

A publication of
Make-A-Wish
GREATER PENNSYLVANIA
AND WEST VIRGINIA

Wishing Well

Spring 2025

*I wish to meet the
cast of "Chicago P.D."
on set*

Gemma, 16
lymphoma

Read about
Gemma's wish
on page 2.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, COURAGE:

Gemma's Wish to Meet Her Heroes

Gemma is an active 16-year-old from Scranton, PA, with lots of passions. Long days filled with swim practice, school, cross country meets and catching up with friends are followed by curling up on the couch in front of the TV and waiting for her favorite show: "NBC's Chicago P.D." Each week, she watches actors brave perilous and delicate situations to rescue, protect and care for people in vulnerable situations.

The show became even more important to her when, in 2022, she was diagnosed with lymphoma. Her life was flipped upside down with treatments, including chemotherapy, which severely compromised her immune system and limited her from doing things she loved. She missed out on classes with her friends, she had to quit the swim team and felt like she was losing precious moments of her adolescence. But one thing remained a constant: each week her beloved Chicago-based first responders would come onto her screen and beat the odds.

This is why, when her parents referred her to Make-A-Wish®, she knew exactly what she wanted. She wished to visit the iconic set of "NBC's Chicago P.D."

When Gemma arrived at the studio, she was surprised by Marina Squerciati, who played her favorite character. Marina warmly welcomed Gemma and walked her to the wardrobe department, where she got to pick out an outfit that Marina would wear in an upcoming episode.



On set, Gemma was welcomed by the cast and crew with applause and a rendition of "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow." After that, Gemma got to tour more sets and they gifted her tons of swag from the show. Then, the next morning, Gemma was invited to a location shoot, here she made a cameo in the background of a scene.

During the wish, Gemma was able to meet so many of her favorite characters, as well as the amazing crew who bring the show to life. Now, when she watches her special show, she won't be reminded of all that time spent in the hospital, but of the amazing memories the cast and crew gave her.

You can help children just like Gemma, when you refer them to Make-A-Wish at [wish.org/refer](https://www.wish.org/refer)

Referrer: John Bistran
Volunteers: Lou Keller
and Rachel Toman

Want to *help* grant more wishes to children just like *Gemma*?

Giving stock doesn't just help the children we serve: It can also help you.

If you'd like to have more impact, donating stock gives you the option to give back in a big way. For instance, you can donate \$10,000 in stock, enough to *grant two wishes*, when you donate stock directly to Make-A-Wish®.



Increase Your Giving Power

A gift of appreciated stock to Make-A-Wish can benefit you in two ways: you receive a charitable income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the securities, and, at the same time you may avoid capital gains taxes on appreciated stock. A gift like this can help grant wishes yet to come.

When considering charitable giving, you should talk with your tax, legal, and financial advisors; Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia does not render these services.

For more information on donating stock or other ways to give beyond cash, contact Judith Stone at jstone@greaterpawv.wish.org or call 800.676.9474.

If you want to find out more ways to give back to Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia, simply visit our website at:

wish.org/greaterpawv/other-ways-support-us



Wishes Come True

I wish to have a bedroom makeover

Sathya, 13 ↓
endocrine disorder
York, PA



I wish to visit Utah's National parks

Ryan, 17 ↑
lymphoma
West Wyoming, PA



Make-A-Wish® gave me this magical trip to make my wish come true. We went to four different beaches, we hiked up a volcano, went snorkeling and did whatever we want, pretty much... I think people don't understand how monumental this is to me.

-Amedeo, wish kid



I wish to be a zookeeper at the San Diego Zoo

Asha, 6 ←
respiratory disorder
Pittsburgh, PA

I wish to have a shopping spree at the King of Prussia Mall

Paola, 17 ↓
leukemia
Allentown, PA



A Tail OF THREE PUPPIES



Meet Shay & Ginger

Three-year-old Shay of Pittsburgh, PA, was all smiles when she laid eyes on her Wire-haired Vizsla puppy, Ginger. Even through the challenges of her respiratory disorder, Shay finds joy taking Ginger on walks around her neighborhood. She makes sure to tell anyone who meets Ginger, "She is my wish!"

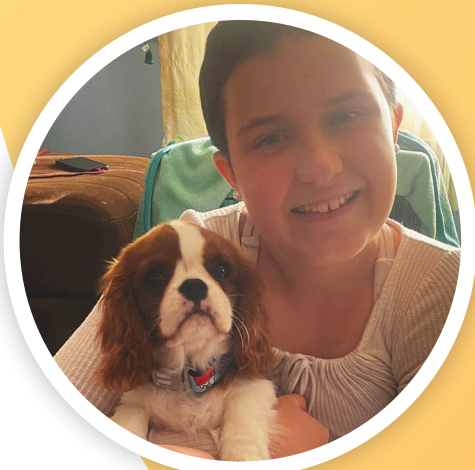
Meet Athena & Froggy

For 12-year-old Athena of Homestead, PA, her wish came in the form of four legs, a wet nose and a wagging tail. Since Athena was born, her health had always been an uphill battle - enduring dialysis three times per week and two intestinal transplants. However, that didn't stop Athena from wishing for her new canine companion, a Bernedoodle puppy, named Froggy. Now Athena and Froggy are inseparable, enjoying each other's company and ready to face whatever the future holds.



I wish to go on a tropical getaway

Amedeo, 13 ↑
lymphoma
Weirton, WV



Meet Sophia & Snoopy

When 12-year-old Sophia of Laureldale, PA, was approached by her wish volunteers - she knew exactly what she wanted to wish for - a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel puppy. Now, instead of focusing on the challenges of cancer, Sophia and her fur-ever friend, Snoopy, can cuddle up and play.

THANK YOU

FOR MAKING THESE WISHES COME TRUE!

DONORS

Buddy's Babes Softball Team
Ford City Fraternal Order of
Eagles #606
Genentech
Penn-Trafford School District
Jared S. Peters Memorial Golf
Tournament
Sheetz for the Kidz
Synergy Group

REFERRERS VOLUNTEERS

Natalie Allen
Ariel Brennan
Amanda Craft
Amanda Davis
Shannon Draus
Deanna Harris
Kimberly Johnson
Claire Lama
Zaidy de Leon
Courtney Mason
Jessica Schlichter
Leslie Schoenberg
Brandy Smith
Kyle Soltys
Abby Torres

Bob Beu
Michele Atha
Jenna Ammer
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Kaitlin Burnash
Chelsea Cline
Paula Cline
Ronnie Draus
Cindy Faust
Kelly Fetick
Janet Finkelstein
Ellen Greenberg
Tena Hunt
Lisa Krause
Maria McDermott
Mary Joan Meehan
Brenda Meyers
Deb Nichols
Jackie Rowlands
Debbie Russell
Donna Salovay
Gabrielle Taylor
Paige Thewes
Cathie Valley



*I wish to go to Colonial
Williamsburg*

Lily, 14 ↑
respiratory disorder
Moosic, PA

*I wish to have a
Gibson Les Paul guitar*

Elijah, 15 ↓
cancer
Oak Hill, WV





I wish to visit National Parks in Utah and Arizona

Baylen, 13 ↑
respiratory disorder
Danville, PA



I wish to give a splash pad to my community pool

Davy, 12 ↑
nervous system disorder
Womelsdorf, PA



I wish to have Pittsburgh Steelers season tickets

Cole, 17 →
cancer
Ford City, PA



Alysa Rubin/Pittsburgh Steelers©



I wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort

Victoria, 8 ↑
blood disorder
Allentown, PA



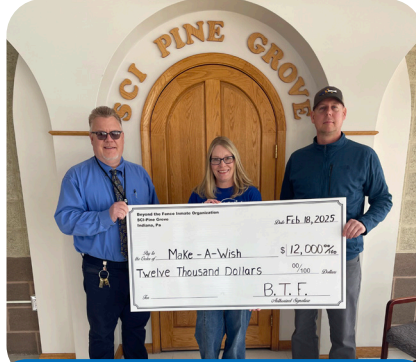
I wish to have an adaptive swing and trampoline

Maya, 17 ←
nervous system disorder
Pittsburgh, PA

Donors Make it Happen



Wish kids Andrew and Camden at Cheers for Wishes



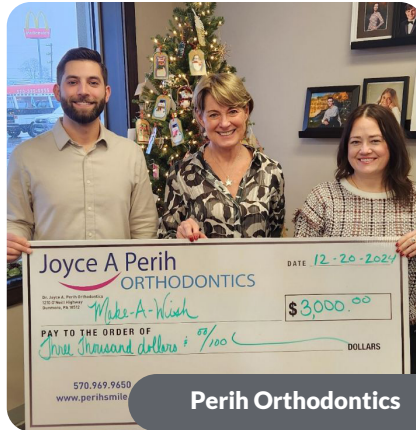
SCI Pine Grove



Wish kid Fred and Make-A-Wish Director of Development, Stephanie Pugliese, at the 412 Gives Back Gala



Green's Holiday Fundraiser



Perih Orthodontics



PA State Police Golf Outing



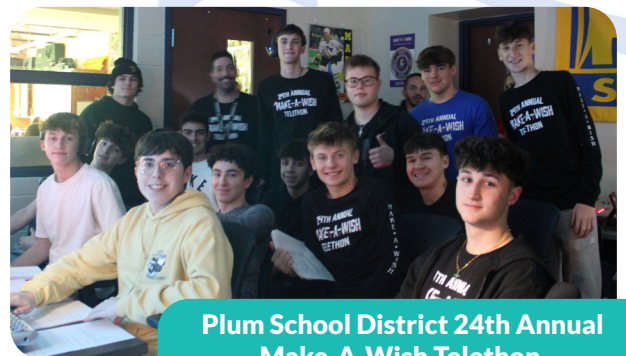
Red Robin - Dickson City, PA



Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins Booster Club



Williamsport Area High School Concert



Plum School District 24th Annual Make-A-Wish Telethon



Marshall Middle School Make-A-Wish Club



Wish kid Scout at the Miss Duquesne Pageant



Penn-Trafford High School Wishes of Warriors Telethon



Frank Burke IV Memorial Fund of the Scranton Area Foundation



American Legion John Niedzinsky Post 624



Wish kid Prince's Crab Cake Sandwich and Fries at Fairmont Pittsburgh



Employees of PITT OHIO



Northwood Charitable Foundation



Bake Sale hosted by wish kid Jessica



Wish kid Elaina at the 2024 WVU Medicine Children's Walk For Wishes

Our Upcoming Events

Waffles & Wishes

*Presented by the Siebenbuerger Club
and brought to you by our Signature Sponsors
The Plastek Group and UPMC Health Plan*



April 25, 2025

Ambassador Center | Erie, PA



**Siebenbuerger
Club**

Join the Breakfast Club and support wishes.

Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia will once again be hosting its annual breakfast event in support of wishes. This year's event is presented by the Siebenbuerger Club and brought to you by our Signature Sponsors, The Plastek Group and UPMC Health Plan, and will be streamed live by our Media Sponsor, WQLN.



Waffles & Wishes begins with breakfast for all patrons and is followed by uplifting stories from our local kids, their families and volunteers within the community. These stories offer an inside look at the life-changing impact of a wish-come-true. The live stream will be on our Facebook page and the WQLN website.

UPMC HEALTH PLAN

To RSVP, visit: wish.org/greaterpawv/rsvp#w or to become an event sponsor, contact Courtney Nientimp at cnientimp@greaterpawv.wish.org.
To donate, visit: wish.org/greaterpawv/wafflewishes



2025 Walk For Wishes®

May 3, 2025

**Hazel Ruby McQuain Park
Morgantown, WV**



Hosted by Make-A-Wish®, the 2025 Walk For Wishes® is a community-wide celebration and an effort to grant the wishes of local children. Families, friends, corporations, clubs and schools are invited to walk together and raise funds for children in West Virginia facing critical illnesses.

To register for this year's walk, visit: wish.org/greaterpawv/walkforwishes or to become a sponsor, contact Savanna Draper at sdraper@greaterpawv.wish.org.
To donate to this event, visit wish.org/greaterpawv/walkforwishes and select "Donate."



APRIL IS WORLD WISH MONTH!

*Be on the lookout for exciting details at:
wish.org/greaterpawv*



22ND ANNUAL GRAPEVINE

A WINE TASTING EVENT BENEFITING MAKE-A-WISH®

SAVE THE DATE

*Join us on June 5, 2025, from 6-9 p.m.,
at the Wintergarden at PPG Place in
Downtown Pittsburgh, PA.*

NEW VENUE

Once again, we raise our glasses in honor of the children whose wishes have been granted and the many more we have yet to reach. Guests will enjoy an elegant evening of fine wine, gourmet pairings and exclusive fundraising experiences, including our popular Mystery Wine Pull, Bourbon Raffle and Silent Auction.

For sponsorship and auction donation opportunities or event details, please contact Shenell Dolgos, Development Coordinator at 800.676.9474 or sdolgos@greaterpawv.wish.org.

Thanks to Our Donors

The next newsletter will be sent in Fall 2025 but the donor list on our website – wish.org/greaterpawv – is always up-to-date. In the meantime, don't forget to send us your email address for news and events. We will keep your address private.

The following lists cash and in-kind donations, totaling \$5,000 and above for the months of September through December 2024. Tribute honorees totaling \$500 or more are also listed. We extend our deepest appreciation to all of you. Should you discover an error or omission, please call us at 412.471.9474.

Whenever you donate online, please be sure to go through wish.org/greaterpawv. If you do, we will receive 100% of your donation – less a nominal administration fee. If you go directly to our national organization's website, we will only receive 80%.

\$100,000 or more

412 Gives Back
Give Kids the World
Green's Holiday Party
Estate of Patsy Lee Bohn Hannah
LFG Make-A-Wish Golf Benefit
Pittsburgh Investment Professionals
Holiday Party
Scaife Family Foundation
Sheetz For the Kidz
WDSN-FM Sunny 106.5 and
its listeners, DuBois

\$75,000 to \$99,999

Cheers for Wishes Tasting Event
PNC Investments 22nd Golf Outing
& Dinner Auction
WPXZ-FM 104.1 and Kool 103.3 and
its listeners, Punxsutawney

\$50,000 to \$74,999

Franklin County Truck Convoy
Estate of Ricky M. Fridley
The George and Marsha Kepple
Family Fund
McKamish, Inc.
The McKamish Family Foundation
The Natali Foundation
Pickin' for Wishes
Plum School District 24th Annual
Telethon
Chris Sotak & Family

\$25,000 to \$49,999

All-Clad Metalcrafters
Frank Burke IV Memorial Fund at
Scranton Area Foundation
Erie Insurance Group
Jordan Realty, Inc.
Hopkins Family Fundraisers
Glenn and Ruth Mengle Foundation

Moyer's Grove Campground and
Country RV
Penn-Trafford School District
Employees of Pitt Ohio
PNC Treasury Management
Charitable Events
LeAnn Starner's Annual
Make-A-Wish Fundraiser
Texas Roadhouse Eastern PA
Weakland Wreckers
WRTS Star 104 FM and
its listeners, Erie

\$10,000 to \$24,999

98.9 WQK-FM The River and
its listeners, St. Marys
Acme Machine & Welding Co.
& Employees
Allied Resources Group, LLC
Altour
Conor Amendola Birthday Fundraiser
American Legion John Niedzinsky
Post 624
Christine and Bruce Arnoldt
Keith and Corinne Bentley
Family Fund
Cans for Wishes
Civil & Environmental
Consultants, Inc.
Coldwell Banker Realty
Conewago Enterprises, Inc.
ErieTec Golf Scramble
Farner's Racing Collectables
Amy & Geoff Fleming Family
Giving Fund
John Marshall Grady DMD &
Associates LLC
Greenville Elks Lodge #145
Greer Industries, Inc.
Guardian Life Insurance Company
of America
Jeanne G. Hamilton &
Lawson W. Hamilton, Jr.,
Family Foundation
Honkus-Zollinger Foundation

John R. Hornbrook, Jr. Perpetual
Charitable Trust
Innovative Vending Solutions
C.G. Johnson Elementary School
Juniata Elementary School
Steve Kaplan & Family
Keck's Food Service Charity Classic
Kopelman Foundation
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Chelsea McKita Memorial
Foundation
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McNulty's Building Supply, Inc.
Hazel Ruby McQuain
Charitable Trust
Allison & Matt Manning
Samuel Moore & Family
NiSource Charitable Foundation
Northwood Charitable Foundation
Olympic Athletic Club
Dr. and Mrs. James Ohr
PA State Police Gettysburg
Association
The Philadelphia 76ers, LP
Dr. & Mrs. Arthur William Phillips
Charitable Trust
Polish Citizens Club of DuBois
Qintel
Jane & Michael Rice
Ana Menjivar Rodriguez
Salvitti Family Foundation
Sandy Hose Company No. 1
Shelburne Charitable Foundation
Arlene H. Smith Charitable
Foundation
Steel City Motorcycle Company,
L.P., Ride for a Wish
Synergy Group
Employees of Thermo-Twin
Industries, Inc.
Sean Philipp Thornton Memorial
Foundation
United Airlines National Ticket
Program
Mill Wallace & Family
Wheels for Wishes

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Sandra and Charles Adams
Leslie and Sandy Aderson
Aldi Smart Kids
Allegiant Air, LLC
Almira Foundation
American Airlines
Avis Rent A Car Systems, Inc.
Linda Bakhshian
Bo Bates and family
Richard Lee Beck Fund of York
County Community Foundation
The Becker Family
Donald J. Bennett Run 4 A Wish
Charles I. Blake Family Foundation
Debra Blaschak
Nick Boyle
Brockway Area School District
Caddick Utilities, LLC
The Carlson Family Fund of The

Erie Community Foundation
James B. Chambers Memorial
Foundation
Chics Limousine and
Transportation, Inc
Christianpalooza
Edgar Snyder and Associates
Employees of Clarion Sintered
Metals Inc.
Clark Metal Products, Co
Beth Clark Memorial Birthday
Fundraiser
Clearfield School District
Robert and Sara S. Comloquoy
Trust
Community Foundation For
The Alleghenies
Complete Chiropractic Health
Estate of Edwin R. Crawford Trust
Frank and Helen Demma
Charitable Fund of The
Pittsburgh Foundation
Detrich Brechbill Home
Association, Inc.
Disneyland® Resort Corporate
Citizenship
DMI Companies
DuBois Area Sr. High
Dutch Miller Subaru
EEG, Inc.
Elk County Boys Basketball
Amy E. Elliott Memorial Fund of
York County Community
Foundation
The Encova Foundation of
West Virginia
Erie County Technical School
Walk for Wishes
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Josette Evans & Family
Stephen Evans
Scott Fehrs & Family
Laura and Steven Field
Robert P. Fohl Family Foundation
Isabella Forgas & Family
Punxsutawney Aerie 1231
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Freedom Mortgage Corporation
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Thomas Von Lehman
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Hancock County Savings Bank
Charitable Foundation
Heim Construction Co., Inc.
Holiday Park Elementary School
Jonathan M. Houy Memorial Fund
of The Pittsburgh Foundation
Independent Political &
Social Club
JDP
JV Manufacturing
Richard Killigrew & Family
The Kilpela Family
The Kinsley Foundation
Knights of Columbus Council
10376 – Knights for Kids Golf
Tournament

Chuck Leyh
 LORD Corporation Erie
 Patrick Loughney
 Michelle & Damien Lynch & Family
 M & T Bank - Pottsville
 Eleanor Macdonald
 Macquarie Asset Management
 Lynn Magnotti
 The Mascaro Family Foundation
 Scott Mayernick
 MBM Contracting, Inc.
 Bernard McDonough Foundation
 Vicki, Mark, Kylie and Andy McKenna
 William B. McLaughlin Charitable
 Trust
 Mericle Foundation
 The Charles M. Morris Charitable
 Trust
 Mr. Waterheater
 Murphy Jewelers of Tilden, LLC
 Zan and Evelyn Myers Foundation
 Diane Natali & Family
 Nurtured By Nature
 Oklahoma Elementary School
 Palermo Restaurant Inc.
 Paracca Interiors, Inc.
 The Lewis A. and Donna M. Patterson
 Charitable Foundation
 W. I. Patterson Charitable Fund
 The Plastek Group/
 The Prischak Family
 PNC Foundation
 Punxsutawney High School
 Punxsy Pizza
 Rex Heat Treat
 Robert Peirce & Associates
 Robertshaw Charitable Foundation
 Roland's Seafood Grill, RSG, Inc.
 Rte 61 Classics & Toy Barn, LLC
 Randi Rumbaugh & Family
 Kay Schoeneman
 Mark Serrian
 Sheraton Waikiki
 Shults Ford Lincoln
 The James R. and Cheryl B. Snyder
 Family Charitable Fund
 The Snyder Family Fund
 William South
 Southern Spray Co
 Sadie and Brock Stein
 Sunrise Estates Elementary School
 The Patsy D. Tiani Foundation
 Carmelo Valenti
 VFW Post 4366
 Vito's Coal Fired Pizza
 Voith US Inc.
 The Robert and Mary Weisbrod
 Foundation
 Wendy's
 West Charitable Trust
 Williamsport Area SD Students
 Lisa and Joel Winer
 Wishes Do Come True Adult Softball
 Tournament, Kreutzer Family
 World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.
 WV Cupcake Festival
 Richard L. Yuengling, Jr., Foundation
 Claudia Zavodnick

In Memoriam

Richard Lee Beck
 Donald Bennett
 Rosella and Bob Brandt
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 Rob Cribbs
 Aaron Michael Davies
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 David Michael Dunham
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 Timothy M. Dunlap
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 Kara and Pat Manion
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 Selena Marie Sleppy
 Centennial Financial Group, LLC
 DSF Wealth Management Group, LLC

We're Moving!

This spring, the Pittsburgh headquarters is moving to the Koppers Building at:

**436 Seventh Avenue, 25th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1826**

All of our phone numbers and fax number will remain the same:
**800.676.9474 (toll free) | 412.471.9474 (phone)
 412.471.9705 (fax)**

Make-A-Wish
**WISHES IN
 FLIGHT®**

Did you know that travel is the biggest wish expense of Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia?



You can help give wishes wings when you donate your unused air miles.

Visit:
wish.org/greaterpawv/airline-miles



Proceeds from the sale of your car, boat, motorcycle, SUV, RV or truck donation will help to bring joy to children with critical illnesses.

Call 855.675.9474 or visit
pittsburgh.wheelsforwishes.org

Headquarters

Pittsburgh, PA
412.471.9474
412.471.9705 fax

Regional Offices

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304.342.9474

Erie, PA
814.868.9474

Morgantown, WV
304.292.5600

Pottsville, PA
570.622.6962

Punxsutawney, PA
814.938.8888

Scranton, PA
570.341.9474

York, PA
717.757.9474

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Our Mission

Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. We are proud to have served more than 21,500 children in 57 Pennsylvania counties and West Virginia in our more than 40-year history.



**Walk For A
Healthy Community**

HIGHMARK | Bright Blue Futures

**Sign up to walk for
Make-A-Wish®!**

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Check-in & Registration: 7:45 a.m.

5K Walk Begins: 9 a.m.

1-Mile Fun Walk Begins: 9:15 a.m.

Penn State Behrend: Erie Parking Lot
4701 College Drive | Erie, PA 16563

Register at:
wish.org/greaterpawv/highmarkwalk

Connect with Us

 wish.org/greaterpawv  email@greaterpawv.wish.org

