

# wishful THINKING

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
MAKE-A-WISH® WISCONSIN  
2024 ISSUE 2

*Granting Wish*

8,000

*I wish to sing with an orchestra*

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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## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR & PRESIDENT

World Wish Month is one of the most impactful times of the year to raise funds for kids diagnosed with a critical illness. And this caring, dedicated community met the moment with profound generosity.

Because of you and everyone who became a WishMaker® during World Wish Month, more kids will now get to experience the life-changing hope and strength of a wish as they grow up with a critical illness.

A critical diagnosis for a child is traumatic. That's what makes wishes so important: A wish has the power to help kids like Lulu (see page 10) overcome the hopelessness, depression and loneliness that often come with a critical illness. In fact, 9 out of 10 wish parents say that they saw their child's emotional well-being improve after their wish.

Over the last 40 years we have granted over 8,000 wishes, but bringing even just one of these wishes to life takes so many resources. You can help us reach more children like Lulu, who are in need of a wish, by stepping up today. Donate funds, auction items or in-kind services; or host or attend a fundraising event. Even playing 18 holes of golf (see page 4) will make a world of a difference to a Wisconsin child and family in need!

As you read about the wide range of medical professionals, business leaders, volunteers, event participants, donors and others supporting our mission, we hope that you might see a way YOUR special skills can fit into the Make-A-Wish family. Together, we can give the gift of hope, strength and joy to those who need it most. Thank you!

Warmest Wishes,



Joe Imhoff  
Board Chair



Patti Gorsky  
President & CEO



## 4 Golf Outings

Bring your friends, co-workers or clients and enjoy a day of great golf at any of these events.

## 6 Donor Spotlight

For the past decade, the amazing team at FOTI Chiropractic, located in Wauwatosa, have contributed over \$61,000 for wishes.

## 10 Cover Story

Wish 8,000 gave Lulu the power to feel confident and hopeful for her future.

## 12 Medical Impact

Wishes are truly life-changing and research lends data to the incredible wish stories.

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Make-A-Wish®  
WISCONSIN

★ CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WISHES ★

wish.org/wisconsin



## WELCOME, NEW STAFF



**Jaci Gabel**  
Alumni Community  
Coordinator

Please join us in welcoming our new Alumni Community Coordinator who is working with families who have had wishes granted (wish alum) for future engagement, involvement opportunities, and exclusive events.

## CELEBRATION OF STARS

On World Wish Day, April 29, the Wauwatosa Chapter Office hosted our annual Celebration of Stars where we unveiled the 2023 class of 374 wish kids on our wish kid honor wall as well as new donors to our Super Stars donor wall. This year's celebration was also combined with our 40th Birthday community reception, and about 225 WishMakers joined in the celebration. See photos of the event on our Flickr Gallery at [flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/makeawishwisconsin/).

## WORLD WISH MONTH

Throughout the month of April, Make-A-Wish celebrated the impact of a wish on children all over the globe, highlighting the many WishMakers who come together to create life-changing wishes. Nationally, Make-A-Wish set a goal of raising 1 million new WishMakers to join in the powerful mission of granting life-changing wishes. To learn how you can become a WishMaker visit our website at [wish.org/wisconsin/wishmakerswanted](https://www.wish.org/wisconsin/wishmakerswanted).

## 40 YEARS OF IMPACT

*Wish Alum. Where are they Now?*

Gianna was 3 years old and living with a brain tumor when her wish to go to the *Walt Disney World*® Resort came true. She traveled there with her family and had the time of her life. Her family remembers that while she was still going through a tremendous amount of doctors appointments, treatments and more, she did not have any medical issues the entire week of her wish experience.

**Now 17 years old, Gianna will be entering her senior year of high school in the fall and concurrently will be starting to take college courses to start her work toward becoming a nurse.**

**Gianna is healthy and happy and living her best life. She is a selfless young woman who wants to make a difference in the lives of others.**

Gianna recently attended the Make-A-Wish Wisconsin Celebration of Stars and recorded a special video that you'll find on the Make-A-Wish Wisconsin YouTube channel at [youtube.com/makeawishwisconsin](https://www.youtube.com/makeawishwisconsin).

Are you a wish alum? Your story can have a powerful and life-changing impact on the lives of others. If you're interested in sharing your Make-A-Wish story with others, contact Jaci at [jjgabel@wisconsin.wish.org](mailto:jjgabel@wisconsin.wish.org).



Featured Fundraiser

# WALK FOR WISHES®

Two Locations, One Goal

Join us at Walk For Wishes® events in Madison and Milwaukee! Online registration is free and easy.

The Madison Walk For Wishes event includes a petting farm, special guests appearances including Bucky Badger, fun for the whole family, kids dash and 1-mile walk.



The Milwaukee Walk For Wishes event is held at the Summerfest Grounds South Gate along the picturesque lakefront, with free convenient parking. The event includes a kids dash, 1-mile and 5K option, as well as food trucks, entertainment and family fun.



## MADISON

McKee Farms Park, Fitchburg  
Saturday, August 24, 2024  
[wish.org/wisconsin/madisonwalk](http://wish.org/wisconsin/madisonwalk)



## MILWAUKEE

Summerfest South Gate  
Saturday, September 7, 2024  
[wish.org/wisconsin/mkewalk](http://wish.org/wisconsin/mkewalk)



There are numerous **golf outings** being held across the state, all to help make wishes come true. Register now as many will sell out quickly. Bring your friends, co-workers or clients and enjoy a day of great golf.

### WATERTOWN

Kraemer Wisconsin Cheese Golf Outing  
Watertown Country Club  
Saturday, August 3

### LAKE GENEVA

Golf for Wishes  
Grand Geneva Resort & Spa  
Monday, September 23

For more information, including a complete listing of all golf outing fundraisers, please visit [wish.org/wisconsin/golf](http://wish.org/wisconsin/golf).



Join the **Pok a Snoz Snowmobile & ATV Club** for their Fun Car Show on June 8th at Funny Farm Bar & Grill in Mosinee.

All funds raised help make 7-year-old Alexander's wish to go to the Florida Keys come true!



Now through June 15th, every time you shop at a StoneRidge Piggly Wiggly location, you can help make wishes come true! Simply **Round-Up for Wishes**.

Locations available in De Pere, Kaukauna, Little Chute, Wautoma and Winneconne.

### AUGUST 18 @ MILWAUKEE YACHT CLUB YACHT BLAST FOR KIDS

Join us for an afternoon picnic with games, magician, raffles, auctions, face painting and more all on Milwaukee's lakeshore to help grant wishes. Purchase your tickets at [yachtblast.givesmart.com](http://yachtblast.givesmart.com).

### JUNE 8 @ CLARK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS MAKE THEIR HEARTS SMILE

Come see the great trucks, enjoy lots of food, raffles and more all to make wishes come true. For more info or to sign up your truck contact Punk Montgomery at (715) 238-7797.



Join **B.O.Bz Car Club** for their 7th Annual Car Show on July 20th at B-lazy Bar & Grill in Wind Lake.

100% of proceeds from car registration, basket raffles and the 50/50 raffle benefit Make-A-Wish Wisconsin.



Our emerging leaders group, Wishmakers of Wisconsin, held their annual **Cheers for Wishes: Mardi Gras**. Guests enjoyed food, live music and art, tarot card readings and more, raising over \$35,000 for wishes. Interested in being part of this impactful group? Contact Kelsey at [krice@wisconsin.wish.org](mailto:krice@wisconsin.wish.org).



Congratulations to Yacht Blast for Kids for winning the 2024 W.I.S.H. Award

This year's **Wish Night** gala hosted over 580 community and business leaders who gathered together at the Pfister Hotel for an inspiring evening, celebrating 40 years of wishes, Make-A-Wish Wisconsin's President & CEO Patti Gorsky's 25th anniversary and the impact of a wish come true. Wish kids Caleb, Isabella and Lulu shared their stories, and Lulu (Make-A-Wish Wisconsin's 8,000th wish) inspired all singing two special songs. Thanks to everyone who participated, the event raised enough funds to make over 125 wishes come true.

Mark your calendars now for next year's **Wish Night on April 10, 2025**.

Watch the videos featured at Wish Night: [youtube.com/makeawishwisconsin](https://youtube.com/makeawishwisconsin). View photos from Wish Night: [flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin/albums](https://flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin/albums).



**Door County Candle Company** partnered with Make-A-Wish Wisconsin for World Wish Month this past April, through their Support a Cause Candle Campaign. The WISH candle was created with the help of wish kid Sophia while bringing in 100% of the profits from sales in-store and online to benefit local wish kids.



The 16th annual **Rock for Wishes**, featuring local bands, auction, raffles & more, helped make wishes come true!



**Bay Port DECA** raised over \$3,000 through their Bay Port Guy Pageant for local wish kids awaiting their wish!



**Mukwonago for Wishes** raised \$175,000 for wishes. Special thanks to the Jendusa family and Xiogenix.



A big thank you to **Vrakas CPAs + Advisors** for holding their annual Chili Cook-Off in support of wishes.



**Fox Bros Piggly Wiggly** raised \$24,926.57 throughout their February month of giving, helping us make wishes come true for five local wish kids battling critical illnesses.



Wishmakers on Campus at St. Norbert College held their annual **Rhythm & Wishes** event, with an impressive auction, musical ensemble and an inspiring wish story.



The Notre Dame De La Baie Academy of Green Bay **Lady Tritons' Basketball Program** fundraised throughout their 2024 season and raised \$6,578 for local wish kids.

## Donor Spotlight

# FOTI CHIROPRACTIC

For the past decade, the amazing team at FOTI Chiropractic, located in Wauwatosa, have been raising funds to grant wishes for kids battling critical illnesses. They have contributed more than \$61,000 over the years, resulting in ten wishes granted.

FOTI Chiropractic has also involved their patients in their fundraising process and have served as an outstanding ambassador of the Make-A-Wish mission.



A family business, FOTI Chiropractic is committed to humanity with full respect for the dignity of mankind in general and the total individual in particular.

"We are so grateful for Dr. Foti, Dr. Toy and the entire team at FOTI Chiropractic along with their patients who have been Make-A-Wish champions (WishMakers) for the past ten years," says Forrest Doolen, Make-A-Wish Wisconsin Sr. Director of Marketing & Communications. "It takes an entire community to make wishes come true, and FOTI Chiropractic is a beautiful example of the difference a local business can make in the lives of wish kids, their families and our community."

# THANK YOU, DONORS

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 January 1 and March 31, 2024. *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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#### \$50,000+

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

**Rose, 4**  
rare disease

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#### \$20,000+

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#### \$5,000 to \$9,999

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Vegas Indoor Skydiving  
Wake The Lake

*I wish to go indoor skydiving*

**Aila, 8**  
respiratory disorder



WISH KID  
PAISLEY



# ESTATE PLANNING MATTERS

Make-A-Wish Wisconsin will be here well into the future to create life-changing wishes for kids battling critical illnesses – and your impact can remain, too!

Many of our supporters designate a gift in their will or revocable living trust to support our work for years to come. These gifts cost nothing today but make a lasting difference for granting wishes.

For the first time since 2020, the number of American adults with estate plans has dropped. We want to make sure you take advantage of the opportunity today to make wishes come true tomorrow.

That's why we offer you FreeWill's free estate planning tool to easily create your plan and legacy. Simply scan the QR code to learn more or visit [wish.org/wisconsin/freewill](http://wish.org/wisconsin/freewill).



SCAN QR CODE  
FOR INFO

# BBB TORCH AWARD

Make-A-Wish Wisconsin was recently honored by the Wisconsin Better Business Bureau with the 2024 Torch Award for Ethics. Recipients were selected by an independent, distinguished panel of business and community leaders.

"Completing the BBB Ethics Awards application is no small feat. It requires the organization to analyze and effectively communicate their commitment to character, culture, customers and their location communities," said Julie Albrecht, Executive Director of the BBB of Wisconsin Foundation. "These organizations should truly be proud of their commitment to ethics."

# IN HONOR AND MEMORY

Our sincere thanks to everyone who gave gifts between January 1 and March 31, 2024 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.*

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Dorelle Bailey  
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Emily, Maria and  
Bobby Jorgensen  
Pam and Dennis Klumb  
Lake Wisconsin Lions  
Club  
Maggie's Angels  
Dennis Malloy  
Marcus HLHS Survivor  
Mr. and Mrs. David  
Mecklenburger

Mr. and Mrs. Scott  
Newbern  
Pohl Family's  
Granddaughter  
Dr. Larry Polacheck  
Barbara Pollack  
Peyton Pollnow  
Patti Raymond  
Jane Riedel  
Diane Riordan  
Elise Rowe  
Alexander Schultz  
Oliver Schmitz  
Xander Sell  
David Staller  
Kaden Stark  
Jamie Waisman

Jordyn Whitehouse  
Zachary Wilkins  
Eileen "Pepper" Wood  
**IN MEMORY OF**  
Joyce Altman  
Anne Andryszczyk  
Phyllis Barts  
George, Gerald and  
Marlene Binsfeld  
Tyler Birenbaum  
Ron Brethauer  
Ernesto Catarozoli  
Estelle Chaet  
Nikki Craig  
Dick Dennis  
Albert and Minnie  
Eckstein

Chuck Ehemann  
Judy Fabricius  
Michelle Faehling  
John Finco  
Pat Frey  
GBS  
Burton Goodman  
Pat Hahn  
Joan Hampton  
Amanda Hanson  
Judith Hildebrandt  
Nicole Hirsch  
Mark L. Huber  
Nancy Jakus  
Jane Martin James  
Zachary and Samuel  
Juhlmann  
Tanner Kaltenberg  
Margie Kezman  
Mirabel Klug's  
Birthday  
Sara Knezic  
Jackson Knoerschild  
Dan Korthals  
Ian Korthals  
Robert Landsee  
David Lange

Shirley Lessin  
Harlene Levin  
Elaine "Mimi"  
Lock  
Fred Luedke  
Kay Luster  
Laura Machak  
Helen Mahsem  
Randy Marcott  
Edward Marcou  
Anne-Marie  
McLaughlan  
Lisa Mehan  
Kellan Meinke  
David Mews  
Joyce Miller  
Leo Nienas  
Sue and Jack  
Patton  
Ronald Patz  
Vinny Peo  
Randy Pierson  
Howard Pollack  
Sam Pospyhalla  
Janet Reimer  
Jane Riedel  
Mary  
Roberts-Ruesch

Dorothy Robeson  
Bobbie Rotter  
Catherine Schroeder  
Alexander Schultz  
Darlene Seaman  
Mark Selzler  
Walter D.  
Shapiro, MD  
George Sorum  
Ely Spiegel  
Zachary Sprader  
Kaden Stark  
Gina Toutant  
Edward Tritz  
Michael Trzecinski  
LaVerne Umland  
Shawn Van Wyk  
Linda Vomberg  
Ronald Webster  
Betty Weitzen  
Dianne Wendt  
Michael Welsh  
Carol Winkler



# THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted January 1  
- March 31, 2024

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

**Kaliyah, 4**  
blood disorder

**...to have an Accessible Backyard**

**Aleisha, 4**

Wish Granters: Tammy Kreger,  
Janice Moen & Mark Lacke

**...to go to Atlantis, Bahamas**

**Caleb, 7**

Wish Granters: Jenna Ausloos,  
Colleen Leahy & Carley Hilt

**Francesco, 8**

Wish Granters: Amanda  
Mutchler & Lauren Hannes

**Isaiah, 11**

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

**Scarlett, 11**

Wish Granters: Corinne  
Kennedy & Linda Ryfinski

**Alec, 14**

Wish Granters: Candace  
Richter & Kimberly James

**Trinity, 15**

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

**Kaelynn, 16**

Wish Granters: John & Stacy  
Kokalj

**...to go back country skiing  
with Elyse Saugstad**

**Kaia, 14**

Wish Granters: Jan Berkholtz  
& Athena Borca

**...to go to Brewers Spring  
Training**

**Benjamin, 17**

Wish Granters: Courtney  
Nachreiner, Danielle Starke  
& Matt and Tara Buringa

**...to have a Camper**

**Vanessa, 8**

Wish Granters: Janelle &  
Ken Disher

**Vienna, 2 ½**

Wish Granters: Amanda Burton,  
Lynn Wagner & Tara Buringa

**Joshua, 18**

Wish Granters: Carolyn  
Griese & Angela Shea

**...to go on a Colorado Holiday  
Train Ride**

**Shannah, 17**

Wish Granters: Michelle  
Kadow, Claire Ruggiero, Ann  
Slifka & Colleen Leahy

**...to go to Disneyland®  
Resort**

**Tennison, 4**

Wish Granters: Megan &  
Jeremy Kox

**Nova, 6**

Wish Granters: Corinne  
Kennedy, Julia Wahl, Carrie  
Merkel, Linda Ryfinski &  
Michel Klein

**Emma, 15**

Wish Granter: Danielle Matysik

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

**Sauvage, 3**

Wish Granters: Arielle  
Serrano & Larry Levy

**Amira, 4**

Wish Granters: Tori Lynn  
Hrubesky & Jody Kempninen

**Colton, 4**

Wish Granters: Jan Berkholtz  
& Lisa Lewitzke

**Ezekiel, 4**

Wish Granters: Peggy Van  
Grinsven & Gail Fleury

**Kaliyah, 4**

Wish Granters: Shelby  
Robbins & Maurine Braun

**Olivia, 4**

Wish Granters: Julie Carr,  
Rachel Geittmann, Brianna  
Hansen & Lisa Lewitzke

**Porter, 5**

Wish Granters: Dana Mejic &  
Courtney Wisniewski

**Samuel, 5**

Wish Granters: Diana  
Moreno & Wendy Cozzens  
and Scott Polzin

**Eliana, 6**

Wish Granter: Lynn Wagner

**Ezekiel, 6**

Wish Granter: Brianna  
Hansen

**Lucia, 6**

Wish Granters: Dana Mejic &  
Teresa McDowell

**Violet, 6**

Wish Granters: Courtney  
Nachreiner & Whitney  
Nachreiner

**Cara, 7**

Wish Granters: Carolyn  
Griese & Torrey Calkins

**Evan, 7**

Wish Granters: Sandra Smith  
& Dana Smith

**Paisley, 7**

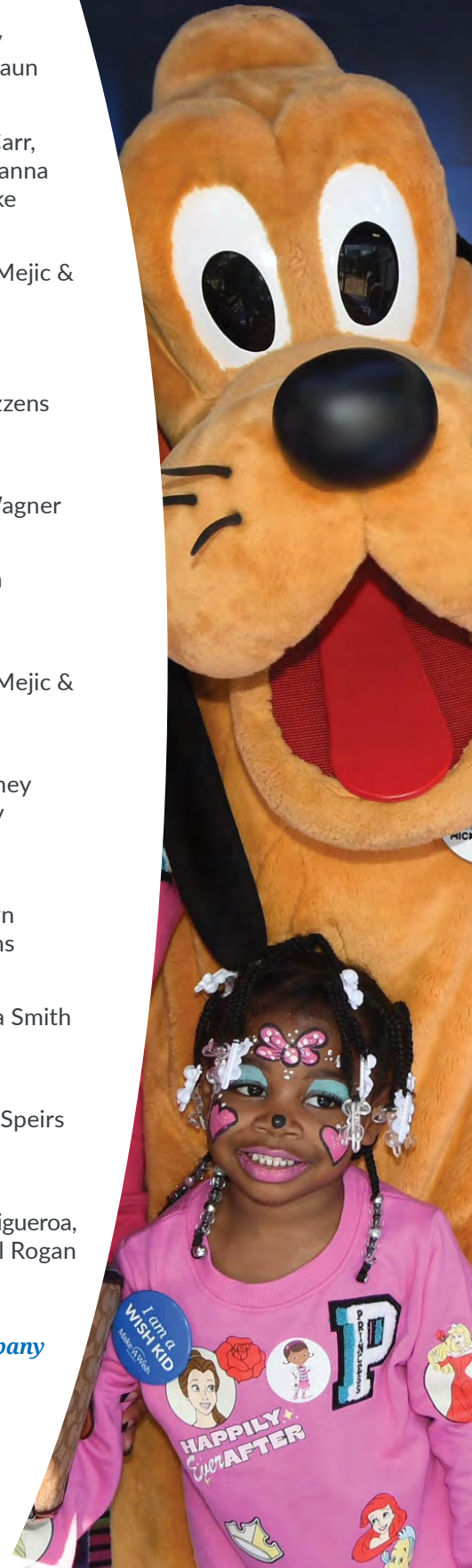
Wish Granters: Cathy Speirs  
& Marie Waddell

**Adalynn, 8**

Wish Granters: Emily Figueroa,  
Kristin Walsh & 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 sing with an orchestra*

## WISH 8,000

"Lulu is larger than life. She's funny. She just has this bigger than life personality," says Marjorie, Lulu's mother. This energy comes across in her singing, which she fell in love with at an early age. Lulu's wish to sing with an orchestra was the result of weeks of rehearsal and a lifetime of struggle.



At two years of age, Lulu was always carrying a tune. When she was three, she had her tonsils taken out and had severe bleeding as her body struggled to clot. At age nine, while in New York listening to musicals on Broadway, the trip ended abruptly when she had a nose bleed that wouldn't stop for days. She spent her 10th birthday in the hospital. "I remember at one time there were like up to four or five blood draws a day," said Lulu. Test after test finally revealed an autoimmune disease that kept her blood from clotting. Chemo and steroids pushed it into remission.

Lulu kept singing, winning a dozen competitions, until the worst was yet to come. At age 16 doctor's found a blood clot in Lulu's brain and eventually diagnosed her with lupus, a rare disease without a cure. Her immune system attacks its own tissues and organs. A rupture in her kidney led to an emergency surgery where her lungs filled with blood, she received five blood transfusions and was in ICU for three weeks. Most notably for Lulu, she could not breathe on her own. "I remember thinking I don't know if I will ever be able to sing again," Lulu lamented.

During treatment, Lulu's doctors mentioned Make-A-Wish. Lulu dreamed of singing with an orchestra at a time that it was physically not possible. She had a wish to look forward to while she recovered. Slowly, over time, her voice came back. "Make-A-Wish motivated me to drag myself up onto my feet again and really try to push through," says Lulu. Four weeks of intense rehearsals brought her to the Bradley Symphony Center, to perform with her peers, the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra.

**"There's a force when I am on stage. I don't hurt when I'm on stage. I'm not in pain when I am on stage," Lulu exclaimed. "I finally have something in my world that is really good and really positive. My wish surpassed my wildest dreams."**

**"When you have a critical illness thinking of the future can be difficult. Make-A-Wish has given Lulu a broader view of what her life can be," said Marjorie. "The lupus will never go away, but she can live in it and live with it and know that she has a bright future ahead of her."**



*I wish to go  
to Hawaii*

**Cai, 10**  
blood disorder

# THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted January 1  
- March 31, 2024 (Cont.)

**Arya, 8**

Wish Granters: Cheryl Muller  
& Dawn Marcott

**Brielle, 8**

Wish Granters: Sandy Strack,  
Susan Lamprich & Holly De  
Long

**Grayson, 8**

Wish Granters: Megan &  
Jeremy Kox

**Silas, 8**

Wish Granters: Kriste  
Simonson, Lynn Wagner &  
Patricia Bemowski

**Jace, 9**

Wish Granters: Travis &  
Bridget Stargardt

**Kato, 9**

Wish Granter: Renee Weiss

**Catherine, 10**

Wish Granters: Emily Figueroa,  
Jamie Prost & Patricia Mehalos

**Daniel, 11**

Wish Granters: Joy Lancour  
& Steven Hesselberg

**Emily, 11**

Wish Granters: Shelby  
Robbins & Jodi Halpin

**Alice, 12**

Wish Granters: Sandra  
Nissen & John Litscher

**Benjamin, 12**

Wish Granters: Claire  
Ruggiero, Carrie Biggin, Sherry  
McKee & Carolyn Griese

**Elijah, 13**

Wish Granter: Peggy Van  
Grinsven

**Lucy, 14**

Wish Granter: Jodi Halpin

**Ryan, 14**

Wish Granters: Ann Slifka &  
Kelly Johnson

**Dylan, 15**

Wish Granters: Kriste  
Simonson & Tara Thom

**Tiarra, 15**

Wish Granters: Larry Levy &  
Betsy Roth-Wojcicki

**Argyle, 16**

Wish Granters: Kristin Paul,  
Melissa Kotsakis, & Larry Levy

**James, 17**

Wish Granters: Tara & Matt  
Buringa

**Brianna, 18**

Wish Granters: Tammie &  
Mark Reinbold

*...to have an Electric Bike*

**Cooper, 13**

Wish Granters: Ann Leonard,  
Carrie Cookson, Paige  
Leonard, Maurine Braun &  
Amber Friedrichsen

*...to go to Florida Theme Parks*

**Lance, 18**

Wish Granters: Tara Buringa  
& Barbara Pahlow

*...to have a Gaming/Streaming  
Computer Setup*

**Hamsa, 13**

Wish Granters: Michele  
Schaez & Jo Marchionda

**Eli, 16**

Wish Granters: Joy Lancour  
& Steven Hesselberg

**Leinie, 16**

Wish Granters: Julie Carr &  
Karen Kaempffe

**Carter, 13**

Wish Granters: Marie  
Waddell & Holly De Long

*...to have a Golf Cart*

**Jessica, 13**

Wish Granters: Darcey Nett  
& Tacy DeRouin

*...to go to Aulani, a Disney®  
Resort & Spa*

**Alexis, 9**

Wish Granters: Jeremy &  
Megan Kox

**Noemi, 20**

Wish Granters: Evan Pagel &  
Jeanna Stiadle

*...to go to Hawaii*

**Sawyer, 6**

Wish Granters: Jona  
Mancuso, Marilyn Stoll,  
Maurine Braun & Tara Thom

**Samuel, 8**

Wish Granters: Carrie Biggin  
& Kayla Cywinski-Gendron

**Clara, 9**

Wish Granters: Melissa  
Brown & Daniel Rogan

**Alaina, 10**

Wish Granters: Julie  
Vanlaanen & Lisa Yursis

**Cai, 10**

Wish Granters: Joy Cantrall  
& Sunny Scott

**Aliya, 12**

Wish Granter: Marie Waddell

**Ezra, 12**

Wish Granters: Jennifer  
Wenzlaff & Jean Zoulek

**Emma, 14**

Wish Granters: Larry Levy &  
Renee Weiss

**Isabella, 14**

Wish Granter: Barbara  
Pahlow

**Norah, 14**

Wish Granters: Carolyn &  
Mike Conley

**Jaida, 15**

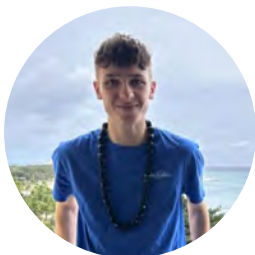
Wish Granters: Daniel Giles  
& Candace Richter



# THE IMPACT OF A WISH *Did you know?*

An impact study led by Make-A-Wish® in 2022 found that **100% of medical providers** report that the wish experience improves a child's emotional well-being\*.

Below are direct observations from the parents of two of our own wish kids and a registered nurse who is one of our referral sources:



"It started when the social worker came to his hospital room and told him he was eligible for [a wish]. He was pretty down emotionally and not feeling well physically and **that news immediately lifted his spirits.** From there, the journey for him and our family was amazing and so memorable." - Parent of wish kid Grant



"[The wish] really gave my daughter something to look forward to, made her feel special and **gave her more hope** for the future!" - Parent of wish kid Catherine



"A patient with noted mental health challenges, due to feelings of isolation, sadness/depression (associated with their underlying disease), returned from their wish experience with a **rejuvenated outlook/attitude toward disease management.**" - Nidra Moore, RN, Children's Wisconsin

\*Source: Make-A-Wish 2022 Wish Impact Study (Rounded Figures)

## MAKE-A-WISH® REFERRAL SOURCES

*Our thanks to those who referred children with wishes granted between January 1 and March 31, 2024:*

**Appleton Area School District:**  
Jessalynn Hietpas, RN

**Children's Wisconsin:**  
Gina Lewis, NP; Dr. Sara Dawson, MD; Katie Ricciardi, PA; Stacy Boyce, MSW; Megan Teed, APNP; Sheila Dodds, MSW; Robin Kostroski, MSW; Corynne Meiser, MSW; Dr. Nicholas Antos, MD; Carrie Torkilson, MSW; Dr. Allison Remiker, MD; Dr. Joshua Kovach, MD; Dr. Jessica Schnell, MD; Lisa Neidhold, RN; Michelle Honeck, MSW; Dr. Jennifer Jetton, MD

**Gundersen Health System:**

Dr. Antoinette Peters, MD

**HSHS St. Vincent's Children's Hospital:**  
Kailee Hanson, CCLS

**Marshfield Children's:**  
Laurie Weber, RN; Jessica Stanton, RN; Lorrie Busche, MSW; Dr. Richard Rapp, MD

**Mayo Clinic:**  
Dr. Jessica Kalmes, MD; Dr. Mira Kohorst, MD

**Riley Hospital for Children:**  
Beth Zaberdac, LSW

**St. Jude Children's Research Hospital:**

Eleanor Sueing, LCSW

**UW Health American Family Children's Hospital:**

Joyce Kilgore-Carlin, MSW; Julie Strang, MSW; Jill Bowdish, CAPSW; Craig Becker, MSW; Dr. Katyn Furuya, MD; Kim Sue Lamster, MSW; Cory Sieburg, CPNP; Dr. Mary L Ehlenbach, MD



Make-A-Wish Wisconsin staff with Tony-nominated actor Christopher Jackson.

## MAKE-A-WISH HONORED

Marcus Performing Arts Center recently honored Make-A-Wish Wisconsin with their Community Legacy Award, for the profound impact on the lives of countless individuals throughout the region.

"We're so grateful for Marcus Performing Arts Center's partnership and commitment to kids battling critical illnesses, their families and our community," says Patti Gorsky, President & CEO of Make-A-Wish Wisconsin.



## 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](https://www.wish.org/refer).

*Above: Lena's wish to have a Movie Theater Room all started with a simple referral.*

# THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted January 1  
- March 31, 2024 (Cont.)

## Elizabeth, 17

Wish Granters: Jodi Harris,  
Jodi Halpin & Maurine Braun

## Grant, 17

Wish Granters: Tara Thom &  
Julie Carr

## Isabella, 17

Wish Granters: Marilyn Stoll,  
Debra Mikulski & Anissa  
Johnsen

## Brooke, 18

Wish Granters: Jennifer  
Mrdutt & Daniel Giles

## Jahnalis, 18

Wish Granters: Marie  
Waddell & Sandy Strack

## Mackenzie, 18

Wish Granters: Carolyn &  
Mike Conley

## Melissa, 19

Wish Granter: Danielle Matysik

## Israel, 21

Wish Granter: Brianna Hansen

### *...to have a Hot Tub with a Lift*

## Nova, 7

Wish Granters: Amanda  
Burton & Shelley Hess

### *...to go Indoor Skydiving*

## Aila, 8

Wish Granters: Robert Rode  
& Stephanie Martell

### *...to go on a Lake of the Woods Ice Fishing Trip*

## Luke, 19

Wish Granters: Michelle  
Friemoth, Jennifer Yetter &  
Danielle Krause

### *...to go on a Lenox Square Shopping Spree*

## Jamarion, 15

Wish Granters: Katie  
Jakubowski & Adena Ruckoldt

### *...to have a Shopping Spree*

## Jovon, 9

Wish Granters: Teresa  
McDowell & Dana Mejic

## Jionni, 10

Wish Granters: Bryan Nothem,  
Jennifer Peabody & Rebecca  
Paulson

## William, 14

Wish Granters: Maggie  
Walters, Maurine Braun,  
James Corona & Sara Zibert

### *...to meet Dude Perfect*

## Max, 7

Wish Granters: Marie  
Waddell & Jennifer Eickelberg

### *...to meet Mark Rober*

## Truman, 8

Wish Granters: Corinne  
Kennedy & Linda Ryfinski

## James, 9

Wish Granters: Kimberly James,  
Sara Suehs & Thomas Bauer

### *...to meet Reba McEntire*

## Sirianna, 16

Wish Granters: Janelle &  
Ken Disher

### *...to meet YouTubers, Sam & Colby*

## Anna, 16

Wish Granters: Jan Berkholtz  
& Lisa Lewitzke

### *...to have a Movie Theater Room*

## Lena, 3

Wish Granters: Lynn Wagner  
& Kelly Durham

### *...to go to New York Fashion Week*

## Kendall, 9

Wish Granters: Courtney  
Wisniewski & Daniel Rogan

### *...to go to Puerto Rico*

## Julien, 16

Wish Granters: Susan &  
Richard Nuccio

### *...to have a Room Makeover*

## Gabriel, 12

Wish Granters: Claire  
Ruggiero & Renee Weiss

### *...to go to San Diego*

## Mishka, 5

Wish Granters: Juli Moen &  
Michelle Kadow

## Teelin, 9

Wish Granters: Renee Weiss  
& James Corona

### *...to have a Sensory Room*

## Landon, 14

Wish Granters: Carrie  
Merkel, Sandy Strack &  
Marie Waddell

### *...to have a Sleepsafe Bed*

## Gavin, 9

Wish Granters: Sandra Smith,  
Dana Smith, Michele Schaez  
& Mary Pitzen

### *...to go to St. Lucia*

## Peyton, 18

Wish Granters: Kara  
McManus, Megan Davis-  
Rosandich, Amanda Mutchler  
& Sandra Nissen

### *...to sing with an Orchestra*

## Lucita, 19

Wish Granters: Jill Patty, Evelyn  
Greenberger & Kristin Paul

### *...to meet Marc Andre Fleury on the Minnesota Wild*

## Easton, 9

Wish Granters: Lynn Wagner  
& Kelly Durham

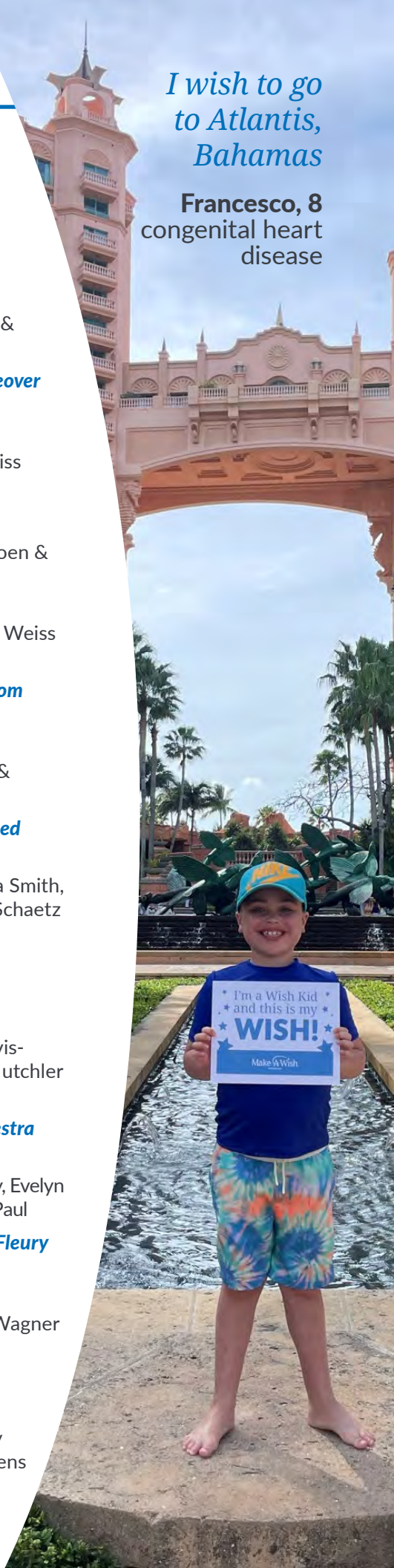
### *...to have a UTV*

## Kendall, 17

Wish Granters: Ashley  
Thomas & Doris Mertens

*I wish to go  
to Atlantis,  
Bahamas*

**Francesco, 8**  
congenital heart  
disease





# 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](http://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: 9-year-old Alexis' wish to go to Aulani, a Disney® Resort & Spa came true this past March.*



JANUARY 2024

### CHERYL MULLER

"I know how much having a wish as a bright spot can mean to a kid and family. My daughter was granted a wish in 2012 and I learned how much hope and anticipation a wish could bring," she says. "I'm inspired by the tenacity of the wish families. The brothers and sisters of wish kids are amazing!"



FEBRUARY 2024

### KRISTIN PAUL

"I have been able to work with really special families on some spectacular wishes. I am honored to be welcomed into the homes as they start their wish journey. I love being able to bring the joy of a wish into the lives of the children receiving the wish and working to spread that joy to the rest of the family," she says.



MARCH 2024

### JILL PATTY

"I was invited to Wish Night in 2019. I was so moved by this experience that I knew I needed to be involved with Make-A-Wish," she says. Her favorite part of volunteering is interacting with wish kids and their families. "My most memorable wish to be part of was wish 8,000 for Lulu. I loved every minute of that day!"

## VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

### 30 YEARS

DJ Rogan  
Michele Bergstrom

### 25 YEARS

Susie Gidan

### 20 YEARS

Lorna Whalen  
John Kokalj  
Kristin Walsh  
Lori Barry  
Joy Lancour  
Rodney Ugent

### 10 YEARS

Frances Suzanne Garr  
Jenna Ausloos  
Sara Derks  
**5 YEARS**  
Kaelyn Martin  
Roberta Sarow

Jan Berkholtz  
Debra Mikulski  
Casey Kothbauer  
Dana Mejjc  
Barbara Bongard  
Judy Newell  
Mike Newell

## ¿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](mailto:aschilz@wisconsin.wish.org).



# WISH SPONSORS

Thank you to the following sponsors who contributed at least \$4,000 or more to sponsor the wishes granted between January 1 and March 31, 2024.

- |  |   |  |  |   |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| 1834 Investment Advisors                             | Dells Camping Resort  | Jesse & Tiffany Mack                     | Patricia Groh                                      | Slayer Sunset Showdown                              |
| ABC Supply Co., Inc.                                 | Dennis & Pam Klumb Jr.                                      | Jimmy John's                             | Patrick Brown                                      | St. Norbert College                                 |
| AHS Girls Swim & Dive Team                           | Design Air  | Joe & Jenny Imhoff                       | Peabody's Interiors                                | Wishmakers On Campus                                |
| Albert & Shirley Schmidt                             | Dr. Timothy Corden  | John Goeden                              | Peggy Ann  | Steve Dunkmann                                      |
| Andrew Wszelaki Memorial Foundation Inc.             | Estate of Eleanor Darm                                      | Judy Gardetto                            | Petal Pusher Floral Studio Inc.                    | Steve Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation |
| Asphalt Seal & Repair, Inc.                          | Fox Bros. Piggly Wiggly                                     | Kaden's Wish                             | Plexus Young Professionals Golf Outing             | Steven & Sheri Lear                                 |
| Aurora Medical Center Sheboygan County               | Gavin Hattersley  | Karen J. Glanert Charitable Trust        | Pop A Top  | StoneRidge Piggly Wiggly                            |
| Badger State Western                                 | GE Healthcare   | Kettle Moraine ATV Association           | Preferred Properties of Fond du Lac                | Suburban Asphalt                                    |
| Beale Family Foundation                              | Green Bay Packers   | Kraemer Wisconsin Cheese                 | Ralph & Christine Gundrum                          | Surewood Forest Wishes for Kids                     |
| Beau's Fifth Quarter Foundation                      | Gregory Cole  | Ladish Company Foundation                | Ralph Cefalu                                       | Ted & Mary Kellner                                  |
| Bergstrom Automotive Drive for Dreams                | Gundlach Family Fund of Messiah Lutheran Church             | Lawrence Gentine                         | Ray Steffen  | The Good Dentist                                    |
| Bob & Tracy Weyers                                   | HARRIBO of America Manufacturing, LLC                       | Luke Homan Foundation                    | Realtors Association of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc.  | The Jendusa Family                                  |
| Brad & Holly Schlossmann                             | Harrigan for Wishes   | Luxaire Heating & Air Conditioning       | Renewal by Anderson Windows for a Cause            | The Nuthouse Dart Tournament                        |
| Bradley Christenson                                  | Harris & Pam Turer  | Madison Pediatric Dental & Orthodontics  | Rick Klumb   | The Village Companies                               |
| Brenda Preisler in memory of her son                 | Henry H. (Sr.) & Marion (Polly) S. Uihlein Foundation, Inc. | Marcus Performing Arts Center            | Rick Pena  | Thomas Wisniewski                                   |
| Brew City Charity Open                               | Holidays Pub & Grill  | Masters Gallery Foods, Inc.              | Robin Van Zeeland                                  | Van Zeeland Manufacturing, Inc.                     |
| Carol Molski   | Guest Bartender Night                                       | Meggie Owsiak                            | Rock for Wishes                                    | We Energies Foundation                              |
| Cars, Croissants & Coffee                            | HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital                        | Men with a Purpose Golf Outing           | Romenesko Developments, Inc. - Strikes for Charity | Westosha-Salem Kiwanis Club                         |
| Chris McIntosh                                       | Hunzinger Construction Co.                                  | Merkel Foundation                        | Rosemary L. & John P. Mortensen Foundation         | Wheels for Wishes                                   |
| Christa & Todd Graverson                             | iHeartMedia   | Mike & Paula Hamilton                    | Sargento Foods                                     | Wisconsin Athletic Director's Association           |
| Construction & General Laborers' Local Union No. 330 | In memory of Caleb Wipperfurth                              | Mootown Property Development Association | Schneider Foundation, Inc.                         | Wisconsin Underground Contractor's Association      |
| CoVantage Credit Union                               | Inpro Corporation   | Mukwonago for Wishes                     | Scott & Cindy Boho                                 | Wishmakers of Wisconsin                             |
| Curt & Sue Culver                                    | Jack Salzwedal  | Nan Gardetto                             | Sharon Hassemer                                    | Xiogenix  |
| Dave & Connie Garvey                                 | James Lang  | Nast Family Foundation                   | Sherry Gage McNally                                | Yacht Blast for Kids                                |
| Dave & Jan Fitzpatrick                               | Jaxon Louis   | Palmer's Steakhouse                      | Skogen's Festival Foods                            |   |
| Dave Byczek  | Jay Schwister   |  |  |   |
|  | Jean Clack  |  |  |   |
|  | Jersey Mike's Subs  |  |  |   |

# WE REMEMBER

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

- |                 |                   |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| ★ <i>Chance</i> | ★ <i>Addyson</i>  | ★ <i>Ian</i>    | ★ <i>Eliana</i> |
| ★ <i>Ameer</i>  | ★ <i>Sirianna</i> | ★ <i>Joshua</i> | ★ <i>Leah</i>   |

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## Inside this Issue:

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

**Donor Spotlight:** In the past decade this amazing donor has contributed over \$61,000 for wishes.

**Medical Impact:** Wishes are truly life-changing and research lends data to the incredible wish stories.

**Cover Story:** Wish 8,000 gave Lulu the power to feel confident and hopeful for her future.



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Make-A-Wish®  
WISCONSIN

★ CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WISHES ★



Make-A-Wish® Wisconsin's 40th Birthday Party

You are invited to Wild Wishes, Make-A-Wish Wisconsin's 40th Birthday Party on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Join us for a day of celebration, food, entertainment and of course, animals! Event tickets are a great value and include the Wild Wishes celebration (11am - 2pm), admission into the Zoo for the full day (9:30am - 5pm), parking, lunch and a commemorative 40th Birthday t-shirt.

Wish kid event tickets are complimentary. **Claim your tickets today:** [wish.org/wisconsin/wildwishes](http://wish.org/wisconsin/wildwishes).

Please note all attendees need a ticket and Zoo Passes are not applicable. If you are a wish family and the cost is prohibitive to attend, please email Jaci at [jgabel@wisconsin.wish.org](mailto:jgabel@wisconsin.wish.org). We do not want anyone to miss out!



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