

wishful THINKING

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
MAKE-A-WISH® WISCONSIN
2024 ISSUE 4

RENEWED HOPE

I wish to have a college scholarship

WISHES IN FLIGHT

Donate your airline miles

End-Of-Year Impact

See immediate tax benefits
with non-cash gifts

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

On August 31st, we ended fiscal year 2024. Thanks to the support of thousands of donors, volunteers, medical professionals and people like you, together, we granted a record breaking 451 life-changing wishes for children fighting critical illnesses.

Nick (page 8) is one of the many children who has experienced a transformative wish because of supporters like you. Every day, wishes like his come true – wishes that allow kids to see beyond their illnesses, to glimpse what the future could bring. And that kind of hope can give them a better chance of recovering.

No matter what role you choose to play, you can make an investment in a child's future, for their hope, strength and joy. As we approach the holidays and the time of Wishful Giving (page 16), please consider donating toys from our wish list, being part of our Wish-A-Thon radio event on December 12 & 13 or making a donation to help spark joy for children with critical illnesses.

No matter where we come from or who we are, we can all align with one truth: every child deserves a childhood. We know through research* that our mission gives a piece of it back. We're so grateful to have such dedicated, caring supporters like you by our side in our work.

Thank you, and warmest wishes,


Joe Imhoff
Board Chair


Patti Gorsky
President & CEO



HELP WISHES TAKE FLIGHT!



75% of wishes involve air travel, whether it's a wish to go to Hawaii (like Jasmine pictured left), the Walt Disney World® Resort, Japan, to meet a favorite celebrity or...

You can help make those wishes come true by donating your United, Delta, jetBlue or American Airline miles to Make-A-Wish.

Visit wish.org/wisconsin/miles, submit your frequent flier number found on your statement and the number of miles you wish to donate.

If you have questions or need help making your donation, please contact Haley at hbarta@wisconsin.wish.org.



★ CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WISHES ★

WELCOME, BOARD MEMBERS

With the start of a new fiscal year on September 1, we are thrilled to welcome two new Directors to our Board who bring outstanding talent, expertise and passion to the Make-A-Wish mission.

Kerri Beckett, M.D., pediatric oncologist at the Medical College of Wisconsin, practicing at Children's Wisconsin.

Kerri has been involved with Make-A-Wish in different capacities throughout her life - first as a wish kid in 2005, then as a volunteer in the different states she has lived in through college and medical school, and more recently by being a regular referral source to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin since beginning practice here.



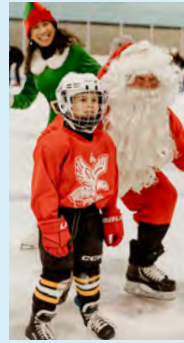
Nikki Stafford, VP, Pediatric Services & President, American Family Children's Hospital (AFCH). Nikki provides overall administrative direction to UW Health Kids/AFCH in accordance with the mission, vision and values of UW Health.

She is board certified in healthcare management as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), is a Fellow of the Riley Institute through Furman University and a member of the Greenville Chamber's Leadership Greenville-Class 46.



SKATING WITH SANTA

Join us in Neenah (Dec. 3) or Hartland (Dec. 12) to enjoy holiday festivities with ice skating, photos with Santa, cookie decorating and more. Admission to this event includes all the activities and skate rental. Purchase tickets and learn more at wish.org/wisconsin/santa.



GUEST BARTENDER NIGHT

Holidays Pub & Grill's Guest Bartender Night in Sheboygan is back again this year on December 18, to help make wishes come true! Complete with raffle baskets, tips, donations & more, the group aims to break their fundraising record of \$12,662!

CHEERS FOR WISHES: MARDI GRAS

Wishmakers of Wisconsin - Milwaukee is hosting its annual Cheers for Wishes on **February 28**, at Marcus Performing Arts Center in Milwaukee. Enjoy an evening of live Dixieland music from Extra Crispy Brass Band, silent auction, live artists, New Orleans appetizer stations, King Cake, casino tables, interactive entertainment and more! Purchase tickets and learn more at cheers24.givesmart.com.



40 YEARS OF IMPACT *Wish Alum. Where are they now?*

Damian is a two-time, 30+ year, one-in-a-billion survivor of childhood cancer. He was an active teenager whose bone cancer diagnosis left him with an ambulatory disability at the age of 13. Damian received his wish to have a shopping spree in 1992.

As a teenager, he quickly learned how to adapt to his "new normal" and today is a 46-year-old adaptive athlete, an adoptive father, and a successful social entrepreneur. He founded The Ability Center and is currently CEO, providing people impacted by disabilities with a daily opportunity to be fit, active, healthy, and to play.

Recently, Damian has been hard at work, preparing to build one of the country's first and most inclusive parks - Moss Universal Park. You can learn more about Damian's work at tacwi.org.





GOURMET WISHES

More than 650 guests enjoyed a spectacular evening at Gourmet Wishes, presented by Albert & Shirley Schmidt & Sartori Cheese, held at the Resch Expo in Green Bay. They indulged in an abundance of gourmet appetizers, decadent desserts, martinis, wines and craft beers. More than 40 of the area's finest establishments participated and served their best, including: Republic Chophouse; Mangiare, Primal Eats, Chive's, Taverne in the Sky at Lodge Kohler; and Cheesecake Heaven to name a few. Plus, guests enjoyed live music, auction and an inspiring program, featuring more than 40 local wish kids, including 13-year-old Sophia from Appleton whose wish to go to the *Walt Disney World*® Resort will soon come true!

Wish kid Sophia shared her incredible talents and passion for dance, along with her dance team as they brought down the house by dancing to "When You Wish Upon A Star!"

Special thanks to all of our participants, leadership committee, cherished restaurant and vendor partners, sponsors and volunteers, we raised enough funds to help grant nearly 60 life-affirming wishes for local kids! Save October 15, 2025 for next year's event.



WALK FOR WISHES®

Thanks to hundreds of participants in Madison and Milwaukee, this year's Walk For Wishes events raised enough funds to grant 45 wishes. The Madison Walk took place at McKee Farms Park in Fitchburg and featured wish families, Bucky Badger, a petting farm and more. The Milwaukee Walk, presented by Rheem was held at the Summerfest south gate and featured wish families, a wide range of family fun, food trucks and more. Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers and everyone who participated. Save these dates for next year's events: Madison – August 23, 2025 and Milwaukee – September 6, 2025.



GOLF FOR WISHES

This year's Golf for Wishes - Grand Geneva Resort, presented by Forest County Potawatomi Foundation, hosted 260 golfers for a beautiful day on the course. The event raised record-breaking funds, resulting in more than 30 wishes being granted. 260 golfers came out for a beautiful day at Grand Geneva Resort, enjoying 18 holes of golf, breakfast, lots of food options on the course, silent auction, raffle and a program and taco bar at the end. Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers, donors and golfers for making it a fantastic event. Save September 22, 2025 for next year's outing.

GOLF FOR WISHES PRESENTED BY SARGENTO & MASTERS GALLERY FOODS

Hundreds of supporters joined us for an inspiring day of golf at Blackwolf Run with fun hole events, incredible treats, lunch sponsored by Jimmy John's & more. Following an incredible day of world class golf, a fun after party took place at Pine Hills Country Club, where guests enjoyed food stations, live music, an impressive auction and were inspired by a local wish child and her family. Together, we raised enough critical funds to help grant 55 wishes! Thank you to our dedicated leadership committee, generous sponsors and supporters. Special thanks to our presenting sponsors Sargento and Masters Gallery Foods for their generosity in helping to make this event possible. Save August 18, 2025 for next year's outing.



View photos from these four Make-A-Wish events on Flickr: [flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin/albums/](https://www.flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin/albums/).



The 8th annual **Nate Dax Memorial Bass Open** took place at Huckleberry Harbor in Shawano for an inspiring day of fishing, story telling & raffles and raised \$17,500 for local wish kids!



The 4th annual Charity Golf Outing hosted by **Plexus Young Professionals** at Ridgeway Country Club raised nearly \$11,000 to help grant life-changing wishes!



The annual **Men with a Purpose** Golf Outing had another great year of helping to make wishes come true. They brought in a record-breaking \$43,157 to help grant wishes!



Capital City Riders M.C. held their annual charity event and raised \$13,818 and nearly \$121,000 total since 2010!



The **Grand Chute Lions Club's** Pancake Breakfast raised \$1,115 in support of granting life-changing wishes for kids!



The annual **Make Their Hearts Smile Truck Convoy** had a record-breaking year and raised over \$33,000! Thank you participants.



The **B.O.Bz Car Club** hosted their 7th annual Car Show for wish kids and raised over \$5,000 to help grant a special wish!



Yacht Blast for Kids raised over \$100,000 this year! Nearly 40 wish kids and their families rode on Milwaukee's premier yachts, followed by a picnic, all to help raise funds to grant wishes!



Renewal by Andersen held two magical nights filled with unique wish themed art. The annual **Windows for a Cause**, Appleton and Milwaukee events, raised over \$60,000 in total for wishes!



Local philanthropist & Make-A-Wish volunteer, Billy Weber, held **Running for Wishes** where he ran 38 miles in honor of his 38th birthday. His goal was to raise over \$10,000 for wish kids.



Thermal Chaos Pub N Grub's 2nd annual ATV Charity Ride was held on October 12th. Through registration fees, raffles & donations, they raised \$3,851 in support of local wish kids.



The **Kettle Moraine ATV Association** and **The Lakeshore ATV/UTV Club** hosted their 17th Annual ATV/UTV Charity Ride in West Bend. They raised \$22,500 in memory of wish kid Liam.



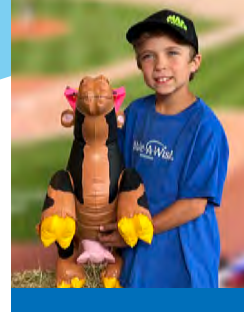
The 2nd annual **Slayer Sunset Showdown** where 8u baseball teams throughout the state came together at Sunset Park in Kimberly to raise \$7,500 to help grant a local child's wish.



Donor Spotlight REALTORS ASSOCIATION OF NORTHEAST WI

Over 11 years ago, the REALTORS Association of Northeast Wisconsin (RANW) began their fundraising efforts in hopes of helping local children receive their greatest wish come true. They have raised over \$200,000 throughout their amazing years of support, resulting in over 40 life-changing wishes granted.

RANW brings together different community partners, wish kids and team members to host an incredible night at the ballpark each year to bring in crucial funds for kids battling heart-breaking critical illnesses.



The RANW team is filled with generosity and works hard to help make a BIG difference within the community, all while being a beacon of hope for our wish kids & their families.

"The REALTORS Association of Northeast Wisconsin and our members give back to the community in many ways, however; our Make-A-Wish event is one of the most popular and near and dear to the hearts of our committee members! Our committee is dedicated to bringing a glimpse of joy to the wish kids and their families. That joy can provide a rejuvenated fight and determination in their journey, and memories for everyone involved. The memories are the forever gift that Make-A-Wish provides and that can never be taken away. They deserve so much more and we want to do all we can to help them through these tough times." – REALTORS Association of Northeast Wisconsin Special Events Committee

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 July 1 and September 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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\$50,000+

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*I wish to
have a hot tub*

Serena, 16
cancer

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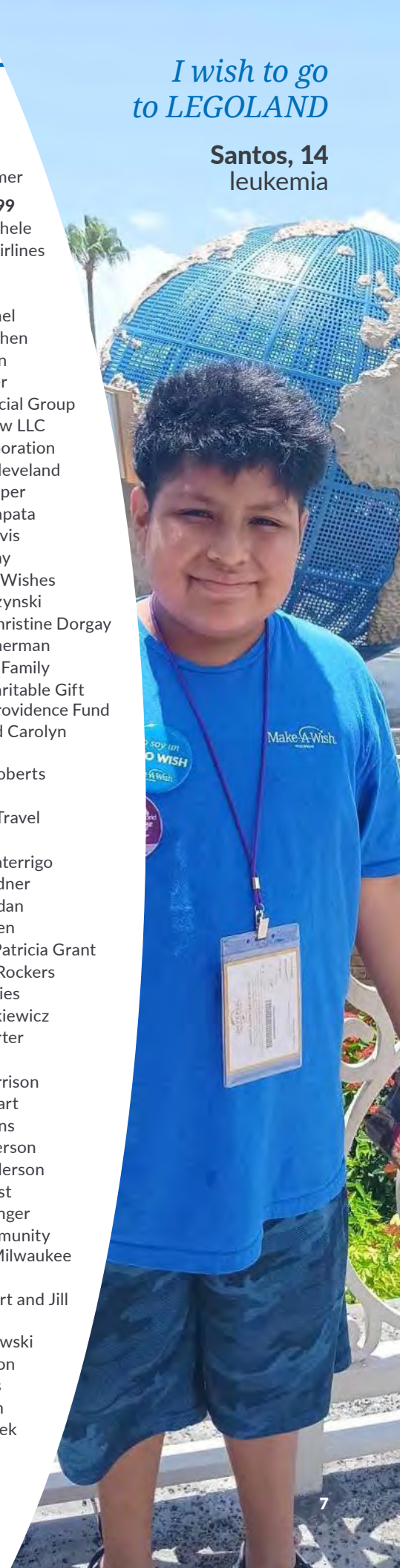
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I wish to go to LEGOLAND

Santos, 14
 leukemia



I wish to have a college scholarship

RENEWED HOPE

Born with severe and complex congenital heart defects, Nick has never experienced a normal childhood.

Nick, now 20 years old, shares his story:

"Thank you so much to everyone involved in granting my college scholarship wish. I am pleased to report that I am a freshman at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse studying to become a teacher.

I became familiar with Make-A-Wish nearly three years ago during a consultation appointment with the transplant team at Children's Hospital. At that time, I was starting my sophomore year of high school. I was born with a very unique heart and have had five surgeries to try to make it more effective. **As I grew, it became a matter of time before my heart would fail.** The decision was made that a heart transplant would be my best option to survive and I was placed on the waitlist.

My family was notified that a nearly perfect match had been made and I received my new heart on April 15, 2022. Since then, I have been blessed with amazing health and can now do so many things that I could only watch other kids do before my heart transplant.

I chose a college scholarship for my wish because recovering and finishing high school was a huge goal of mine. I was excited to return to school, extracurricular activities and all my friends. **Knowing that my wish was coming true gave me an extra incentive to work hard and fight for a full recovery.**

I appreciate all you have done for me."

Nick's Wish Granters: Rachel Geittmann & Kelly Burk



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 Kenai River Trout Anglers
 Michael Klurfeld & Family
 Mark Koenig
 Lakeview Landscape &
 Design
 Legends Of Hawaii Luau
 Jessica Lippincott
 Luxury Limousines, Inc.
 Chris McIntosh
 Maggiano's Little Italy
 Natural Intuition
 Photography
 Navigen Wealth
 Management
 O'Hare Wealth
 Management
 Old Wisconsin Sausage
 Company
 Orlando Medical Rentals
 Papa Luigi's
 Pure Class Vodka
 Qdoba Mexican Eats
 Racine Danish Kringle
 Ridgeway Country Club
 San Diego Zoo
 Sargento Foods, Inc.
 Scan Group
 The Big Cheese & Glacier
 Transit & Storage
 The Bridgewater Modern
 Grill
 The Litte Zoo
 Traveling Bags
 Turtle Bay Resort
 Urban Air Adventure
 We Energies
 Werner Electric Supply
 Wines For Humanity
 Wisconsin Herd

OUR *wish* COMMUNITY

There are many partners who contribute to the impact of each and every wish we grant. Here are some of the people who helped make Gregory's wish come true!

(1) I wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort

Gregory battles a rare heart condition and was granted a wish this past July. His mom described the wish experience as "Magical! It was impactful as we were able to get one week stress-free with no worries."



(1)

(2) Custom Limousine Service

Discounted transportation services by Custom Limousine are part of wish experiences for kids like Gregory.

"Working with Make-A-Wish Wisconsin families has truly blessed us at Custom Limousine Service as it has given us great pleasure to be able to share in the excitement of the wish with the families.

Our favorite part is seeing the kids' faces light up when the limousine arrives and being able to share in the excitement of the wish trip and watch the family live in a moment of fantasy. It truly is a gift of life in my mind, and I am so grateful to be a part of it." – Steve Brick, President of Custom Limousine Service



(2)



(3)

(3) Children's Wisconsin Electrophysiology Team

This team contributes to the wish experience by submitting the referral and ensuring that the wish is medically safe.

"Make-A-Wish provides a wonderful opportunity for our patients with inherited heart rhythm problems, who are otherwise restricted from most activities, to travel and experience a unique trip with their families. Gregory is not able to participate in gym class or recess, so this was an opportune time for him to have a once in a lifetime wish!" – Liz Reid, EP Nurse Coordinator at Children's Wisconsin

Pictured from left to right: Dr. Anoop Singh, Dr. Joshua Kovach, Dr. Daniel Beacher, Liz Reid, EP Nurse Coordinator, Hillary Giorgi, EP NP, Nicole Hunker, EP NP

MAKE-A-WISH® REFERRAL SOURCES

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

Advocate Children's Hospital: Oak Lawn
Carol Adam, MSW

Children's Wisconsin
Sheila Dodds, MSW; Latoya Stamper, MSW; Dr. Nicholas Antos, MD; Dr. Katie Sullivan, MD; Carrie Torkilson, MSW; Michelle Honeck, MSW; Gina Lewis, NP; Pat Stoll, MSW; Dr. Sara Dawson, MD; Liz Reid, RN; Dr. Steven Kindel, MD; Megan Teed, APNP; Stacy Boyce, MSW; Rose Ackmann, RN; Lisa Neidhold, RN; Robin Kostroski, MSW; Nicole Barnes, MSW; Cira Verhage, SW; Sara K. Quates, APNP

Fresenius Medical Care-Fitchburg
Berkley French, LMSW

Gillette Children's Hospital and Clinics
Dr. Art Beisang, MD

Gundersen Health System
Dr. Evan Kemp, MD; Dr. Antoinette Peters, MD

HSHS St. Vincent's Children's Hospital
Billie Hermans, LPN; Sophia Smith, Child Life Professional

Marshfield Children's Hospital
Taylor Wilke, MSW; Jessica Stanton, RN; Bridget Leonhardt, RN; McKenzie Tischer, CCLSW

SSM Health Dean Medical Group
Dr. Cassandra Sung, MD

St. Jude
Clay Culp, LCSW

UW Health American Family Children's Hospital
Craig Becker, MSW; Kim Sue Lamster, MSW; Solomy Ntambi, MSW; Melissa Novotny, NP; Joyce Kilgore-Carlin, MSW; Cory Sieburg, CPNP; Megan Fecht, CAPSW; Dr. Katryn Furuya, MD; Bethany Doherty, MSW; Dr. Rachel M Engen, 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](https://www.wish.org/refer).

Above: Gabriel's wish to go to Disneyland® Resort came true this past July.

*I wish to go to
Aulani, a Disney®
Resort & Spa*

*Avery, 9
genetic disorder*



THE WISH LIST

*Wishes Granted
July 1 – September 30, 2024*

...to go to Alaska

Maddox, 9

Wish Granters: Sara Derks & Patricia Rodencal

Alfred, 10

Wish Granters: Kayla Cywinski-Gendron & Kaelyn Martin

Fisher, 10

Wish Granters: Terry & Jennifer Hoepfner

...to go to Atlantis, Bahamas

Naya, 16

Wish Granter: Angela Shea

Edison, 18

Wish Granters: Charles & Toni Palmer

...to go on a California Road Trip

Finn, 15

Wish Granters: Christina Reschke & Carol Nelson

...to have a Camper

Tayden, 4

Wish Granters: Holly De Long & Patricia Rodencal

Ayden, 6

Wish Granters: Emily Figueroa & Betsy Roth-Wojcicki

Evelyn, 6

Wish Granters: Melissa Caulum & Carissa Caulum

Quintyn, 16

Wish Granters: Daniel Giles & Kim Christensen

...to go to Chicago

Maizlee, 4

Wish Granters: Torrey Calkins & Janice Holling

...to have College Tuition Assistance

Nicholas, 18

Wish Granters: Rachel Geittmann & Kelly Burk

Jesus, 19

Wish Granters: Barbara Bongard & Jim Corona

Luke, 21

Wish Granters: Lynn Wagner & Kelly Durham

...to go to Columbus, OH

Gabriel, 10

Wish Granters: Deea Breunig & Susan Danner-Rivers

...to have a Cubby Bed

Abdiel, 10

Wish Granters: Holly Young & Anna Flores

...to have a Custom-made Dress by Christian Siriano

Eva, 17

Wish Granters: Betsy Roth-Wojcicki & Frankie Garr

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

Trevett, 3

Wish Granters: Heather Schuette & Vicki Hermann

Alanah, 4

Wish Granters: DeeDee & Rodney Ugent

Freyja, 4

Wish Granters: Alyssa Madison & Tracy Bantz

Grayson, 4

Wish Granters: Mayme Hoffman & Michele Bergstrom

Jakari, 4

Wish Granters: Claire Ruggiero & Patricia Miller

Kashmir, 4

Wish Granters: DeeDee & Rodney Ugent

Lyllith, 4

Wish Granters: Kathy & Joseph Bartel

Zackery, 4

Wish Granters: Joy Lancour & Steven Hesselberg

Andrew, 5

Wish Granters: Carmen Bruss & Sandra Nissen

Dulce "Bellen", 5

Wish Granters: Carolyn Griesse & Torrey Calkins

Harper, 5

Wish Granters: Emily Figueroa, DJ Rogan & Larry Levy

Lawrenzo, 5

Wish Granters: Evelyn Greenberger, DJ Rogan & Larry Levy

Swah, 5

Wish Granters: Katie Jakubowski & Alex Rodgers

Claire, 6

Wish Granters: Peggy Van Grinsven & Cathy Speirs

Kinslee, 6

Wish Granters: Janelle & Ken Disher

Deandra, 7

Wish Granters: Wendy Cozzens & Scott Polzin

Dulcey, 7

Wish Granters: Patricia Miller & Maria Keizer

Emersyn, 8

Wish Granters: Kelly Wagner & Arielle Serrano

Kandace, 8

Wish Granter: Amy Reineking

Charley, 9

Wish Granters: Carmen Bruss & Tara Thom

Pablo, 9

Wish Granters: Alex Franke, Kathleen McCarthy, Carolyn Griesse & Kristen Wetzel

Destiny, 11

Wish Granters: Linda Ryfinski, Corinne Kennedy, Scott and Michelle Thompson, Michelle Wolfe & Julia Wahl

Gregory, 12

Wish Granters: Michael Pollack & Patti Gorsky

Jaeden, 12

Wish Granters: Whitney Nachreiner, Courtney Nachreiner, Jim Corona & Corinna Bongiovanni

Alexander, 14

Wish Granters: Tammy Lynn Grace & Lori Barry

Mahogany, 16

Wish Granters: Mariah Tremain, Melissa Gorman & Teresa McDowell

Miguel, 19

Wish Granter: Amy Reineking

...to go to Disneyland® Resort

Dryden, 7

Wish Granters: Kristin Paul & Tracey Dorsey

Gabriel, 15

Wish Granters: Bryan Pauls & Katie Jakubowski

Malayah, 19

Wish Granter: Amy Reineking

...to have an EAA AirVenture Experience

Joshua, 11

Wish Granters: Linda & John Smedema

...to have a Gaming PC Setup

Lucien, 12

Wish Granters: Peggy Van Grinsven & Sandy Yost

Dane, 18

Wish Granters: Hayley Pfaff & Amber Friedrichsen

...to go to the Great Smoky Mountains

Arlo, 5

Wish Granters: Julie Vanlaanen & Jill Ullmer

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

Avery, 9

Wish Granters: Jessica Wadium & Torrey Calkins

...to go to Hawaii

Henrietta, 8

Wish Granters: Nancy Schimmelpennig & Kristin Paul

Jasmine, 8

Wish Granters: Lisa Yursis & Julie Vanlaanen

Asher, 9

Wish Granters: Vicki Hermann & Heather Schuette

Maliah, 9

Wish Granters: Jody Kempainen & Tori Hrubesky

Brinley, 10

Wish Granters: Jeremy & Megan Kox

Brielle, 11

Wish Granters: Hayley Pfaff & Cheryl Anderson

Jaxon, 11

Wish Granters: Angela Perez, Angela Elliott & Jaime Mueller

Uriah, 12

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Janika, 14

Wish Granters: Donnie & Michele Rivera

Madelynn, 14

Wish Granters: Carolyn & Mike Conley



Special thanks to The Walt Disney Company for providing complimentary admission and special perks for every family who experiences a Disney wish.



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:

JULY 2024

SUE SHEA

Sue has been serving Make-A-Wish Wisconsin for five years, volunteering as a wish granter. She says, "as a pediatric nurse (now retired), I loved hearing kids tell their wish stories and I saw the joy that those wishes brought to them and their families. Through volunteering for Make-A-Wish, I have learned how life enriching the fulfillment of a wish can be for kids and their families."



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2024

CRAIG & PAULA HOKANSON

Paula shares that "Our daughter, Kallai, had battled leukemia as a child. She went through chemotherapy treatment for a few years, went into remission and then relapsed. She had aggressive chemotherapy, radiation and a bone marrow transplant.



Kallai dreamed of experiencing the culture, history, architecture and music of Italy, and Make-A-Wish Wisconsin granted her special wish. We saw the transformative effect a wish can have on a child who has been through so much pain and trauma. **Kallai's wish was something positive to dream about during hard days** and when the wish happened, it was so much more than a trip to Italy. For her, and for our family, **the wish was a time of healing, making fresh, beautiful memories and a distinct time of reset for better days ahead.** It also opened her world. She is now 26 years old, has a master's degree from UC Berkeley and is an astrophysicist working at MIT Lincoln Laboratory.

Make-A-Wish did so much for our daughter and our family, so when our daughter was healthy, we both planned to jump on board, somehow, and be a part of Make-A-Wish helping children who, like our daughter, are in a fight for their life.

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.

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 July, Patrick's wish to go to the Wyoming Dinosaur Center came true.

VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

10 YEARS

Christina Italiano

5 YEARS

Kim Ann Christensen

Jeremy Kox

Kevin Johnson

Jennifer Flamboe

Dale Johnson

Sandra Melby

¿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.

I wish to go to Hawaii

Azlynn, 18
cancer



THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted
July 1 – September 30, 2024

Rezarta, 14

Wish Granters: Patricia Adams & Michele Schaetz

Kherington, 15

Wish Granters: Barbara Pahlow, Carrie Cookson & Roberta Sarow

Micaiah, 15

Wish Granters: Shannon Seymer-Tabaska & Mariah Abdel-Fattah

Alex, 16

Wish Granters: Kimberly James

Josephine, 16

Wish Granters: Amanda Burton & Shelley Hess

Raqual, 16

Wish Granters: Trent & Linda Zellmer

Ryen, 16

Wish Granters: Larry Levy & DJ Rogan

Ryan, 17

Wish Granters: Sandra Thompson-Melby & Jeanette Dickinson

Wyatt, 17

Wish Granters: Amanda Sarazen & Jennifer Yetter

Xavier, 17

Wish Granter: Amy Reineking

Azlynn, 18

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

James, 18

Wish Granters: Corinne Kennedy & Linda Ryfinski

Robert, 18

Wish Granters: Robert Rode, Kim Christensen & Cassie Seeley

Ava, 19

Wish Granters: Peggy Van Grinsven

Guadalupe, 19

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Kaleb, 19

Wish Granters: Tammy Kreger & Michele Schaetz

Kaylie, 19

Wish Granter: Amy Reineking

Ruby, 19

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Serenity, 20

Wish Granter: Jodi Halpin

Tyler, 20

Wish Granters: Stephen and Susan Shea

...to have a Hot tub

Finnegan, 12

Wish Granters: Kathryn Finley & Kristin Paul

Serena, 16

Wish Granters: Leslie Kania & Emily Figueroa

...to go to LEGOLAND

Levi, 9

Wish Granters: Jennifer Yetter & Janice Moen

Santos, 14

Wish Granters: Kriste Simonson & Julie Carr

...to have a Shopping Spree

Ja'marion, 15

Wish Granters: Melissa Reina, Jamie Prost & Larry Levy

...to go to a Waterpark

Zyaire, 4

Wish Granters: Mariah Tremain & Larry Levy

...to have a Los Angeles Shopping Spree

Briana, 17

Wish Granter: Amy Reineking

...to meet Danny Devito

Chloe, 12

Wish Granters: Toni and Charles Palmer & DJ Rogan

...to meet Lionel Messi

Zackary, 15

Wish Granters: Jeff & Kristen Hurt

...to meet Markiplier

Reja, 18

Wish Granters: Beth Schuster & Sarah Paasch

...to meet Niall Horan

Jenna, 19

Wish Granters: Susan and Stephen Shea

...to meet Patrick Mahomes

Blaine, 7

Wish Granters: Kimberly James & Mary Streveler

...to meet Ryan Reynolds

Ryan, 14

Wish Granters: Amanda Sarazen, Torrey Calkins & Bryan Nothem

...to meet Stefon Diggs

Lucas, 10

Wish Granters: Dana & Sandra Smith

...to have a Mud Kitchen

Elsie, 3

Wish Granters: Tara Thom & Amber Friedrichsen

...to go to New York City

Foster, 14

Wish Granters: Candace Richter & Daniel Giles

...to see Broadway Shows in New York City

Evelyn, 18

Wish Granters: Sandy Yost & Cathy Speirs

...to have an Online Shopping Spree

Juan, 12

Wish Granters: Juli Moen & Elizabeth Reynolds

Nathan, 19

Wish Granters: Elizabeth Sobczak & Emily Mayer

...to have a PC/Server

Logan, 17

Wish Granters: Courtney Wisniewski & Patricia Mehalos

...to have a Playset

Lucia, 7

Wish Granters: Kathryn Finley & Kristin Paul

...to have a Pontoon Boat

Joseph, 16

Wish Granters: Daniel Giles & Kimberly James

...to go on an RV trip

Parker, 10

Wish Granters: Janice Moen, Megan Davis-Rosandich & Jennifer Yetter

...to go to the San Diego Zoo

Bethany, 11

Wish Granter: Jodi Halpin

...to have Solar Panels on our RV

Yu'ao, 20

Wish Granter: Amy Reineking

...to go to Super Nintendo World

Eli, 18

Wish Granters: Marie Waddell & Jennifer Eickelberg

...to have a Mall of America Shopping Spree

Madelyn, 15

Wish Granters: Linda Ryfinski & Corinne Kennedy

...to have a Treehouse

Dekorrah, 11

Wish Granters: Shelley Hess & Hnub Vue

...to have a UTV

Jared, 16

Wish Granters: Julie Carr & Michele Schaetz

Jeweliana, 18

Wish Granters: Janice Moen & Kimberly James

Owen, 18

Wish Granters: Tanya Davis & Daniel Giles

...to go to Wisconsin Dells

Jocelyn, 8

Wish Granters: Lynn Graening & Julia Wahl

Sofia, 10

Wish Granters: Cheryl Anderson & Hayley Pfaff

Saibah, 11

Wish Granters: Laurie Wetterau & Bryan Pauls

...to go to the Wyoming Dinosaur Center

Patrick, 6

Wish Granters: Michele Schaetz & Patricia Adams

I wish to go to Hawaii

Ava, 19
heart condition



IN HONOR AND MEMORY

Our sincere thanks to all who gave gifts between July 1 and September 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...

Margaret Barton
Kathryn Brown
Oliver Carney
Carolyn Conley
Ryan Davidson
Peggy Engle
Larry and Kathy Gentine
Patti Gorsky's 25th Anniversary
Steve Gruen
Dee Ann Keip
Rich Kraemer
Wish Child Lena
Elyse Lerner
Judy Matsoff's Special Birthday
Nick Moon and other Histio
wish kids & families

Jeff Nye's 75th birthday
Emil and Sheila Orcholski's
Anniversary
Birth of Wes McGrath Padway
Elise Rowe
Alexander Schultz
Megan Schatz
Oliver Schmitz
Bud Selig's 90th Birthday
Xander Sell
Dr. Bob Teplin's Special Birthday
Dyan Wagner

IN MEMORY OF...

Sheila Sanicola Anderson
Paul/Helen Berberet
Marlene Binsfeld
Roy Bubeck

Jonathan Connar
Amy De Marco
Brenda Derge
Devyn Doughty
Albert and Minnie Eckstein
Margaret Engle
David Fox
Debra Herman
Nicole Hirsch
Mark Huber
Kate Huppert
Darleen Jones
Mary Ketterhagen
Krista Knapp
Sarah Knezic
Karl Kohl
Mary Kroll

Glenna Lemke
Larry Masek
David Mews
Iris Miller
Jaxson O'Brien
Robert Ogrezovich
Ronald Patros
Alan Pohl
Jerry Rachow
Toby Recht
Keith Rhode
Cletus Clifton Rivard
Dorothy T. Robeson
Dr. Timothy Ross
Sherry Ruskin
Catherine Schroeder
Susan Schultz
Joyce Solofra
Zachary Sprader
Patricia Kay Steffen
Edward Tritz
Michael Trzecinski
Ron Wilmer



NON-CASH GIFTS MAKE AN IMPACT

This holiday season, your gift can help us grant even more wishes for Wisconsin children. Non-cash gifts are a powerful way to maximize your impact, allowing you to reduce your taxable income while helping us bring life-changing experiences to children in need. Consider making a gift from your:

- Portfolio of appreciated stock or cryptocurrency
- Donor-Advised Fund
- IRA account (if you're 70.5 or older)

These tax-smart gifts go further, allowing you to support more wishes with the same generosity. Our simple online platform makes it easy to explore these options and complete your gift. Simply scan the QR code to learn more or visit [wish.org/wisconsin/givingsuite](https://www.wish.org/wisconsin/givingsuite).

Above: Abdiel's wish to have a Cubby Sensory + Safety Bed came true this past August.



SCAN QR CODE
FOR INFO



BEST PLACES TO WORK

Make-A-Wish Wisconsin was honored in September by the Milwaukee Business Journal as one of the Best Places to Work in Southeastern Wisconsin. We are honored by the recognition and are so grateful that Make-A-Wish is a place where our staff and volunteers thrive and are inspired every day by the life-changing work we get to do.

Above: Raqual's wish to go to Hawaii came true this past July.

I wish to go to Alaska

Maddox, 9
cystic fibrosis



WISH SPONSORS

Thank you to the following sponsors who contributed at least \$4,000 or more to sponsor the wishes granted between July 1 and September 30, 2024.

Agatha Schild Trust
 Ally's Powerhouse Café & Ally's Bistro
 Archive's Bar & Grill
 Ashley Charitable Foundation
 Associated Bank
 B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation
 Baird
 Balyasny Asset Management, LLC
 Beau's 5th Quarter Foundation
 Bergstrom Automotive
 Bill Paulson
 Bobby Adamov
 Brewers Community Foundation
 Cars, Croissants & Coffee
 Chase Private Client and J.P. Morgan
 Chi Omega - Carthage College
 Children's Wisconsin
 Chuck Miesfeld
 Culver's
 David Mayer
 DC Everest Gaming Club
 Dennis & Pam Klumb
 Diana Shircel
 Dr. Carla Zacher
 Dustin & Jenna Aude
 Edward Driscoll
 Eric & Tammi Stahre
 Eric Nelson
 Estate of Eleanor Darm
 Estate of Marvin K. Reuter
 Every Day Good Foundation Inc.

Forest County Potawatomi Foundation
 Frontier Title & Closing Services LLC
 Fusion Recruiters LLC
 Great Northern Corporation - Container Group
 Green Bay Packers
 Green Bay Packers Foundation
 Habush Habush & Rottier S.C.
 Helen Blenker Charitable Remainder Unitrust
 Henry H. (Sr.) & Marion (Polly) S. Uihlein Foundation, Inc.
 Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg
 iHeartMedia
 In Memory of Martin Kaye
 In Memory of Mary Shea
 James & Rita Harasha
 Jeff Kohl
 Jersey Mike's Subs
 Jessica Nast
 Jewelers for Children
 Jim & Janet Luty
 Jimmy John's
 Joe & Ellen Checota
 Joe & Jennifer Imhoff
 Joey's Jolly Jaunters
 Kathie Norman
 Klumb Family Foundation
 Disney Wish Fund
 Kraemer Wisconsin Cheese
 Ladish Company Foundation
 Lake Denoon Middle School
 Laps for Charity

Lawrence Gentine
 Louis Gentine
 Maggiano's Little Italy
 Maggie's Angels
 Make Their Hearts Smile Truck Convoy
 Marlene Lee
 Marquette Athletics
 Mary Kate's Wine Bar LLC
 Masters Gallery Foods, Inc.
 Meijer
 Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
 Michael Giffhorn
 Michael Mortl
 Milwaukee Admirals
 MLG Capital
 Mukwonago for Wishes
 Nancy Lee
 Nate Dax Memorial Bass Open
 Nature's Way
 Northwestern Mutual
 Orbis Corporation
 Painters and Allied Trades District Council 7
 Patricia's Annual Birthday Poker Run
 Pop-A-Top
 Reality Construction LLC
 Realtors Association of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc.
 Renewal by Andersen - Windows for a Cause
 Rheem
 Richard & Theresa Davis
 Richard Kessler
 ROC Ventures, LLC
 Rock for Wishes
 Romanesco Developments, Inc. - Strikes for Charity
 Rugged UTV Toppers
 S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc.

Rich Thompson
 Sargento Foods, Inc.
 Sartori Cheese
 Scott & Linda Haag
 Sedgwick
 Sherri Mowery Perrigo
 Snap-on Incorporated
 Steve & Sheri Lear
 Steve Dunkmann
 StoneRidge Piggly Wiggly
 Surewood Forest Wishes for Kids
 Team Jake
 Team Sarah STRONG
 Team Wish Alum
 The Jendusa Family
 The Kraussel Family
 Tim & Lorri Cisler
 Tony Sikorski
 Traveling Bags - Burton Robertson
 U.S. Venture, Inc.
 UW Health Kids
 Vandervest Harley-Davidson of Green Bay
 von Briesen & Roper S.C.
 Wheels for Wishes
 Wisconsin Motorcycle Guide
 Wishmakers of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
 Wixon Inc.
 Xiogenix
 Yacht Blast for Kids
 Yellow Whistles for Greg

WE REMEMBER

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

- ★ *Liam*
- ★ *Marshall*
- ★ *Emma*
- ★ *Allison*
- ★ *Gaven*
- ★ *Eva*
- ★ *Deshaun*
- ★ *Aliyah*
- ★ *Milan*
- ★ *Luca*



wishfulTHINKING

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Inside this Issue:

Wish Alum: Catch up with wish alum Damian, whose wish was granted 32 years ago!

Donor Spotlight: For over 11 years this company has raised over \$200,000 for life-changing wishes.

Our Wish Community: There are many people who contribute to the impact of every wish we grant.

Cover Story: Nick's wish to to have college tuition assistance provides renewed hope.



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).



Every child deserves a childhood full of joyful experiences. And a child's joy is a light of hope for all of us – especially during the holiday season. **Unwrap the power of a wish today through these three holiday opportunities:**

WISH-A-THON Presented by Kesslers Diamonds, the 16th annual Wish-A-Thon will be back on December 12 & 13 and will be heard on radio stations across the state and on iHeartRADIO.com or the iHeart smartphone app. Throughout this two-day Wish-A-Thon you will hear inspirational stories direct from the children and families who have received and benefited from a wish come true. Learn more and become a Wish Club or Diamond Club member at radiowishes.com.



SUBARU SHARE THE LOVE Unwrap the power of a wish this holiday season during the 2024 Subaru Share the Love® Event. Between November 21 and January 2, when you purchase or lease a Subaru, you can direct a \$250 donation from Subaru to Make-A-Wish. Since 2011, Make-A-Wish nationally has received more than \$35 million, a generous sum that has enabled us to grant more than 3,600 wishes and spark everlasting hope and joy for wish kids and their families. Learn more at wish.org/Subaru.

TOY DRIVES Toys and gifts for our wish closet are a vital part of the child's wish journey as it provides them with excitement, anticipation and much-needed hope, strength and joy. **Our goal is to raise 2,850 toys for our toy closet.** By reaching our goal these toys will benefit roughly 315 families in the wish process throughout the next year! Scan the QR code on the right or visit wish.org/wisconsin/wishlist today. Items can be shipped directly to our office.

