

# wishful THINKING

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
MAKE-A-WISH® WISCONSIN  
2024 ISSUE 3

## HENRY: GOTTA CATCH 'EM ALL!

*I wish to have a Pokémon party at my  
favorite place - the Milwaukee County Zoo*

## Gourmet Wishes

*Indulge in incredible food and drinks  
while making wishes come true*



## TRIPS THAT TRANSFORM

*Donate your Airline Miles*



# 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

Thanks to you, this World Wish Month was reason for celebrating. From supporting local events, to sharing powerful stories of wish alumni, to donating to help grant the wishes of children with critical illnesses – you were proof that where there's a wish, there's a way.

As a child faces the fear, isolation and harsh treatments that come with a critical illness, it's important that they don't have to wait even one unnecessary day for a wish – that's because we know that a wish has the power to help kids like Henry (see page 10) overcome the hopelessness, depression and loneliness that often come with a critical illness. In fact, the overwhelming majority of medical providers agree that wishes can create better health outcomes and better odds of overcoming an illness.

Whether you choose to donate funds, auction items or in-kind services; host or attend a fundraising event; include Make-A-Wish Wisconsin as a beneficiary in your will; volunteer or give unused airline miles at [wish.org/wisconsin/miles](http://wish.org/wisconsin/miles), the gifts you share will have a far-reaching impact on the special children we serve.

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, experience and circumstances can fit into the Make-A-Wish® mission. Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. Thank you!

Warmest Wishes,



Joe Imhoff  
Board Chair



Patti Gorsky  
President & CEO



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Join us for a night of indulgence while making wishes come true.

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Make-A-Wish®  
WISCONSIN

★ CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WISHES ★

[wish.org/wisconsin](http://wish.org/wisconsin)



# 40 YEARS OF IMPACT

## Wish Alum. Where are they Now?

In 2007, Alex was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma. When he found out that he qualified for a wish, Alex decided he wished to go on an Alaskan train ride. His wish came true in 2008 when he was just 10 years old. He remembers driving the train through a mountain, visiting the Iditarod dogsled training camp, hiking glaciers and more. Of his wish, Alex says, "it was something that I could look forward to while I went through treatment. It not only provided me hope for my future, but the wish inspired me that anything is possible."

Alex now works for the Wisconsin State Senate Sergeant at Arms Office and also serves in the Wisconsin National Guard. He is currently activated on leave from the Senate and is on active duty orders with the Army for support to the National Guard Bureau Joint Staff at the Pentagon. He is married to his wife, Katie and they have a bluetick coonhound named Patches. Alex and Katie were also both wish granters for Make-A-Wish Wisconsin before moving to Virginia for his current role at the Pentagon.

Alex says, "I credit Make-A-Wish with inspiring me to pursue things that didn't seem possible, that I was told couldn't be done. The wish made me see that there was so much good in the world; from the WishMakers, to the volunteers, to the people who donated financially to make it all possible."

## MAKE A CHANGE

*Selfless. Dedicated. Generous.*

# THANK YOU, BOARD MEMBERS

The following Board Directors have given selflessly of their time, talents and treasures as volunteer leaders to serve the Make-A-Wish mission. As they rotate off of our Board, we thank them and are grateful for the legacy they have created through their contributions.



**Brian Dranzik**

**Brian's** contributions over the past six years have helped secure great visibility of the Make-A-Wish mission at MKE Mitchell International Airport. He has also helped our team navigate TSA security, making the wish experience even greater for traveling wish families. He and his team have also collected hundreds of toys and gifts through toy drives at the airport during the holidays.



**John Herbers**

Over the past six years, **John** has provided legal guidance to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin and has served as Legal Chair for the past four years. He has also regularly participated in events and worked with us on our gift acceptance policies and planned giving program.



**Julie Niznansky**

The first member of Wishmakers of Wisconsin (emerging leaders group) to serve as a Board Director, **Julie** has made significant contributions over the past three years, serving on committees, volunteering and participating at events and introducing the Make-A-Wish mission to others in her community.



**Sherri Mowery Perrigo**

**Sherri's** contributions over the past six years have helped advance the Make-A-Wish mission, bringing new community members to our Make-A-Wish family, serving on committees and hosting events benefiting Make-A-Wish.



**Dana World Patterson**

**Dana** is a wish mom who understands the significant impact of a wish. Her son Jordan wished to meet Kobe Bryant. Over the past three years, she has brought keen insights and perspectives that have helped guide our strategic plan, participated in events and served on committees.

Featured Fundraiser

# GOURMET WISHES

Join in the magic of making wishes come true, while experiencing our spectacular signature gala on October 16th at the Resch Expo overlooking Lambeau Field.



Indulge in delicious gourmet food, decadent desserts, martinis, wines, and craft beers. More than 40 of the area's finest establishments participate and serve their best, including: Republic Chophouse, Mangiare, Primal Eats, Chives, Legacy Hotel, Taverna in the Sky at Lodge Kohler, and Cheesecake Heaven to name a few. Plus, enjoy live music, an impressive auction, inspiring program with creative storytelling featuring local wish kids & much more.

Secure your place as a cherished sponsor of this incredible event today to help make life-changing wishes come true for local kids battling critical illnesses. Please call (920) 993-9994 or email Kris at [kteofilo@wisconsin.wish.org](mailto:kteofilo@wisconsin.wish.org) to reserve your table.

## AUGUST 23-25 @ KIMBERLY SLAYER SUNSET SHOWDOWN

8U baseball teams throughout the state are invited to come together at Sunset Park in Kimberly to help support local kids awaiting their greatest wish! For more details, visit [wish.org/wisconsin/slayer](http://wish.org/wisconsin/slayer).

## SEPTEMBER 8 @ YAHARA HEIGHTS COUNTY PARK, WAUNAKE



Grab your dog leashes and walking shoes for a worthy cause! Pup families will form teams to help raise money for local kids. Prizes available. For more details, contact Shauna at 608-829-3547 or email [shauna.marlowe@dogtopia.com](mailto:shauna.marlowe@dogtopia.com)



**8th Annual  
Nate Dax  
Memorial  
Bass Open,  
August 24th,  
Shawano.  
\$100 per  
boat entry  
fee, 50% of  
registration  
fee is donated  
back to  
Make-A-Wish  
Wisconsin.**

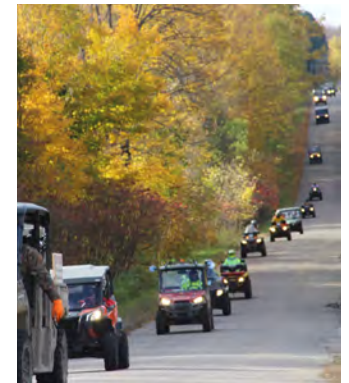
For more information visit [facebook.com/NateDaxMemorialBassOpen](https://facebook.com/NateDaxMemorialBassOpen).

## SEPTEMBER 10 @ POPLAR HALL, APPLETON & OCTOBER 22 @ GATHER AT DEER DISTRICT, MILWAUKEE

### WINDOWS FOR A CAUSE

After the professionals at Renewal by Andersen install new windows in a home, they take the old windows and collaborate with local artists, organizations and community figures to create art pieces that are auctioned off to support local kids battling critical illnesses. The art is themed around a local child's wish and inspires the artists to tap into their creativity as they turn used into unforgettable.

For more details, visit [wish.org/wisconsin/windows](http://wish.org/wisconsin/windows).



## OCTOBER 12 @ WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

### 14TH ANNUAL ATV/UTV CHARITY RIDE

Ride area road routes through the Kettle Moraine area. Dinner included for registered attendees. Evening events include raffles, kids games, silent auction, and prizes. For more details visit [kmatva.com](http://kmatva.com).



## WISHES ON PAR

Golf for Wishes presented by CoVantage Credit Union was held on July 15th at Butte des Morts Country Club in Appleton

156 golfers joined us to experience an inspiring day of golf with fun hole events & incredible treats throughout the course, a delicious lunch sponsored by The Honey Baked Ham Co., an impressive auction and dinner where guests were inspired by local wish kids and their families sharing their impactful stories. Special thanks to our dedicated committee, participants and sponsors for helping to make 25 life-changing wishes come true for local kids facing heartbreaking critical illnesses! Thanks to our caring sponsors who helped make this important event possible!

Photos from this event, courtesy of Mason Sterr and Digital Fever Media, are available online at [flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin/albums/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/makeawishwisconsin/).



**Bergstrom Automotive** team members raised a record amount of \$355,000 for wish kids during their June 3500 sales event! All Bergstrom dealerships donated \$5 for every test drive taken, \$50 for every vehicle purchased or leased and \$5 for each new fan on their social platforms. As well, Bergstrom dealerships throughout the Fox Valley, Green Bay, Oshkosh & Madison held a special Oil Change Day offering discounted oil changes with a donation of \$15 or more to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin. Thank you, Bergstrom Automotive team, for making a BIG impact on local wish kids.



The annual **Make Their Hearts Smile Truck Convoy** raised over \$30,000 to help give kids battling critical illnesses much needed hope through a wish come true. Thank you to everyone who participated.



Thank you to everyone who supported **Patricia's Annual Birthday Poker Run**! They raised over \$23,000 to grant wishes for local children in memory of their friend and loved one, Patricia.



## HEARTFELT HOPE

Wishes by the Bay, presented by Exact Sciences, was held on May 16th at Bishops Bay Country Club, Middleton

Over 180 Madison area business and community leaders gathered at Wishes by the Bay on the beautiful shores of Lake Mendota. Host and Make-A-Wish board member Chris McIntosh, along with Steve and Miki Stark, and other wish families shared their inspiring and heartfelt stories while helping to raise \$49,000 for local wishes. Guests also enjoyed an impressive silent auction, Kessler's diamond pull, an appearance by Bucky Badger and incredible food. Special thanks to our dedicated committee, participants and sponsors for helping to make 12 life-changing wishes come true for local children battling critical illnesses.

Photos from this event, courtesy of Holly Smith, are available online at [flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin/albums/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/makeawishwisconsin/).



**REALTORS® Association of Northeast Wisconsin** held their annual Timber Rattlers Fundraiser. Complete with a local wish family, raffles & hot dogs, they set a goal to raise over \$30,000 for wishes!



The 1st annual **Harrigan for Wishes Golf Outing** at The Bull in Sheboygan Falls was a huge success! Run by a wish dad, the outing included hole events, an auction and wish ambassadors, raising \$28,093.



Romenesko Developments held their 10th annual **Strikes for Charity** bowling event including raffles, inspiring speeches and more! They raised \$26,405 in critical funds for local wish kids.



**StoneRidge Piggly Wiggly** stores in De Pere, Kaukauna, Little Chute, Wautoma & Winneconne held another round up campaign and raised an impressive \$59,701 to help grant local kid's wishes.

Donor Spotlight

# MADISON PEDIATRIC DENTAL AND ORTHODONTICS



Dr. Grace Wenham (left) and Dr. Beth Blair (middle) of Madison Pediatric Dental and Orthodontics at Walk For Wishes.

Madison Pediatric Dental and Orthodontics is not only a local leader in their industry, but they are also a leader in the local philanthropic community.

In 2011, a member of their team was diagnosed with cancer and in her honor, they donated to Walk For Wishes Madison. Since then, Madison Pediatric Dental and Orthodontics has donated more than \$68,000 to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin and **has helped grant over 50 life-changing wishes to Madison area kids battling critical illnesses.**

Madison Pediatric Dental & Orthodontics is a unique, family-oriented business located in Monona, Wisconsin. They provide pediatric dentistry and orthodontics in a relaxed, movie theater-themed environment. They have been providing pediatric dental care for over 40 years and opened a new facility this past June. And, it is no wonder that they are such strong advocates for our wish families, as their support of kids and families is at the core of their mission.

We are thrilled to have Madison Pediatric Dental and Orthodontics as part of our Make-A-Wish world, and they are a cherished partner bringing hope, strength and joy to wish kids and their families.

## THANK YOU, DONORS

Our sincere thanks to the donors listed below and on the following page, who made contributions and in-kind donations to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin between April 1 and June 30, 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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 blood disorder

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 Scott Lauber  
 Brett Lee  
 Lemonade for Wishes  
 Heather Leonovicz  
 Valerie Lohse  
 Jamie Malcom  
 Mary Kate's Wine Bar Bingo  
 John Mickol  
 Raymond Miller  
 Pamela Morrow  
 Christine Nelson  
 Brian and Julie Niznansky  
 Tom and Debbie Obrodovich  
 Jennifer Ororke  
 Kate Otis  
 Pat O'Toole  
 Jeri Penzey  
 Kevin Phelps  
 Steve Pollack  
 Beth Pramme  
 Kimberly Rosenmayer  
 Tanya Salman  
 Matthew Schlidt  
 Jackie Schmidt  
 School Specialty  
 Christopher Schuele  
 Michele Sekula  
 Tony Sikorski  
 Christina Sladky  
 Tod Sloan  
 Brooke Stadel  
 Ann Stadler  
 Nikki & Asa Stafford  
 Ellen Stark  
 Barbara Stein

Gary Steinhafel  
 Andrew Stimmel  
 Erin Stoop  
 Sure-Dry, LLC  
 Leslie Tector  
 The Learning Experience - Menomonee Falls  
 ThedaCare  
 Torry Thuli  
 Tagen Vaughn  
 Michael Vogel  
 Carey Vollmers  
 WE Energies - Geoffrey Schlicht  
 WE Energies - Mark Schmidt  
 Elizabeth Wells  
 Wisconsin Alumni Student Board  
 John Wong  
 Woodman's Food Market  
 Suzanne Zblewski

**IN-KIND DONATIONS**

**\$20,000+**  
 Give Kids The World Village  
 Sheraton Waikiki  
**\$10,000 to \$19,999**  
 Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa  
 Avis Rent A Car Systems, Inc.  
 Crossmark Graphics  
 Disneyland Resort  
 Enterprise Holdings  
 Kesslers Diamonds  
 Kirchner Custom Builders  
 Size 43  
 The Twin Fin  
 Harris Turer  
**\$5,000 to \$9,999**  
 AHS Investments  
 Bartolotta Restaurant Group  
 City Center Condo Owners Association  
 Discovery Cove  
 Discovery World  
 Door County Candle Co.  
 Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort  
 Dennis and Pam Klumb  
 Mapl Storage  
 Marcus Hotels & Resorts  
 Molson Coors  
 Quietwoods RV Sales

**MAKE-A-WISH WISCONSIN DONORS (CONT.)**

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 The Scan Group  
 Steve Stark  
 Studio Gear  
 Verizon Wireless  
 WDS Construction  
**\$1,000 to \$4,999**  
 4imprint  
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 Atlantis Adventures LLC  
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 Blaise and Denise Beaulier  
 Bishops Bay Country Club  
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 Dolphin Quest Oahu  
 Drexel Building Supply  
 Dusty Lewis  
 Elevate Brand Photography  
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 Festival Foods  
 Fusion Recruiters  
 Generac Power Systems, Inc.  
 Gordon Food Service  
 Hawks Bay Resort  
 Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa  
 iHeart Media  
 Jai Bird  
 Janzen Concrete LLC  
 The Jendusa Family  
 Kualoa Ranch Hawaii, Inc  
 Kunes Country Freedom  
 Kune's Fox Valley RV  
 John Labarber  
 Legoland  
 Lei Greetings Inc  
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 Marcus Corporation  
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 Chuck and Toni Palmer  
 Pat McCurdy  
 Real Flame

Burton Robertson  
 Rod's Ride On Powersports, Inc.  
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 SSA Group  
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 The Chef's Table  
 The Milwaukee Brewers  
 The Yelich Realty Group  
 Tmj4 Front Yard 4cast  
 Universal Studios  
 UW Athletic Department  
 Steve Vincenze  
 Kristin and Patrick Walsh  
 Wilderness Hotel and Golf Resort  
 Mike and Bridget Zimmerman  
**\$500 to \$999**  
 501st Legion Wisconsin Garrison  
 Adventure 60 North  
 Airbnb  
 Associated Bank  
 Badger Sports Park  
 Buxom Boudoir  
 Capitol-Hustling Co, Inc.  
 Carnevor Steakhouse  
 Moderne

Chef's Luau  
 Craig Coshun  
 Delicately Delicious  
 Samantha Eichhorn  
 Educators Credit Union  
 Friend Like Me  
 Fromm Family Foods  
 Dave Hempel  
 Girl Scout Troop 2257  
 Daniel Grunwaldt  
 Hauseman Group, 1848 Construction, Milford Hills  
 Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa and Marina  
 Iconica  
 JoJo Moore  
 Kenai Fjords Tours  
 Kendra Scott  
 Richard Kessler  
 Kimpton Gray  
 Mike and Beth Klumb  
 Michael Klurfeld  
 Ko Olina Ocean Adventures  
 Steve Lister  
 Maggiano's Little Italy  
 Magic Coach Transportation  
 Darrel Malek & Family  
 Matty's Bar  
 Chris McIntosh



Deb Mikulski  
 Milwaukee Balloon Co.  
 Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport  
 Steve Nelson  
 Katie Nohl  
 Tammy Noll  
 Nothing Bundt Cakes  
 One Am Media  
 Orlando Medical Rentals  
 Pepsi Cola Of Madison  
 Pink Jeep Tours - Grand Canyon  
 Play N Wisconsin  
 Polynesian Cultural Center  
 Ross Zentner Lighting Design & Photography  
 Bill Schroder  
 Sea Life Park Hawaii  
 Shyla Brown Photography  
 Anthony Sikorski  
 Sundara Inn & Spa Wisconsin Dells  
 Tawn Williams and House Of Anaya  
 The Fifty Sonesta  
 Total Transportation Corporation  
 Traveling Bags  
 Brian and Katie Trexell  
 University Club Of Milwaukee  
 Walt Disney World Resort  
 Washington House Inn  
 West Towne Mall  
 Wonderfold  
 Woodmans  
 Nick and Mary Pat Zarcone



**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS**

Since last September, we have been celebrating Make-A-Wish Wisconsin's 40th birthday in grand style with Birthday Community receptions across the state, including Eau Claire, La Crosse, Wausau, Kenosha, Green Bay, Minocqua, Madison and Wauwatosa. And, we have one more on October 3 in Beloit. RSVP today at [wish.org/wisconsin/40years](http://wish.org/wisconsin/40years).

We also had a "wild" day at the Milwaukee County Zoo on June 23 at our Wild Wishes Birthday Party as more than 1,000 Make-A-Wish Wisconsin family members gathered to celebrate 40 years of granting wishes. Thank you to everyone who participated and to all of our sponsors, including ABC Supply Co., Inc., Bergstrom Automotive, Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Admirals, The Jendusa Family, Molson Coors Beverage Company, Sartori Cheese, Yacht Blast for Kids and EveryDayGood Foundation.

**GOLF FOR WISHES**

There are only a few foursomes left for Golf for Wishes, coming up Monday, September 23 at the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa in Lake Geneva.

Do not miss this fantastic day that includes 18 holes on the Brute or Highlands course, hot breakfast, food and refreshments on the course, wish kid interactions, silent auction, prizes, heavy apps and drinks after golf and a short inspirational program – all to make wishes come true for kids with critical illnesses. Register now at [wish.org/wisconsin/golf-geneva](http://wish.org/wisconsin/golf-geneva).





# THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted  
April 1 - June 30, 2024

## ...to have an Accessible Deck

### Mason, 4

Wish Granters: Kayla Cywinski-Gendron & Susan Danner-Rivers

## ...to go to Alaska

### Veronica, 10

Wish Granters: Esmeralda Perez & Christina Italiano

### Louisa, 18

Wish Granter: Peggy Van Grinsven

## ...to go to Ashland, WI

### Malinda, 7

Wish Granters: Corinne Kennedy, Linda Ryfinski, Cheryl Muller & Kriste Simonson

## ...to go to Atlantis, Bahamas

### Lillian, 15

Wish Granters: Corinne Kennedy, Linda Ryfinski, Sandra Smith & Dana Smith

## ...to have a Basketball court

### Soren, 8

Wish Granters: Amanda Burton & Thomas Bauer

## ...to have a Bedroom Makeover

### Archer, 3

Wish Granters: Karen Kaempffe & Cathy Speirs

## ...to have a Bernedoodle

### Rhapsody, 8

Wish Granters: Peggy Van Grinsven, Julie Carr & Holly De Long

## ...to have Bike Ramps

### Jameson, 5

Wish Granters: Corey & Jennifer Kuchta

## ...to have a Camper

### Braelynn, 3

Wish Granters: Kayla Cywinski-Gendron & Susan Danner-Rivers

### Abel, 4

Wish Granters: Kimberly James & Michelle Friemoth

### Marko, 4

Wish Granters: Heather Schuette & Kim Christensen

### Shayna, 6

Wish Granters: Shelby Robbins & Tacy DeRouin

### Caiden, 16

Wish Granters: Holly De Long & Marie Waddell

## ...to have a Chicago Shopping Spree

### Omar, 15

Wish Granters: Mike Savage, Cathy Speirs & Jessica Diederich

## ...to go to the Cincinnati Zoo

### Alyssa, 20

Wish Granters: Thomas Bauer & Amanda Burton

## ...to go to Destin, FL

### Mei, 6

Wish Granters: Beth Schuster & Janice Holling

## ...to go to Discovery Cove

### Charles, 8

Wish Granters: Kristin Paul & Kathryn Finley

### David, 14

Wish Granters: Paula & Craig Hokanson

### Kyleigh, 17

Wish Granters: Cynthia Seichter & Renee Weiss

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

### Gracyn, 3

Wish Granters: Patricia Adams & Tori Hrubesky

### Janney, 3

Wish Granters: Joelle Rosen, Tammy Kreger & Teresa McDowell

### Rosemary, 3

Wish Granters: Tracy Bantz & Lisa Rice

### Abby, 4

Wish Granters: Michel Klein & Claire Denton

### Evelyn, 4

Wish Granters: Kevin and Dale Johnson, Ashley Krasowski & Michel Klein

### MaCollin, 4

Wish Granters: Jeremy & Megan Kox

### Ailyn, 5

Wish Granters: Shelby Robbins & Sara Zibert

### Daryl, 5

Wish Granters: Patricia Miller & James Corona

### Jewel, 5

Wish Granters: Angela Perez, Claire Ruggiero & Jaime Mueller

### Lylah, 5

Wish Granters: Melissa Caulum & Carissa Caulum

### Maverick, 5

Wish Granters: John & Linda Smedema

### Parker, 5

Wish Granters: Jennifer DeBruin & Susan Lamprich

### Reyna, 5

Wish Granters: Patricia Mehalos & Molly Koldeway

### Elayne, 6

Wish Granters: Juli Moen & Carolyn Griese

### Elias, 6

Wish Granters: Larry Levy & Angela Perez

### Zahlina, 6

Wish Granters: Kristen & Jeff Hurt

### Brandon, 7

Wish Granters: Aleece Jesse & Larry Levy

### Harlie, 7

Wish Granters: Kriste Simonson, Sara Suehs & James Corona

### Jayden, 7

Wish Granters: Jeremy & Megan Kox

### Jett, 7

Wish Granters: Megan Salinas & Maria Keizer

### Leahni, 7

Wish Granters: Barbara Palmby & Roberta Sarow

### Domonick, 8

Wish Granters: Jenna McReynolds & Whitney Lien

### Lilith, 8

Wish Granters: John & Linda Smedema

### Noah, 8

Wish Granters: Marie Waddell & Alanna Martella

### Arianna, 9

Wish Granters: Shari & Todd Beland

### Dean, 9

Wish Granters: Paula & Craig Hokanson

### Cayden, 10

Wish Granters: Karen Gunderson & Elizabeth Erickson

### Darielle, 10

Wish Granters: Patricia Mehalos & Leah Whatley

### Scarlett, 10

Wish Granters: Paula & Craig Hokanson

### Rowan, 11

Wish Granters: Julie Carr & Peggy Van Grinsven

### Ava, 13

Wish Granters: Brianna Hansen & Rosie Miliacca

### Journey, 13

Wish Granters: Linda Ryfinski & Corinne Kennedy

### Charlotte, 14

Wish Granters: Lisa Rice & Betsy Roth-Wojcicki

### Noah, 14

Wish Granters: Michele Fritsch & Mallory Fritsch

### Brett, 16

Wish Granters: Kristin Paul & Kathryn Finley

### Isabella, 16

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

### Jacob, 20

Wish Granters: Sherri Mowery Perrigo, Larry Levy & Daniel Rogan

### Miracle, 20

Wish Granter: Amy Reineking

## ...to go to Disneyland® Resort

### Hayden, 8

Wish Granters: Barbara Pahlow & Maurine Braun

## ...to go to the Florida Keys

### Cashton, 5

Wish Granters: Jodi Harris & Barbara Palmby

### Owen, 6

Wish Granters: Peggy Van Grinsven & Gail Fleury

### Alexander, 7

Wish Granters: Jennifer Mrdutt & Heather Schuette

## ...to have a Gaming PC Setup

### Mason, 16

Wish Granters: Tara Thom & Carmen Bruss

## ...to go to Grand Canyon National Park

### Lillie, 11

Wish Granters: Linda Ryfinski, Corinne Kennedy, Heather Loughney & Kelly Johnson

## ...to go to Hawaii

### Brody, 8

Wish Granters: Karen Gunderson & Elizabeth Erickson



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 have a Pokémon party at my favorite place - the Milwaukee County Zoo!*

# GOTTA CATCH 'EM ALL

At just two-years-old, Henry was diagnosed with leukemia, a type of cancer of the blood and bone marrow that affects white blood cells. His mother, Kaycee, shares Henry's story:

"Our lives were completely turned upside down. Henry spent the first six weeks of his treatment in the Hospital. Due to COVID-19 precautions, very few people were allowed to see Henry. Henry has two older siblings and it was very hard for them to understand what was going on with their brother. They had a lot of questions, and were very worried they could lose their little brother.

Henry went through two years of treatment, and as of July of 2023, he rang the bell at Children's Wisconsin.

Henry's wish was such an honor. It was a day filled with Henry's favorite things. We all went around the Milwaukee County Zoo to different stations to catch the Pokémon and then came back for a celebration with all of Henry's favorite foods! Henry talks about his Pokémon wish day weekly and wears the Pokémon trainer outfit he was given as often as he can.

Henry's Dad and I are divorced, and I feel that this wish brought our entire families together for a day of pure celebration for everything we all had gone through. We cannot thank Make-A-Wish enough for the awesome wish they provided for our little hero!"

You can see more photos from Henry's wish, courtesy of Elysha Rice Photography, on our Flickr page at [flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin](https://www.flickr.com/photos/makeawishwisconsin/).

**Henry's Wish Granters:** Gina Stawicki, Courtney Wisniewski, Ellen Stark & Alyssa Madison





# THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted  
April 1 - June 30, 2024

## Alexander, 9

Wish Granters: Dawn Marcott, Lynn Wagner & Cheryl Muller

## Hudson, 5

Wish Granters: Barbara Palmby & Jodi Halpin

## Archer, 8

Wish Granters: Molly Koldeway & Kelly Burk

## Chimajem, 8

Wish Granters: Jeremy & Megan Kox

## Allison, 10

Wish Granters: Jeremy & Megan Kox

## Mikah, 10

Wish Granter: Joy Lancour

## Robert, 10

Wish Granters: Corinne Kennedy & Linda Ryfinski

## Damaria, 11

Wish Granters: Lauren Hannes & Amanda Mutchler

## Zachary, 11

Wish Granters: Dilarom Batyrova St. Louis, Mary Streveler, Joy Lancour & Steven Hesselberg

## Mia, 13

Wish Granters: Megan Davis-Rosandich, Mike & Carolyn Conley

## Vida, 13

Wish Granters: Amanda Burton & Thomas Bauer

## Arianna, 15

Wish Granter: Holly De Long

## Ethan, 15

Wish Granters: Julie Carr & Carley Hilt

## Kayden, 15

Wish Granters: Amber Friedrichsen & Roberta Sarow

## Noah, 15

Wish Granters: Emily Mayer & Elizabeth Sobczak

## Wyatt, 15

Wish Granters: Jennifer Wenzlaff & Mary Pitzner

## Anjelo, 17

Wish Granters: Angela Perez & Rachel Langer

## Josue, 19

Wish Granters: Holly De Long

## Madeline, 19

Wish Granter: Kim Christensen

## Ashley, 21

Wish Granter: Peggy Van Grinsven

## Sydney, 21

Wish Granters: Cynthia Slane, Jan Berkholtz & Lisa Lewitzke

## ...to go to Aulani, A Disney® Resort & Spa

### Ellison, 7

Wish Granters: Jeanette Dickinson & Sandra Melby

### Olivia, 11

Wish Granter: Joy Lancour

### Laura, 12

Wish Granters: Stephen & Susan Shea

### Liliana, 14

Wish Granters: Ashley Thomas & Tammy Lynn Grace

## ...to have a Montana Horse Experience

### Kate, 12

Wish Granters: Jennifer Eickelberg & Holly De Long

## ...to have an Inscribed Rolex

### Luke, 19

Wish Granter: Amy Reineking

## ...to have a Lawn Mower

### Coby, 11

Wish Granters: Ann Slifka & Kelly Johnson

## ...to have a Shopping Spree

### Colin, 17

Wish Granters: Sara Suehs, Lynn Wagner, Sara Zibert & Carol McChesney Johnson

### Kemaya, 18

Wish Granters: Jacqueline Peterson & Kayla Cywinski-Gendron

### Sharmaine, 19

Wish Granters: Kristen Wetzel, Kayla Cywinski-Gendron & Sara Zibert

### Sofia, 19

Wish Granters: Holly De Long & Marie Waddell

## ...to go to Los Angeles for a Shopping Spree

### Antonio, 17

Wish Granters: Larry Levy & Daniel Rogan

## ...to go to Mall of America

### Ivan, 12

Wish Granters: Cathy Speirs & Lisa Yursis

## ...to have a Marvel - Wonder Man Film Editing Experience

### Joseph, 19

Wish Granter: Amy Reineking

## ...to Meet AJR

### Ella, 15

Wish Granters: Jean Zoulek & Tracey Dorsey

## ...to meet KREW

### Nirupama, 11

Wish Granters: Carmen Bruss & Torrey Calkins

## ...to meet the cast of "Outer Banks"

### Halia, 16

Wish Granters: Kara McManus, Megan Davis-Rosandich, Candace Richter & Daniel Giles

## ...to go to Miami, FL

### Tina, 17

Wish Granters: Hnub Vue & Candace Richter

## ...to go to Morgan's Wonderland

### McKenzy, 15

Wish Granters: Larry Levy, Evelyn Greenberger & Daniel Rogan

## ...to go to Myrtle Beach

### Liliana, 15

Wish Granters: Kathy & Joseph Bartel

## ...to go to the NBA Finals

### Gage, 15

Wish Granters: Sara Derks & Patricia Rodencal

## ...to have a Broadway Experience in New York City

### Mira, 12

Wish Granters: Betsy Roth-Wojcicki & Larry Levy

## ...to have an Online Shopping Spree

### Armani, 10

Wish Granters: Faith Horn & Teresa McDowell

## ...to go to Orlando, FL

### Reece, 9

Wish Granters: Holly De Long & Peggy Van Grinsven

## ...to have an Outdoor Climbing Gym

### Nicolas, 6

Wish Granters: Maurine Braun & Carrie Cookson

## ...to Participate an Amazing Race

### Theresa, 18

Wish Granters: Karen Van Drisse & Kristin Paul

## ...to have a PC Streaming Setup

### Johnavin, 15

Wish Granters: Scott & Michelle Thompson

## ...to go to Playa Del Carmen, Mexico

### Braden, 18

Wish Granters: Joseph & Kathy Bartel

## ...to have a Pokémon Party

### Henry, 5

Wish Granters: Gina Stawicki, Courtney Wisniewski, Ellen Stark & Alyssa Madison

## ...to have a Prayer Shed

### Ameer, 18

Wish Granters: Ellen Stark & Sherry Miracle

## ...to go to San Diego

### Myles, 4

Wish Granters: Marilyn Stoll, Jean Zoulek & Michele Schaez

## ...to go to Super Nintendo World

### Brayden, 6

Wish Granters: Toni Palmer & Jack Kile

### Elias, 6

Wish Granters: Dana Mejic, Jamie Prost & Bryan Pauls

### Jace, 13

Wish Granters: Travis & Bridget Stargardt

## ...to have a Treehouse

### Makayla, 9

Wish Granters: Joseph & Kathy Bartel

## ...to go to Turks and Caicos

### Hadley, 11

Wish Granters: Greg & Polly Frisque

## ...to go to UFC 300 Las Vegas

### Emmett, 18

Wish Granters: Joseph & Kathy Bartel

### Patrick, 19

Wish Granters: Amy Reineking

## ...to go to Universal Studios Hollywood

### James, 8

Wish Granters: Joy Lancour & Steven Hesselberg

## ...to have a UTV

### Joshua, 19

Wish Granters: Claire Ruggiero, Jamie Prost & Lori Barry

## ...to go to VidCon

### Hunter, 10

Wish Granters: Tamara Engelke & Tara and Matt Buringa

### Jolynn, 14

Wish Granters: Cynthia Seichter, Maurine Braun, Kriste Simonson & Sara Zibert

## ...to go to Wyoming Dinosaur Center

### Jasmin, 16

Wish Granters: Michele Schaez & Peggy Van Grinsven



## WHO GETS A WISH?

A child with a critical illness who has reached the age of 2½ and is younger than 18 at the time of referral 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 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: This past June, McKenzie's wish to go to Morgan's Wonderland came true.*

# 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:*

APRIL 2024

## CHERYL ANDERSON



For the last three years, Cheryl saw the impact Make-A-Wish makes on children when her two grandsons were granted a wish. "My favorite part of volunteering for Make-A-Wish Wisconsin is meeting new families and making a real difference for the wish kids," exclaimed Cheryl.

MAY 2024

## JEANNA STIADLE



"I have love being part of the wish delivery celebrations," says Jeanna. "It has been so fun to pick out gifts, decorations, and desserts to celebrate with our wish kids. I love seeing their smiles when the celebration comes to fruition. I have been inspired by the positivity and resilience of the wish kids and families I have encountered through volunteering with Make-A-Wish."

JUNE 2024

## STEVE SHEA



Steve has learned over the past seven years that "every child and every wish is extraordinary. My first experience as a wish granter was for a very young girl who had a wonderful wish journey. She is now 10 years old and soliciting gift donations for future wish kids!"

## VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

### 10 YEARS

Terri Gauerke  
Myrt Sieger  
Angela Shea

### 5 YEARS

Mike Savage  
Kelly Durham  
Jo Marchionda

Megan Kox  
Ken Disher  
Janelle Disher

## ¿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).

## MEDICAL & IN-KIND SPOTLIGHT



Granting a wish takes an entire community to make each wish a reality. For example, 14-year-old Noah received his wish to go to *Walt Disney World*® Resort this past spring (pictured left). Living with Hodgkin's lymphoma, Noah has had to endure a lot. His parents said, "After all the scary things my son had to go through, we were able to forget about all of that for a little bit and enjoy our time together as a family." 95% of wish parents like Noah's say the wish experience improved their family's well-being.

Noah's wish journey began with a simple referral from **Michelle Honeck, MSW, Children's Wisconsin** (pictured middle). Michelle says, "As an oncology social worker, I have the privilege of introducing Make-A-Wish to many of the patients and families that I work with. You can almost always immediately see the child's face light up. I have been able to witness discussions and brainstorming between children/teens and their parents as they dream about what is possible. I recently had an experience with a teen who is having a really hard time with a difficult course of treatment. Her mom has been with her every step of the way. Watching the two of them smile over her wish idea and talk about how they will experience it together was powerful, knowing that there will be some light at the end of the tunnel for the both of them."



The wish journey continued for Noah as his wish began to take shape. **Traveling Bags Milwaukee** (pictured right), who have been in SE Wisconsin for over 20 years, provided donated luggage to Noah's family for his wish.

Through their support, they have provided 7 families, including Noah's, with a total of nearly 40 pieces of luggage. Every detail of a wish is important, and Traveling Bags MKE knows they can make an impact. Burton Robertson, Owner says "It's always the smiles of the kids... and the tears of the parents that make you happy and sad in a way that isn't describable, but you know it is all worth it. I feel Make-A-Wish is a cause worth supporting, one I can trust to do the right thing with donations."

## MAKE-A-WISH® REFERRAL SOURCES

Our thanks to those who referred children with wishes granted between April 1 and June 30, 2024:

**Aspirus Pediatrics**  
Chelsea Kubica, RN

**Children's Wisconsin**

Sheila Dodds, MSW; Carrie Torkilson, MSW; Dr. Nicholas Antos, MD; Dr. Steven Kindel, MD; Dr. Nancy Bass, MD; Latoya Stamper, MSW; Lauren Younker, RN; Michelle Honeck, MSW; Erin Sirovina, APNP; Elizabeth Bongert, RN; Dr. Joshua Kovach, MD; Hillary McCown, APNP; Dr. Kaitlin Kirkpatrick, MD

**Children's MN Cancer and Blood Disorders Program**

Lisanne Racine, LICSW

**Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare**

Dr. Charbel El Kousseifi, MD

**Gundersen Health System**

Cheri Hill, CTRS; Dr. Evan Kemp, MD

**HSHS St. Vincent's Children's Hospital**

Billie Hermans, LPN; Dr. Emma Lehman, MD; Ashley Thompson, CCLS; Kailee Hanson, Child Life Professional

**M Health Fairview Masonic Children's Hospital**

Carlye Tomczyk, CPNP

**Marshfield Medical Center Medical Office**

Dr. Kaye Andreae, MD; Lindsey Welch, Child Life Professional; Dr. Daryl Fish, MD; Lorrie Busche, MSW

**Mayo Clinic**

Britt Particelli, LICSW; Delaney Menoher, LGSW

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

Solomy Ntambi, MSW; Joyce Kilgore-Carlin, MSW; Craig Becker, MSW; Kim Sue Lamster, MSW; Jill Bowdish, CAPSW; Julie Strang, MSW; Megan Fecht, CAPSW; Eden Jackson, RN; Brittany Storhoff, NP; Dr. Katryn Furuya, MD; Bethany Doherty, MSW; Dr. Heidi Kloster, MD



## 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](http://wish.org/refer).

*Above: Hadley's wish to go to Turks and Caicos came true this past June.*



## CREATE A LEGACY OF LOVE

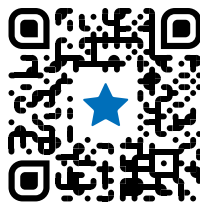
August is here, and with it comes a meaningful occasion: National Make-A-Will Month. This nationwide observance highlights the importance of making a will to ensure the future security of our loved ones and the causes we care deeply about.

Why consider creating your will now?

- Security: Your will outlines your wishes for finances and healthcare, preparing you for any unforeseen event.
- Peace of Mind: Ensure that your loved ones, including pets, are cared for no matter what.
- Impact: Creating a will is not just a practical step; it's an opportunity to create a legacy of compassion and care.

Our longstanding partnership with FreeWill gives you access to a no-cost and straightforward tool that simplifies the process of creating your will.

Your thoughtful planning today ensures a brighter tomorrow for the people and causes you care deeply about. Simply scan the QR code to learn more or visit [wish.org/wisconsin/willmonth](http://wish.org/wisconsin/willmonth).



SCAN QR CODE FOR INFO



## WORKPLACE GIVING

Did you know there are a lot of unique ways you can give through your workplace? Some of the options available include:

- Combined Federal Campaign – a giving outlet for federal employees – use CFC code #72371
- United Way of Milwaukee & Waukesha County – Make-A-Wish Wisconsin #43540
- United Way of Dane County - Make-A-Wish Wisconsin #373
- Creating Healthier Communities - Make-A-Wish Wisconsin #43540
- Thrivent Choice
- Payroll Deductions
- Employer Matching Gift Programs

To learn more on how you can give through your workplace, please visit [wish.org/wisconsin/wishmakers-work](http://wish.org/wisconsin/wishmakers-work).

## IN HONOR AND MEMORY

Our sincere thanks to everyone who gave gifts between April 1 and June 30, 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.*

### IN HONOR OF

August Anderson  
 Brian Barrett  
 Brother William Donlevy  
 Peg Engle  
 Peyton Foster  
 Patti Gorsky's 25th Anniversary  
 Patti Gorsky, Amy Bukowski and Kendall Boltz (1999 Disney World)

Mike Haddad  
 Donna and Lynn Inman's 60th Wedding Anniversary  
 Michael and Sherri Perrow's 50th Wedding Anniversary  
 James Probst  
 Elise Rowe  
 Jane Rublein  
 Geoffrey Schlicht  
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Alexander Schultz  
 Xander Sell  
 Carol Shapiro's Special Birthday  
 Zachary Sprader  
 Theresa's Wish  
 Laura Vacek  
 Karen Vandrisse's 60th Birthday  
 WE Energies Southern Service Line Area Mechanics Team

### IN MEMORY OF

Gerald Binsfeld  
 James Bokelman  
 Amy Bukowski  
 Richard Cabanatuan  
 Joseph Daniels  
 David Mews  
 Albert and Minnie Eckstein  
 Harold and Marcella Eichstadt  
 Jared Fredrickson  
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Thank you to the following sponsors who contributed at least \$4,000 or more to sponsor the wishes granted between April 1 and June 30, 2024.

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# WE REMEMBER

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

-  *Michael*
-  *Ella*
-  *Marshall*
-  *Owen*
-  *Liam*



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### Inside this Issue:

**Gourmet Wishes** – Join us for a night of indulgence while making wishes come true.

**Donor Spotlight** – Started as a gift in honor, this business has donated \$68,000+ for wishes.

**Further Your Legacy** – Your legacy can support wish kids not just today but for years to come.

**Gotta Catch 'Em All** – Henry's wish to have a Pokémon party brings renewed strength and joy.



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



# TRIPS THAT *Transform*

More than 500 kids are waiting right now for a life-changing wish and you can ensure they don't have to wait any longer than necessary.

Grab your frequent flier number (found on your statement) and visit [wish.org/wisconsin/miles](http://wish.org/wisconsin/miles) to donate your unused Delta, United, JetBlue or American Airlines miles today!

If you have questions regarding an airline miles donation, feel free to call 262-781-4445.

American Airlines: 800.882.8880 • JetBlue: 800.JET.BLUE  
United Airlines: 800.421.4655 • Delta SkyMiles: 800.323.2323

*I wish to go to the Florida Keys*

Alexander, 7  
leukemia

