

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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wish.org/wisconsin

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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 jgabel@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.

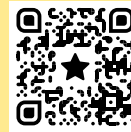


The Milwaukee Walk For Wishes event is held at the Summerfest Grounds South Gate along the picturesque lakefront, with free convenient parking. The event includes a kids dash, 1-mile and 5K option, as well as food trucks, entertainment and family fun.



MADISON

McKee Farms Park, Fitchburg
Saturday, August 24, 2024
wish.org/wisconsin/madisonwalk



MILWAUKEE

Summerfest South Gate
Saturday, September 7, 2024
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.



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.

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.



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. View photos from Wish Night: 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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Vegas Indoor Skydiving
Wake The Lake

I wish to go indoor skydiving

Aila, 8
respiratory disorder



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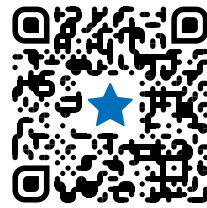
ESTATE PLANNING MATTERS

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.



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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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

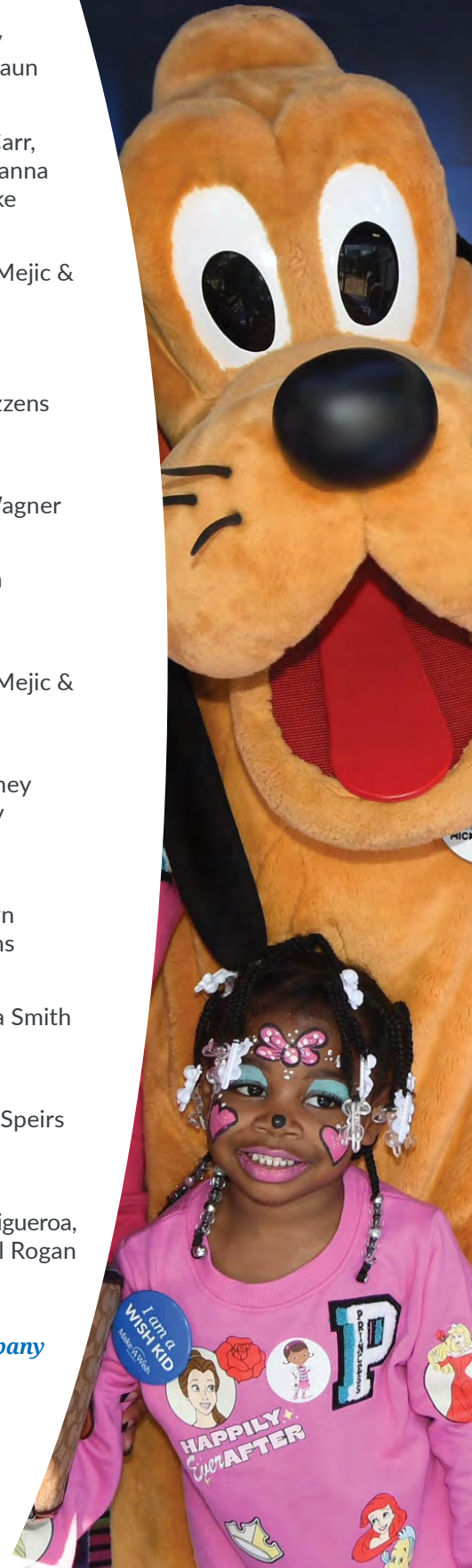
Wish Granters: Cathy Speirs
& Marie Waddell

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 doctors 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
Schaeetz & 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

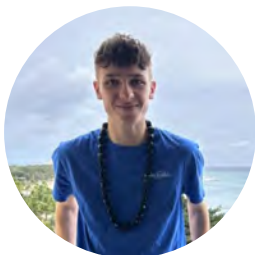
Wish Granters: Daniel Giles
& Candace Richter



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

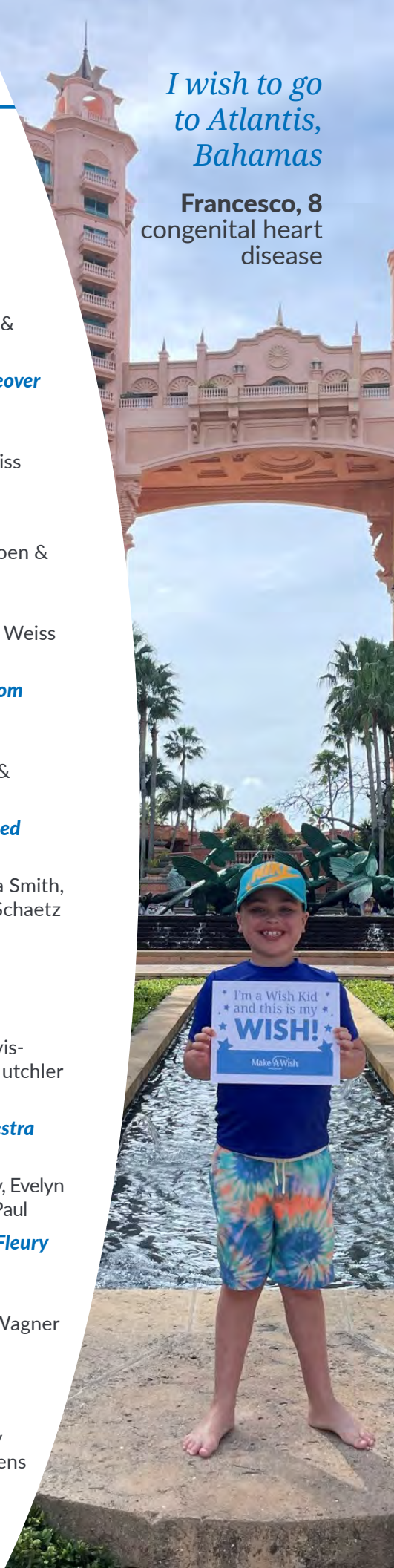
...to have a UTV

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.

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.



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 |
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| 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> |

Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Wisconsin
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Wauwatosa, WI 53226

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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.

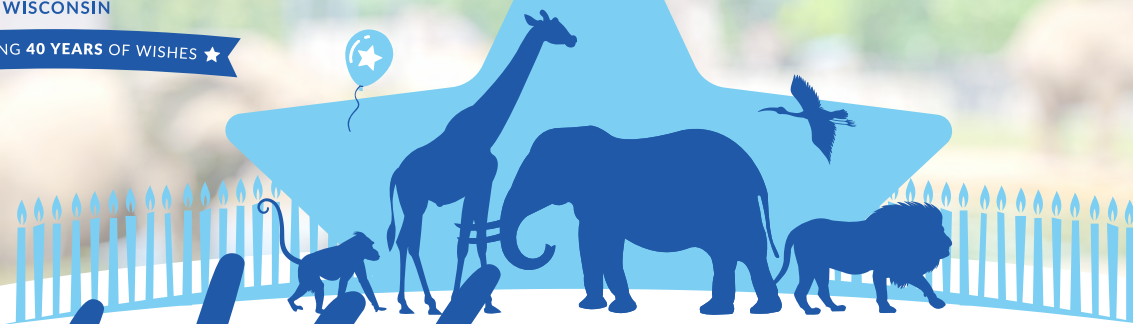


Help keep our mailing list current!

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

Make-A-Wish®
WISCONSIN

★ CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WISHES ★



Wild 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.

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. We do not want anyone to miss out!



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