Make-A-Wish®
NEBRASKA

Year-in-Review

A LOOK BACK AT THE WISHES FROM OUR LAST FISCAL YEAR
SEPT. 1, 2023 TO AUG. 31, 2024

I wish to have a recording studio in my home

Isaiah, 15 | Axtell
leukemia

wish.org/nebraska

Together, we create life-changing wishes
for children with critical illnesses.

Brigette Young, President/CEO
Make-A-Wish Nebraska, with
wish kids Lillie, Megan and Lily

Dear Friends,

Right now, a child is battling the pain, fear and trauma caused by a critical illness. Facing scary surgeries that can't wait until after the new year. Isolating treatments that make gatherings and celebrations impossible. But because of your support, we can ensure these children don't wait even one unnecessary day for the life-changing hope and joy that only a wish can bring.

Thanks to a community of caring individuals like YOU, we were able to grant 118 unique and wonderful wishes this past fiscal year, which ended Aug. 31, 2024. However, our work is far from done. In 20 minutes a child will be diagnosed with a critical illness, and 20 minutes after that, another. Now, more than ever, the joy of a wish come true is the most valuable gift you can give – because it means you've given these children a better chance of surviving and thriving.

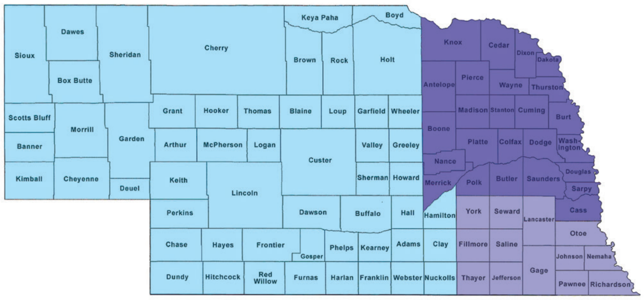
As you read through this newsletter and look back at the wishes we were able to grant, we hope you see the impact you have had on local wish kids. Through your support, you have provided hope and joy at a time when they truly needed it most. A child makes a wish, but YOU make a difference.

Thank you for making wishes come true!

Brigette Young

Brigette Young
President/CEO

Statewide Impact



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

Since 1983, more than **3,200 wishes** have been granted in Nebraska.

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

The average cost of a wish is **$10,000**.

Every August 31st we reflect back on another incredible fiscal year of granting wishes. With the help and generosity of individuals and companies from across the state, we were able to grant **118 unforgettable wishes** to children in Nebraska with critical illnesses this fiscal year.

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Make an Impact

DONATION

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

IN-KIND

You can create life-changing experiences by donating goods.

VOLUNTEERING

You can help make the wishes of children in our community come true when you become a Make-A-Wish volunteer. Our mission is possible only with the dedication of our volunteers.

REFER A CHILD

We rely on wish referrals from caring individuals to help us reach more kids with critical illnesses and grant them a wish that changes lives forever. The eligibility consideration process is initiated when a wish referral inquiry is submitted to the local chapter.

Learn more about who is eligible for a wish, who can refer a child and how the referral process works by visiting: www.wish.org/refer-a-child

SEPT & OCT 2023

Alexandria's Wish

I wish to go to Walt Disney World® and meet all of the princesses

Alexandria, 5 | Harrison

nervous system disorder

Six-year-old Alexandria loves everything related to princesses, unicorns, and the colors pink and purple. She won't wear black because it's "ugly." According to her parents, she keeps her chin up and tells them she is happy because she wants to be. In her free time, Alexandria loves to dance with her dad and play with princess dolls with her mom.

Alexandria also spends a lot of time in hospitals, receiving treatments and visiting with her medical team. Alexandria has SMA type 1. This is a genetic disease that causes the spinal cord and muscles to deteriorate.

"Her diagnosis hit our family right in the heart. It felt like our world stopped," said Alexandria's mom, Donna. "Alexandria is a very smart, sassy little girl and is all princess. We try to make things as normal as possible for her but the reality is it's not normal. She spends a lot of time in hospitals and watching her friends do all the things she wishes she could do."

It should be noted that Alexandria is enamored by princesses and she loves Disney. So, it was no surprise that for her wish, she chose to go to Walt Disney World® to meet all the princesses.

"This wish gave Alexandria the chance to live her dream and meet her Princesses. It gave her something exciting and new and an amazing memory that she still talks about today," said Donna. "She got to see the ocean, be pampered at Give Kids the World®, see orcas up close, and talk to her princesses. The Disney characters even interacted with her up close during the parade and made her feel like the center of the world. It was a dream come true!"

When a wish, like Alexandria's, is granted, it creates a turning point in their medical journey, and the joy of childhood they've lost is suddenly within reach. This boost in their emotional well-being is the most precious gift of all.

"Alexandria is a 6-year-old with a devastating diagnosis. She was given the chance to live her best life on her wish with no hospital visits, no needles, no crying. Just a happy memory that she will always have. Her dream came true. Make-A-Wish gave her an opportunity we would not have been able to give her," said Donna. "Our children don't ask to be born with a life of pain; they want to live long happy lives but were not given that chance. Make-A-Wish gives them the happiness they deserve."

NOVEMBER 2023

Amirah's Wish

Hope is essential during a wish kid's most challenging moments. With hope, a child with a critical illness finds light in the darkness of their current circumstances. This hope can be found in a wish. Wishes like Amirah's.

Eight-year-old Amirah has sickle cell disease, which is a blood disorder that causes her pain, discomfort, and the inability to fight off infections on her own. As a single parent, Amirah's mom, India tries to maintain a sense of normality and stability for herself and Amirah amongst the constant hospital stays. Despite everything she is going through, Amirah maintains a positive attitude. She loves making friends and even though she may come off as shy, her loveable personality really lights up a room.

For Amirah's wish, she chose to visit Super Nintendo World™ at Universal Studios® Hollywood.

She chose this wish because she likes to watch YouTube videos and one of her favorite YouTubers, Salish, visited Super Nintendo World™.

"Her wish was really important to her because not only was it something she REALLY wanted to experience, but it also gave her hope," said Amirah's mom, India. "She really didn't understand fully what Make-A-Wish was about, but once I explained it to her she cried knowing what Make-A-Wish does for children like her. Once she knew about her wish, it was a reoccurring topic until the morning we left!"

When a wish is granted, hope is restored for that child. A wish can be a turning point in a child's medical journey that opens the door to exciting possibilities. It empowers them to reclaim their childhood, and experience transformative joy.

I wish to go to Super Nintendo World™
Amirah, 8 | Omaha
sickle cell disease

DECEMBER 2023

Andrew's Wish

For anyone who knows 6-year-old Andrew, they would describe him as strong, resilient and ready to face every challenge with unwavering positivity.

Like many kids his age, Andrew loves spending time outside. He loves going to the beach, fishing, and playing with his sister. He has a particular passion for anything related to dinosaurs. In fact, he likes to share fascinating facts about them with great enthusiasm.

However, unlike most children, Andrew was diagnosed with Batten Disease, which is a group of fatal genetic disorders that disrupt the body's ability to eliminate cellular waste.

"This disease has profoundly impacted our family, shattering our hearts," said Andrew's mom, Zulema. "Both of our children are affected, and it is truly heartbreaking. Our lives have changed drastically, now revolving around hospitals and daily therapies. Despite these challenges, Andrew continues to stay positive."

Andrew decided he wanted to go to Hawaii for his wish. He picked Hawaii so he could visit Jurassic Valley, go to the beach, see "dinosaurs," and take in the beauty of Hawaii.

"We saw how excited Andrew became for this trip. He couldn't stop talking about it and shared his excitement with everyone," said Zulema. "He was in disbelief that he was actually going to experience it! It was incredibly special because he was simply overjoyed."

For Andrew and his family, it was important to grant his wish quickly. With his illness, Andrew will eventually lose his eyesight.

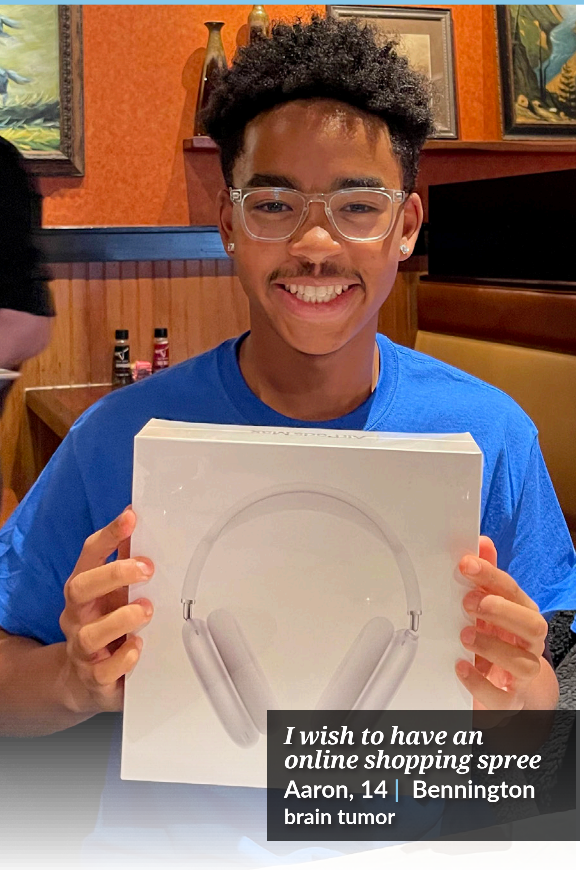
"This trip was so important to our family because it was something we could not have afforded on our own. With him losing his eyesight, it was essential to make it happen right away. This trip was a dream come true. Although it didn't erase our worries and heartbreak, it allowed us to forget about them for a week," said Zulema.

For wish kids like Andrew, wishes are more than just a moment in time. The hope a wish provides can be transformational, renewing energy and providing strength to wish kids and their families.

I wish to go to Hawaii and see Jurassic Park before I lose my eyesight
Andrew, 6 | West Point
nervous system disorder

JANUARY 2024

Aaron's Wish



I wish to have an online shopping spree
Aaron, 14 | Bennington
brain tumor

WRITTEN BY AARON'S MOM, ASHLEY

Aaron is a kid that is not hard to please. He really enjoys being around people, playing basketball, video games, shopping, going out and trying new places.

However, in April 2019, Aaron was diagnosed with a noncancerous brain tumor. We were unable to surgically remove the tumor so his treatment consisted of a brain shunt and oral chemotherapy for two years with MRI scans every 6 months for the foreseeable future.

During treatment, Aaron suffered from short term memory loss and went through speech therapy and a neuro-psych evaluation so that we can support him the best way possible in life.

Aaron was super excited when he found out he was getting a wish. He decided he wanted an online shopping spree and talked about it every single day. He kept adding things to his list, taking things off, adding more, and he kept asking if anything had come in yet.

Aaron chose this specific wish because there were a lot of things he wished he could have that we were not able to afford due to medical costs, medications, and a growing family. This wish was so important for Aaron because it brought him so much joy. Aaron has really overcome a lot of challenges since he was diagnosed with the brain tumor 5 years ago. It really took a toll on him physically and mentally. It was so nice to have Make-A-Wish grant him his wish.

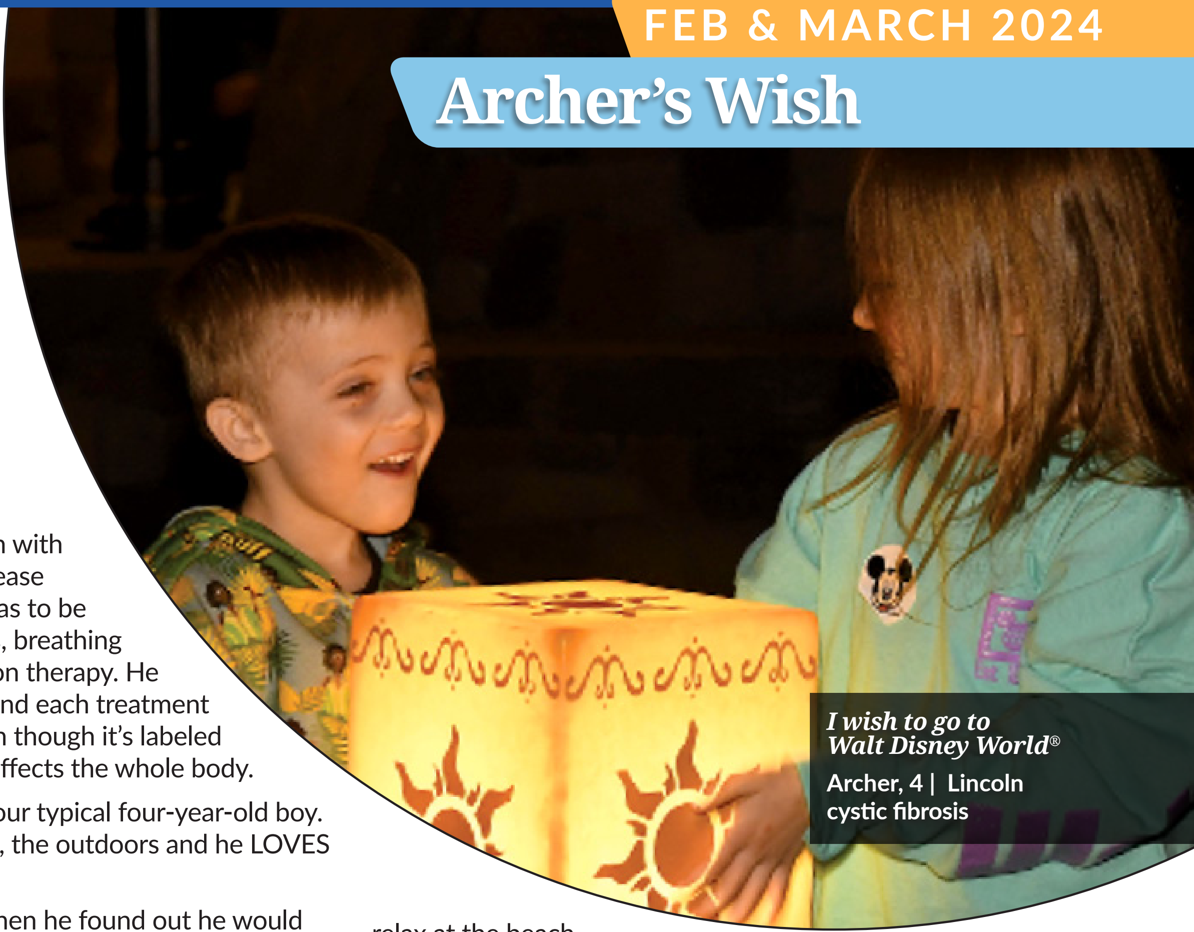
They really went above and beyond to make this wish special. They were able to get everything on Aaron's list. They wrapped everything up, picked him up in a limo, and had a nice lunch at Aaron's favorite restaurant, LongHorn Steakhouse®.

Aaron didn't stop smiling that day. He talked about this day over and over for a long time.

His wish was a nice boost of encouragement to say, "Aaron you're doing great, you've done great, keep going, we're so proud of you"

Aaron will remember this experience forever. I have not seen Aaron filled with true joy and surprise in a long time. What Aaron, his siblings, and us as parents experienced was truly one of a kind and we would love for other families to get that chance.

Archer's Wish



I wish to go to Walt Disney World®

Archer, 4 | Lincoln
cystic fibrosis

Four-year-old Archer was born with a progressive genetic lung disease called Cystic Fibrosis, which has to be treated with daily medications, breathing treatments, and vest percussion therapy. He does 2-4 treatments per day and each treatment is about 30 minutes long. Even though it's labeled as primarily a lung disease, it affects the whole body.

Despite his illness, Archer is your typical four-year-old boy. He loves baseball, soccer, cars, the outdoors and he LOVES dinosaurs.

Archer was three-years-old when he found out he would be receiving a wish. As a three-year-old, it was hard to narrow down what he wanted his wish to be, but ultimately, he decided to go to Walt Disney World®. He chose Disney because he watches Disney movies while undergoing his daily treatments, so it made sense that he would visit the place where his favorite characters lived!

"This was such an important wish for him," said Archer's mom, Nicolby. "It was his first flight, first stay somewhere other than home, first ocean views and an experience where we didn't need to put his disease first."

Archer was so excited to go on this trip and see all sorts of new things! While at Disney, he got to play dinosaur putt-putt, relax at the beach, and see and meet dinosaurs!

"These are things and places that most families could never possibly imagine without the help of this wonderful organization," said Nicolby. "We are so grateful for the opportunity to take our sweet boy to such a magical place! When you support Make-A-Wish, you are actually making these kid's dreams come true."

APRIL 2024

Brooklyn’s Wish

I wish to go to Zion National Park
Brooklyn, 10 | Lincoln
nervous system disorder

WRITTEN BY
BROOKLYN’S MOM, BRIDGET

Brooklyn was diagnosed with Pallister-Killian Syndrome, an extremely rare, genetic disorder where the 12th chromosome has an extra arm, which causes physical and mental disabilities. Brooklyn requires assistance eating, drinking, with mobility, and is non-verbal. It’s impossible for us to put into words how it has impacted our family.

Having a child with special needs requires constant accommodations, creativity and getting very comfortable with having to pivot at a moment’s notice.

Brooklyn is happiest when she is outdoors and with her peers. She loves the wind and loves the sun shining on her face. Anytime she is having a rough day or is in a bad mood, she is transformed by just hanging out on the back deck. This is why we thought a trip exploring some national parks – getting to see new sights and feel different air – was a perfect trip for Brooklyn.

Brooklyn’s wish trip was truly inspiring. She was so happy during the trip to the national parks! As her parents, we have so many daily obligations in addition to caring for her daily needs, as well as doctor appointments and therapies.

Caring for a sick, medically fragile or disabled child is physically and mentally taxing for us moms and dads. We want to be able to do something special for our child but we don’t always have the reserves and resources to pull it off.

Having the amazing team at Make-A-Wish coordinate and take care of literally every detail, put our parental minds at ease.

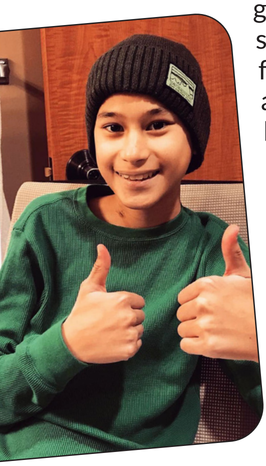
Make-A-Wish not only takes care of the financial part of the wish, but their staff takes care of every last detail of the researching, planning and execution of the wish. One of the best parts of the wish was just being able to have Brooklyn show up and enjoy her wish knowing we had an amazing support team caring for us in the background. As parents, we could just focus on giving Brooklyn the trip of a lifetime and not worry about anything else!

Isaiah's Wish

WRITTEN BY
WISH KID ISAIAH

My name is Isaiah, I'm 15 years old, and I want to share a little bit about myself and my wish, but also describe what I had to endure over the past couple of years due to my illness.

It started back on December 23rd, 2021, when I was diagnosed with B cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia which is a type of blood cancer. Overall, it's not that fun, and I definitely wouldn't recommend it.



Prior to my diagnosis I had felt severe pain in the bone of my foot and the pain was persistent for a couple of weeks so we knew something was off and that's when we decided to get it checked out. I got some blood work done followed by an x-ray and my results came back showing that I had leukemia. So, the same day of my diagnosis, I was rushed straight to Children's Nebraska in Omaha where I would stay there unexpectedly for nine months. I was only able to come home on the weekends sometimes during the last three months. And during my prolonged visit there, I went through intense treatment every day, nonstop. However, I tried to remain positive no matter how bad I felt, because I believe a positive mentality is the most important thing when trying to overcome anything in life whether it be an illness, rough times, or when you have to pay taxes. Cause who really likes taxes?

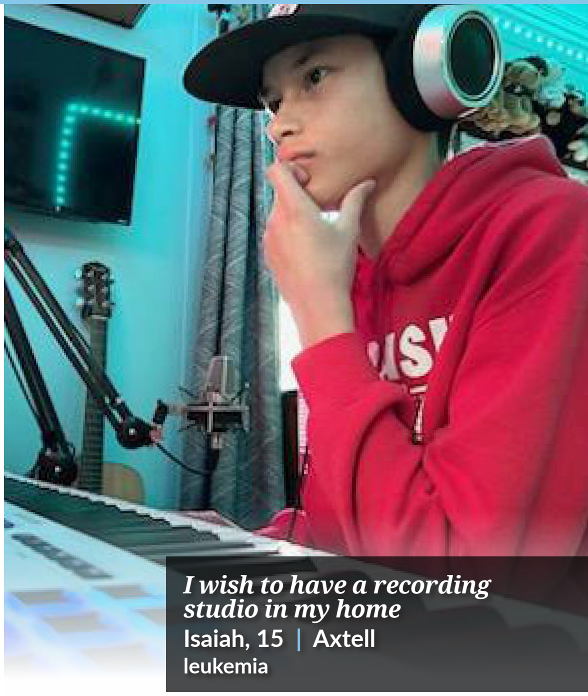
Anyways, when I was about halfway done with my treatments, my mom mentioned that I had been referred to Make-A-Wish and I later found out I was eligible for a wish. That was exciting for me because I knew how great of an organization it was. So, after that conversation I kept thinking of the endless things I could wish for. And that made me feel like I had something good to look forward to after such a long while. And it kept my mind off all the bad things that were going on. It was a good distraction.

Fast forward even more in time when my treatments were slowing down and I started to feel more normal. Make-A-Wish reached out and said it was about time we had our first meeting for my wish. At that point, they didn't know me, what I was like or what I even wanted yet and I don't think I even knew exactly what I wanted. So, before the meeting, I thought that for my wish, I wanted something that I could use for the rest of my life because this was a once in a lifetime experience and I wanted to be careful and make sure the wish lasted.

I am very interested in music and music production itself and because of that, I decided I wanted to have a whole bunch of music studio equipment for my room. I knew this was a great opportunity for me to embrace my hobby and do what I really want to do, which is make music.

For the meeting, I ended up making a Google slideshow because I thought that was the best way to explain what I wanted. My slideshow consisted of all the equipment I would need, their prices, and a link to the products to make the research easier on the Make-A-Wish team. I also researched if everything was compatible with each other, made sure it would all fit correctly in my room, and that it wasn't too expensive either. My Wish Granters loved the slide show because they said no one has ever made a presentation for their wish meeting before!

The day my wish was granted, I had no idea it was going to happen. Usually, I don't like surprises because I prefer to be prepared, but it was such a good surprise and I loved it. My Wish Granters put so much thought into it too. They brought a baked potato bar for us to eat, they set out all my music production stuff so I could see everything laid out and it just blew my mind. I'm so thankful I got to have such wonderful Wish Granters that were so nice during the entire wish journey. I'm glad people like that exist.



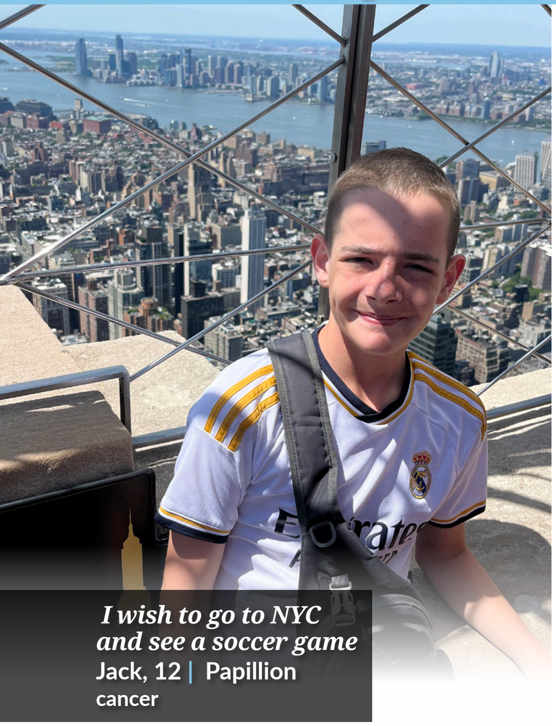
I wish to have a recording studio in my home
Isaiah, 15 | Axtell
leukemia

My wish was absolutely life changing. And I'm not being dramatic at all when I say that. I've always loved music, I will continue to love music, and I'm grateful that there are people who are willing to help other kids see the good in the world during tough times and help them pursue their own wishes. That's what I like about Make-A-Wish. They are always willing to try and make any child's dream come true and give them a good core memory they can carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Thank you to everyone who supports Make-A-Wish. It truly means a lot to me and people like me. Even if it really doesn't seem like it to you, your support is changing entire lives.

JUNE & JULY 2024

Jack's Wish



I wish to go to NYC and see a soccer game
Jack, 12 | Papillion
cancer

WRITTEN BY JACK'S MOM, KARA

Jack was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare soft tissue cancer, in September 2023. While we tried hard to maintain a sense of normalcy, our life was turned upside down. But we did try, for Jack's sake. We didn't want him to be scared, so we put on our game faces and moved forward. He was 11 when he was diagnosed, so he was well aware of what was happening. However, he was always positive – never believing that he wouldn't survive cancer – so we followed his lead. We somehow balanced work with his appointments, surgeries and hospitalizations. We made it work.

Jack's journey started in September and stretched out over 8 months. He underwent four surgeries, 22 weeks of chemotherapy and 23 days of radiation. We made two trips to the ER – both for fevers – and he had one unplanned hospitalization for a neutropenic fever.

His last treatment was May 2, 2024 and his port was removed in June about a week before our wish trip. Thankfully, his last scans in August came back clear!

I want to note that Jack loves soccer. He's played soccer since he was 3 years old and currently plays the center midfield and center back positions for the Sting Soccer club. He loves to watch the Premier League, specifically Real Madrid, and he follows the MLS and likes Sporting Kansas.

Jack also loves the Creighton Men's Basketball team. He's a big fan of the Kansas City Chiefs, and he loves his dogs, Harry and Lola. He's a great friend and an excellent student. He missed a lot of school last year due to treatments, and was a little nervous about attending middle school this past fall, but he's thriving as a seventh grader.

For his wish, Jack wanted to go to NYC to see a soccer game. For me, I wanted Jack's wish to be a celebration – a way to mark the end of a terrible period in his life. I also wanted him to have something to look forward to. I wanted him to know that life would return to "normal" and we would just have to be patient.

Initially, when Jack found out he was receiving a wish he didn't have much of a reaction because he was in the middle of his treatments and didn't feel well. He also didn't feel like he deserved a trip. He said there were kids who were a lot sicker than he was, so he wasn't sure why he was picked.

However, after he wrapped up his treatments on May 2, he started to get excited – kept talking about how we needed to leave plenty of room in the suitcases for all the things he was going to buy! He started to do some research to decide what he wanted to do and where to go.

The trip was indeed a celebration. We had an amazing time exploring New York City as a family. We walked up and down Fifth Avenue a million times. We explored Chinatown and Little Italy. We mastered the subway. We went to Times Square, the Statue of Liberty, One World Observatory, Central Park, Wall Street, the High Line and the 9/11 Museum. We ate amazing pizza, Chinese and Italian food. We caught a Mets game, and were special guests at a NYC Football Club soccer match at Yankee Stadium. Jack walked the game ball out onto the field and met Matt Freese, the NYCFC's goalie.

I think the most special aspect of the entire trip is that it was just the three of us – Jack, his dad and me – doing normal touristy things without worrying about anything except for what we were going to see the next day. We didn't have to worry about fevers or appointments or side effects. We could just relax and explore. It's hard to find time to vacation as a family. And we were frankly exhausted from all the months of treatments. This trip was the perfect excuse to leave everything behind, relax and make some awesome memories.

AUGUST 2024

Anastasia's Wish

I wish to go camping in a cabin in Branson, Missouri

Anastasia, 5 | Papillion
leukemia

Five-year-old Anastasia loves being outdoors, she loves camping, playing with her stuffed animals and exploring new places.

One day, after not feeling well, Anastasia's parents heard the words no parent ever wants to hear – your child has leukemia. Suddenly, Anastasia's world, and her family's world turned upside down. Instead of playing outside, Anastasia had doctors' visits and treatments. Her family had to adjust their lifestyle and their expectations in light of her diagnosis.

Since Anastasia loves camping and interacting with nature and animals so much, she decided she wanted to go on a camping-style trip as her wish! This was especially important since she wasn't able to camp while she was going through treatments.

"She was able to see and do things that she wasn't able to do during treatment and it gave our family time and space to truly relax and be at peace since her diagnosis," said Anastasia's mom, Genevieve. "Once she found out her wish was being granted, we noticed that she was a lot more patient with her meds and life in general. There was a bright happiness in her every day leading up to the wish trip."

Every child deserves a childhood full of joyful experiences. Wishes like Anastasia's provide wish kids, and their families, with the hope, strength and joy they need to get through these difficult times.

When a wish is granted, suddenly, the joy of childhood they've lost is within reach.

"The amount of peace, joy, and over all healing that came from Anastasia's wish was worth more than anything else to us," said Genevieve. "Supporting Make-A-Wish helps provide that healing to so many families like ours, who could have only dreamed of this kind of joy."

Orion, 8, Lincoln	cancer	I wish to meet the Unspeakables
Harper, 8, Bellevue	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® and meet princesses
Alexis, 14, Kearney	leukemia	I wish to go to Universal Studios® and see Jurassic Park
Alexandria, 5, Harrison	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® and meet princesses
Krayton, 5, Crofton	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® and see alligators
Oliver, 11, Gretna	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® and ride all the rides
Caiden, 7, Lincoln	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Gavin, 10, Omaha	congenital heart disease	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Caleb, 15, Columbus	nervous system disorder	I wish to have an online shopping spree to buy gaming stuff
James, 4, Lincoln	cancer	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Amirah, 8, Omaha	sickle cell disease	I wish to go to Super Nintendo World™
Riley, 17, Bennington	bone morrow transplant	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Tyler, 9, Bennington	neuromuscular disorder	I wish to go to Super Nintendo World™
Bryson, 11, Aurora	chronic kidney disease	I wish to go on the Jurassic Park Tours where the movie was made
Chloe, 11, Lincoln	cancer	I wish to have a movie night
Henry, 10, Omaha	neuromuscular disorder	I wish to go to Legoland®
Jade, 18, Omaha	cystic fibrosis	I wish to meet The Rock
Andrew, 6, West Point	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Hawaii before I lose my eyesight
Keely, 7, Arcadia	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® and ride all the rides
Caleb, 17, Bellevue	kidney transplant	I wish to go to Mall of America
Brianah, 9, Hastings	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a camper
Ethan, 11, Omaha	blood disorder	I wish to have a shopping spree in
Justys, 16, Dannebrog	leukemia	I wish to have an online shopping spree to buy electronics
Miles, 15, Lincoln	neuromuscular disorder	I wish to go whale watching in Hawaii
Tiimothy, 18, Omaha	cancer	I wish to go to Bethesda Studios
Kynzlee, 3, Lincoln	congenital heart disease	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® to meet the princesses
David, 18, Omaha	chronic kidney disease	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Ella, 16, Holdrege	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Hawaii
Aaron, 14, Bennington	brain tumor	I wish to have an online shopping spree
Collin, 18, Doniphan	bone morrow transplant	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® and Sea World®
Quinn, 13, Fremont	lymphoma	I wish to go to Maui to zipline and snorkel

Oliver, 13, Blair	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Turks & Caicos
Brody, 11, Omaha	congenital heart disease	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® and ride all the rides
Archer, 4, Lincoln	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Lewis, 5, Gretna	congenital heart disease	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® to meet the Marvel characters
Elle, 4, Omaha	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® to meet the princesses
Aariyah, 5, Omaha	heart condition	I wish to have a camper
Azalea, 8, Omaha	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a hot tub with a lift
Lucas, 16, Bristow	cystic fibrosis	I wish to have a gaming and coding computer
Hayden, 9, Omaha	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® to meet Elsa
Lexand, 17, Wilber	leukemia	I wish to go to Hawaii
Miles, 5, Bellevue	wilms tumor	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
AnaLee, 11, Grand Island	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Ethan, 13, Omaha	brain tumor	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Matthew, 6, Holdrege	respiratory failure	I wish to have two couches
Jaden, 4, Omaha	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Jessa, 11, Omaha	rare genetic condition	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Trystyn, 13, Beatrice	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® and ride all the rides
Zaine, 10, Omaha	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Brooklyn, 10, Lincoln	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Zion National Park
Joseph, 16, Wayne	heart failure	I wish to have an online shopping spree
Aurora, 5, Bellevue	cystic fibrosis	I wish to have a play structure
Kirra, 4, Gretna	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® to see Anna and Elsa
Macy, 18, Grand Island	brain tumor	I wish to have a camper
Isaiah, 15, Axtell	leukemia	I wish to have a recording studio in my home
Jensen, 5, Central City	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Olivia, 14, Peru	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Hawaii and swim with dolphins
Lila, 10, Omaha	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Samuel, 7, Scottsbluff	leukemia	I wish to have a shopping spree in Denver
Brantley, 8, Lincoln	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® and Universal Studios®
Vanesa, 6, Omaha	cancer	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® to meet Stitch and Ariel
Elliott, 8, Omaha	blood disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® to meet the princesses
Brady, 10, Papillion	chronic kidney disease	I wish to go to Discovery Cove and swim with dolphins
Elija, 18, Omaha	genetic disorder	I wish to go to the US Virgin Islands and snorkel
Mya, 9, Lincoln	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® to meet Stitch
Ellis, 18, Omaha	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®

YEAR WISHES

Zain, 5, Omaha	brain tumor	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® and ride all the rides
Jack, 12, Papillion	cancer	I wish to go to NYC and see a soccer game
Ryleigh, 5, Bellevue	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® to meet Mickey Mouse
Kevin, 9, Omaha	cancer	I wish to go to Discovery Cove
Braxton, 14, Gibbon	leukemia	I wish to have a shopping spree in Denver
Baylor, 3, Omaha	cystic fibrosis	I wish to have a travel trailer
Brogan, 8, Harrisburg	cystic fibrosis	I wish to have a camper
Karsyn, 7, Phillips	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a lift to help me get from the deck to the pool
Paxtonn, 11, Columbus	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Ryder, 3, Blue Hill	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Gracie, 17, North Platte	cystic fibrosis	I wish to have a girls weekend with my mom at Mall of America and a spa day
Brixten, 8, Omaha	cystic fibrosis	I wish to have a play structure
Lily, 14, Bennington	brain tumor	I wish to go to Oahu, Hawaii
Briaja, 7, Kearney	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® to see Mickey Mouse
Greyan, 12, Grand Island	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® and ride all the rides
Annabelle, 13, Omaha	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a swimming pool
Broolynn, 12, Omaha	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Sea World® and to a Turtle Rescue
Elizabeth, 12, Omaha	cystic fibrosis	I wish to go to Kona to go deep sea fishing
Bailey, 3, Aurora	leukemia	I wish to have a play structure
Charlotte, 5, Omaha	brain tumor	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® to meet Cinderella and Snow White
Helena, 6, Omaha	heart transplant	I wish to go to Walt Disney World® to meet the princesses
Kaleb, 14, Bellevue	lymphoma	I wish to go to Hawaii
Elias, 5, Plattsmouth	wilms tumor	I wish to have a treehouse
Jaxyn, 5, Omaha	cystic fibrosis	I wish to have an online shopping spree
Brennden, 17, Omaha	brain tumor	I wish to go to Hawaii
Joel, 5, Columbus	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Hunter, 15, Omaha	autoimmune disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Jose, 5, Omaha	congenital heart disease	I wish to go to Branson, Missouri to see the Titanic Museum
Anastasia, 5, Papillion	leukemia	I wish to go camping in a cabin in Branson, Missouri
Brexton, 8 Ogallala	congenital heart disease	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
Jaziel, 4, Lincoln	leukemia	I wish to be a zoo keeper

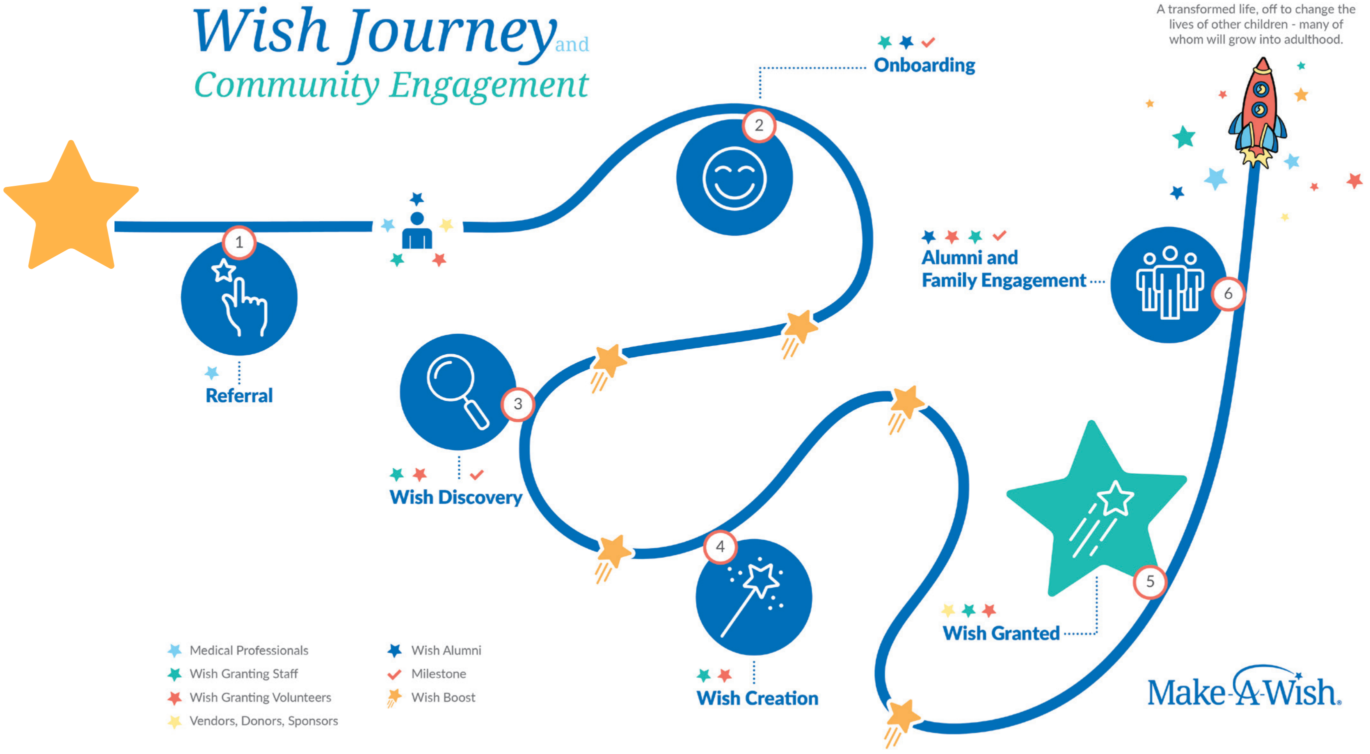
I wish to be a zoo keeper

Jaziel, 4 | Lincoln
genetic disorder

I wish to go to Oahu, Hawaii

Lily, 14 | Bennington
brain tumor

Wish Journey *and* *Community Engagement*



1. Referral | A child can be referred by a family member, medical professional, or they can refer themselves.

2. Eligibility/Onboarding/ Approval
We grant the wishes of eligible children who have reached the age of 2 ½ but are younger than 18 at the time of referral. Wish kids are not necessarily terminal but have been diagnosed with a progressive, degenerative, or malignant condition that puts their life in jeopardy. Once the child's diagnosis is approved by the child's physician, the family receives information to begin the wish process.

3. Wish Discovery | Two volunteer wish granters meet with our wish children, awaken their imagination, and help them envision their one true wish.

4. Creation | Once a child's one true wish is discovered, the wish team begins the planning process, working to bring the wish to life.

5. Grant Wish/Create Joy
Our staff and volunteer wish granters create an unforgettable, personalized experience driven by the child's creativity.

6. Alumni and Family Engagement/ Impact
A wish transforms the lives of children, their families, volunteers, supporters, medical professionals, and entire communities.

I wish to go to Hawaii
Julia, 7
blood disorder

I wish to have a shopping spree
Jayden, 13
cancer

I wish to have a play structure
Jaxson, 4
genetic disorder

I wish to have a playhouse
Millie, 4
brain tumor

I wish to have a playhouse for me and my chickens
Aspen, 7
cancer

The Impact of Make-A-Wish

Trauma Relief
9 out of 10 wish kids reported that the wish experience relieved them from traumatic stress.

Emotional & Mental Well-Being
9 out of 10 wish parents saw their child's emotional well-being improve with a wish.

Turning Point
9 out of 10 medical providers say a wish increased compliance with treatment.

Strength to Fight
8 out of 10 wish kids reported that their wish gave them the strength to fight their critical illness.

Long-Term Impact
9 out of 10 medical providers observed that the wish experience has a positive impact on a child's physical well-being and overall quality of life.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Truck Center Companies

In honor of their 30th year supporting Make-A-Wish Nebraska, Truck Center Companies hosted a golf tournament AND a concert on June 7th and 8th to help raise funds to grant local wishes. The golf tournament was hosted at Tiburon Golf Club. After the tournament, the golfers enjoyed dinner while listening to wish alum Nolan share about his wish to golf in Hawaii!

The fun didn't stop there! On Saturday, June 8th, Truck Center Companies hosted a concert at the Truck Center Companies' headquarters in Omaha. The concert opened with fan-favorite, Dylan Bloom before the headliner, country music superstar, Drake White, took the stage. The other special guest that night was wish alum Grace, who took the stage and shared her story about when her wish to meet Luke Bryan was granted.

(Above) Left to Right: Linda Hogrefe, VP/CDO, Make-A-Wish, Courtney Cleveringa, Dir. of Community Outreach, Make-A-Wish, Brigette Young, President/CEO, Make-A-Wish, Trey Mytty, CEO, Truck Center Companies

We're excited to share that Truck Center Companies went above and beyond this year and raised over $547,000, which brings their lifetime support to over $5 million! That's over 700 wishes granted to children in Nebraska, making them the single largest donor for Make-A-Wish Nebraska!

Thank YOU Truck Center Companies for your unwavering support of our mission and our wish kids! And a special thank you to Drake White and Dylan Bloom for all your support!

A child makes a wish. YOU make the difference.

(Left) Country singer Drake White with wish alum, Grace; (above) Country singer Dylan Bloom

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

Lucas, 14
neurological disorder
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
(Wish Year 2018)

J.R., 31
genetic disorder
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
(Wish Year 1997)

Evan, 20
cancer
I wish to have a shopping spree
(Wish Year 2020)

Carter, 4
nervous system disorder
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
(Wish Year 2023)

Maggie, 4
seizure disorder
(passed away before wish was granted)

Ryker, 12
nervous system disorder
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
(Wish Year 2018)

Ameer, 13
wilms tumor
(passed away before wish was granted)

Luke, 2
nervous system disorder
(passed away before wish was granted)

Bristol, 12
nervous system disorder
I wish to have a playstructure
(Wish Year 2016)

Listed are wish kids we have been made aware of, we apologize for any unintentional omissions.

Make-A-Wish®
NEBRASKA

Headquarters
1005 South 107th Avenue, Suite 102
Omaha, NE 68114

Lincoln satellite office
8033 South 15th Street, Suite B
Lincoln, NE 68512

Kearney satellite office
412 East 25th Street, Suite D
Kearney, NE 68847

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@makeawishnebraska

If you know someone who would like to receive our mailings, or if you wish to be removed from our mailing list please contact our office by email info@nebraska.wish.org or call 800-760-9474.

To refer a child:
Visit wish.org/refer-a-child
Call 800-760-WISH (9474)

#1 Most Trusted Nonprofit Operating Locally Across 50 States
MAKE-A-WISH®
MORNING CONSULT® 2024

Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

Events

Thanks to Bryan Stava & Dr. Angie Kratochvil-Stava and the Kearney High School Student Council, wish kid Emily found out her wish to go to Hawaii was being granted at the 2024 Kearney Evening of Wishes gala.

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

Turkey Trot
November 28, 2024 | Omaha

KFRX Wheel of Wishes
December 6, 2024 | Lincoln

Wish Ball
February 22, 2025 | Lincoln

Pot O'Wishes
March 13, 2025 | North Platte

Blue Jean Ball
April 12, 2025 | Omaha

Wine, Whiskey and Wishes
May 8, 2025 | Omaha

Evening of Wishes Gala
August 15, 2025 | Kearney

Wine, Whiskey and Wishes
September 18, 2025 | Lincoln