wishes?

Join the Constellation Society and give hope for future wishes. To find out more, contact Tara Conaway at tconaway@greaterpawv.wish.org or 800.676.9474.

Wishes Come True

I wish to have a new gaming computer

Samuel, 13 ↓
blood disorder
Pittsburgh, PA



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

Braelynn, 7 →
heart condition
Port Carbon, PA



*I wish to go to the
Atlanta Aquarium
and Zoo*

Evelyn, 9 ←
heart condition
Greencastle, PA

*I wish to go
to a New York
Knicks game*

Ethan, 17 ↑
blood disorder
McDonald, PA



Sophia's PONY PALACE

Sophia's rural upbringing led her to value her independence. Having her own space and connections with her animal friends is hugely important to Sophia, and her parents loved fostering that independence. But when she was diagnosed with cancer, her life went from one where she enjoyed the freedom of playing with her pony to being cooped up inside of a hospital room as she went through countless MRIs, chemotherapy and surgery.

When Make-A-Wish® volunteers asked what she wanted her wish to be, Sophia knew that this was her chance to reclaim that spirit of independence that cancer had taken away from her. She wanted something that would be a place of refuge as she continues treatment.

“I wanted something that I’m always going to have.”

-Sophia, wish kid

The volunteers and the builders who offered their services to build her dream playhouse took great care to make sure that every aspect of her design was incorporated into the final product. From the height of the fence to the color of the shed, Sophia's wishes were honored down to the tiniest detail.

The day her playhouse was finished, Sophia could barely believe that her wish was coming true before her eyes. There it was, the structure just as she had dreamed, with her pony munching contentedly on the grass in the attached pen. She christened it “Sophia's Pony Palace”, and immediately rushed in and spent the day drawing and talking excitedly about plans for the space with her best friend.

Sophia's mother believes that it was the hope of the wish that kept her daughter going. “You can tell your child to wish and to dream. You don't worry about having to provide that for them financially. Make-A-Wish keeps you moving forward with dreaming. Before you know it, you've spent a good amount of time working on the dream. As the dream approaches it really helps you to feel seen and loved and valued.”

I wish to have a playhouse to share with my mini pony

Sophia, 9
cancer
Cambridge Springs, PA



THANK YOU

FOR MAKING THESE WISHES COME TRUE!

DONORS

BAYADA Pediatrics
CACL Federal Credit Union
Cans for Wishes
Franklin County Truck Convoy
Sadowski's Thunder Chickens Softball
Team
Sheetz For the Kidz

REFERRERS VOLUNTEERS

Christina Cafro
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Shane Shaneman
Karen Simmers
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Lauralynn Williams



*I wish to have a Giant
Flemish rabbit*

Amedeo, 9 ↑
neuromuscular disorder
Washington, PA

*I wish to have a
shopping spree*

Ella, 12 ↓
heart condition
Clarks Summit, PA





I wish to go on a shopping spree at the American Dream Mall

Grayson, 8 ↑
pulmonary condition
Pittston, PA



I wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort

Jordan, 12 ↑
kidney transplant
Pittsburgh, PA

I wish to give back to the cardiac floor at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

Riley, 17 →
heart condition
Pittsburgh, PA



I wish to meet the Pittsburgh Steelers

Cole, 8 ←
lymphoma
Baden, PA



I wish to go to the San Diego Zoo

Peyton, 4 ↑
cancer
Erie, PA



Donors Make it Happen



Grotto Pizza Harvey's Lake Parade of Trees



Fraternal Order of Eagles 1231



Mister Bee and Tudor's Biscuit World Collaboration Make-A-Wish Chips



Judy and Bob Green Green's Holiday Fundraiser



Andrew's wish reveal with the Erie Otters and Rebich Investments



Joey's wish reveal at Gannon University



Applebee's Neighborhood Grill + Bar - Sayre, PA



Perih Orthodontics



PA State Police Golf Outing



Penn-Trafford High School Wishes of Warriors Telethon



Cheers for Wishes Committee Members



Chi Omega Bucknell University



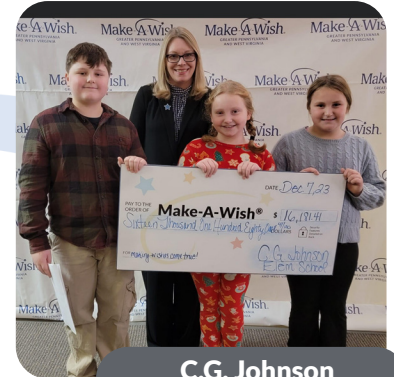
412 Gives Back Gala



Fairmont Hotel Pittsburgh
Hot Chocolate Sale



Elk County Boys Basketball Team



C.G. Johnson
Elementary School



Plum School District 23rd Annual Make-A-Wish Telethon



Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins
Booster Club



Frank Burke IV Memorial Fund of
the Scranton Area Foundation



Gettysburg Eagles



Sandy Hose Company # 1



Williamsport Area High School Concert



Northeast Bradford HS Chapter of
NHS - Winter Ball



St. Thomas American Legion
Post 612

Our Upcoming Events



2024 WVU Medicine Children's Walk For Wishes®
Presented by Subaru of Morgantown

April 20, 2024
Hazel Ruby McQuain Park
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.

To register for this year's walk, visit: wish.org/greaterpawv/walkforwishes



Waffles & Wishes

Presented by the Siebenbuerger Club and brought to you by our Signature Sponsors The Plastek Group and UPMC Health Plan

April 26, 2024
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 presented by the Siebenbuerger Club and brought to you by our Signature Sponsors, 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.

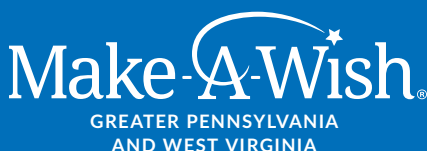
To RSVP or to become an event sponsor, contact Courtney Nientimp at cnientimp@greaterpawv.wish.org.



Siebenbuerger Club



UPMC HEALTH PLAN



APRIL IS WORLD WISH MONTH!

Be on the look out for exciting details at:
wish.org/greaterpawv



21ST ANNUAL GRAPEVINE

A WINE TASTING EVENT BENEFITING MAKE-A-WISH®

Presented by  U. S. Steel

NEW VENUE

**Join us on May 21 2024, from 6-8 p.m., at
CADENCE + Cellars Speakeasy in Downtown Pittsburgh, PA.**

This signature event of Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia brings together Make-A-Wish supporters, wish families and dedicated volunteers for a dynamic evening with one singular aim: coming together to grant life-changing wishes. Attendees will sample an assortment of wines thoughtfully paired with heavy hors d'oeuvres and enjoy the event's highly anticipated silent auction, basket raffles and the ever-popular Mystery Wine Pull.

SAVE \$20 NOW UNTIL MAY 7

\$100 – Early Bird registration – on or before May 7, 2024

\$120 – Registration – After May 7, 2024, and at the door

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

Register online at onecau.se/grapevine

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

Thanks to Our Donors

The next newsletter will be sent in Fall 2024 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 \$5,000 and above for the months of September through December 2023. Tribute honorees totaling \$500 or more are also listed. We extend our deepest appreciation to all of you. Should you discover an error or omission, please call us at 412.471.9474.

Whenever you donate online, please be sure to go through wish.org/greaterpawv. 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

Give Kids the World
Green's Make-A-Wish Holiday Party
Luttner Financial Golf Outing
Make-A-Wish Board of Directors
Scaife Family Foundation
Sheetz For the Kidz
WDSN-FM Sunny 106.5 and its listeners, DuBois

\$75,000 to \$99,999

Pittsburgh Investment Professionals Holiday Party
PNC Investments
WPXZ-FM 104.1 and Kool 103.3 and its listeners, Punxsutawney

\$50,000 to \$74,999

Cheers for Wishes Tasting Event
Franklin County Truck Convoy
McKamish and Employees
The McKamish Family Foundation
Penn-Trafford School District
Plum Borough School District
LeAnn Starner's Annual Make-A-Wish Fundraiser

\$25,000 to \$49,999

98.9 WQK-FM The River and its listeners, St. Marys
Frank L. Burke IV Memorial Fund of the Scranton Area Foundation
Erie Insurance Group
Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America State Chapter
Guardian Life Insurance Company of America
Komax Business Systems
Glenn and Ruth Mengle Foundation
Moyer's Grove Campground and Country RV

The Natali Foundation
PNC Treasury Management
Texas Roadhouse
Wheels for Wishes
WRTS Star 104 FM and its listeners, Erie
D.G. Yuengling & Son, Inc.

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Acme Machine & Welding Co. & Employees
All-Clad Factory Sale
Allegiant Air, LLC
Allied Resources Group, LLC
Conor Amendola
American Legion Home Association Post 624 Eynon
Bruce Arnoldt Family
Estate of Vincent Bavol
Donald J. Bennett Run 4 A Wish
Cans for Wishes
C.G. Johnson Elementary School
C.G. Johnson PTO, LLC
Michelle Cavanaugh
Chi Omega Theta West Virginia University
Conewago Enterprises, Inc.
Dr. & Mrs. Arthur William Phillips Charitable Trust
Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation
Duquesne University Miss Duquesne Pageant /Alpha Sigma Tau
Albert Joseph Evans
GKG Orthodontics, Wexford
Honkus-Zollinger Foundation
Hopkins Family Fundraisers
John R. Hornbrook, Jr. Perpetual Charitable Trust
Richard Kasdan, MD
Ronald Keck
Keck's Food Service Charity Classic
Kopelman Foundation
Gail Kovler Family Fund
Matthew Marino
David McKamish
McNulty's Building Supply, Inc.

Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust
Brandon Mountain
NiSource Charitable Foundation
Olympic Athletic Club
PA State Police Gettysburg Association
Donald Paiano
Employees of Pitt Ohio
Polish Citizens Club of DuBois
Rebich Investments
Jane and Michael Rice
Sandy Hose Company No. 1
Franklin Schoenenman
Shelburne Charitable Foundation
Snap-On Incorporated
Steel City Motorcycle Company, L.P.
Sunrise Estates Elementary School
Synergy Group
Employees of Thermo-Twin Industries, Inc.
The Patsy D. Tiani Foundation
Williamsport Area High School
Claudia Zavodnick
The Zombek Foundation, Inc.

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Sandra and Charles Adams
Aldi Smart Kids
Estate of David G. Alleman
Almira Foundation
Ernestine Anania
Melissa M. Anderson, CPA
Assurant
BAYADA Pediatrics
Richard Lee Beck Fund of York County Community Foundation
Lynn and Charles Belliott
Keith and Corinne Bentley Family Fund
Berks County Community Foundation/Boyertown Area Community Fund
Bill's Produce & Market
Boo & Brew Bash
Brockway Area School District
Jeffrey and Tracy Brown Foundation
BuzzRx
CACL Federal Credit Union
Caddick Utilities, LLC
Michael Ciccarone
Clark Metal Products Company
Clearfield Area School District
Robert and Sara Comloquoy Charitable Foundation
Concordia Lutheran Ministries
Dave & Buster's, Inc.
B. Demento
Detrich Brechbill Home Association Inc.
DMI Companies
Don Drury
DSF Wealth Management Group, LLC
Eagles Aerie No. 1406, Hanover
Fraternal Order of Eagles,
Punxsutawney Aerie 1231

Amy E. Elliott Memorial Fund of York County Community Foundation
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Erie Firefighters Local 293
ErieTec, Inc.
Albert L. Evans, Jr.
Stephen Evans
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Farner's Racing Collectables
FedEx Global Disbursements
Focus Behavioral Health, Inc.
Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Edward Gasprede
God's Grace Charitable Fund
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 High School
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 Westinghouse Specialty Metals
 Blairsville Emergency Brigade
 Pamela Williams
 Wincore Windows & Doors
 Wish Family Fun Day
 Wishes Do Come True One Pitch
 Coed Adult Softball Tournament

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 Good Orthodontics
 Ann Hohn
 Kara and Pat Manion Liam
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 Isabel Prischak
 Braeden Ross-Kline

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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)



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

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412.471.9705 fax

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304.292.5600

Pottsville, PA

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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 21,000 children in 57 Pennsylvania counties and West Virginia in our more than 40-year history.



Walk For A Healthy Community

HIGHMARK | Bright Blue Futures

Sign up to walk for Make-A-Wish®!

Saturday, June 1, 2024

Check-in & Registration: 7:45 a.m.

5K Walk Begins: 9 a.m.

1-Mile Fun Walk Begins: 9:15 a.m.

Penn State Behrend: Erie Parking Lot

4701 College Drive | Erie, PA 16563

Register at:

www.walkforahealthycommunity.org

Connect with Us



wish.org/greaterpawv



email@greaterpawv.wish.org

