

# wishful THINKING

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
MAKE-A-WISH® WISCONSIN  
2025 ISSUE 2



WISH KID KINGSTON'S

*Escape from  
the Unknown*

***Wish Night®***

Granting 100+ wishes in just one night!

***"A wish is a journey..."***

A heartfelt message from our new CEO

Make-A-Wish®  
WISCONSIN





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

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW CEO



I can remember the moment that I fell in love with the Make-A-Wish® mission. It was 13 years ago. I was sitting at my dining room table researching Make-A-Wish® Wisconsin, as I considered a position in fundraising that was open. My two boys were 12 and 7. I happened across a wish story of a boy named Sam.

Sam was around the same age as my boys at the time. Sam had been born with a life-threatening medical condition that required daily help and care from his parents. They put all of their love and resources into Sam over the many years of his of his, still young, life.

**When Sam was offered his special wish come true with Make-A-Wish, without hesitation he shared "I want the wedding, for my mom and dad, that they never had." I sobbed thinking about Sam, his love for his family, his selflessness, his courage, his life, and his parent's lives.**

That moment happened 13 years ago. I have been working at Make-A-Wish Wisconsin ever since, and today I am honored to be Make-A-Wish Wisconsin's CEO – with a deep reverence for the many stories like Sam's that take place, daily, across the state of Wisconsin.

A wish come true is not just a moment. A wish becomes a journey, bringing transformation at every step of the way. From anticipation of the wish, to the actual wish experience, to the memories made and shared by all impacted by the wish.

Since 1984, the inception of the Make-A-Wish Wisconsin chapter, more than 8,800 children have had wishes granted. And unless a cure for childhood illnesses is found, our loyalty to the next 8,800 remains fierce because we know that, no matter the child's circumstances, a wish has the power to help a child replace fear with confidence, sadness with joy and anxiety with hope. But bringing even just one of these wishes to life takes so many resources.

You can help us reach more children like Sam, who are in need of a wish, by stepping up today. Donate funds, auction items or in-kind services; or host or attend a fundraising event (see page 4). Even playing 18 holes of golf (see page 4) will make a world of a difference to a Wisconsin child and family in need!

As you read about the wide range of medical professionals, businesses, volunteers, event participants, donors and others supporting our mission, we hope that you might see a way YOUR special skills can be a resource for our Make-A-Wish family. Together, we can give the gift of hope, strength and joy to those who need it most. Thank you!

Warmest Wishes,

  
Wendy Cozzens  
Make-A-Wish Wisconsin CEO

**Make-A-Wish®**  
WISCONSIN

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



## WORLD WISH MONTH & CELEBRATION OF STARS

Make-A-Wish Wisconsin celebrated World Wish Month by hosting its annual Celebration of Stars on World Wish Day®, April 29. About 150 wish kids, their families, volunteers, medical referral sources and donors gathered at the Chapter office in Wauwatosa for an evening of fun, celebration and the unveiling of our 2024 class of wish kids on our Wish Kid Honor Wall as well as adding several donors to our Super Star Donor Wall.

It was the perfect culmination to a month recognizing WishMakers who help create life-affirming wishes for kids battling critical illnesses. See photos of the event on our Flickr Gallery at [flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/makeawishwisconsin/).



## WELCOME, NEW STAFF

We are pleased to welcome two members to our Make-A-Wish Wisconsin team who will be working to make more wishes come true in the years to come.



**Ellie Fernandez**  
Wish Coordinator



**Julieta Alonso**  
Bilingual Wish Coordinator

## COMMIT TO THE CAUSES CLOSEST TO YOUR HEART

This season, we're reaffirming our commitment to giving hope to kids battling critical illnesses by continuing our efforts to create life-changing wishes.

Consider making your will to find a renewed sense of purpose, recording decisions that support the people, communities, and causes closest to your heart.

By creating your free will with our partner, FreeWill, you can protect your loved ones, plan for your assets, and help us grant wishes through a planned gift—all in just 20 minutes. Simply scan the QR code to learn more or visit [wish.org/wisconsin/will](https://wish.org/wisconsin/will).



SCAN QR CODE  
FOR INFO







## FEATURED FUNDRAISERS

All Bergstrom Automotive dealerships will donate \$5 for every test drive taken and \$50 for each vehicle sold in June to Make-A-Wish® Wisconsin!

Get your oil changed at a Bergstrom Automotive location on June 21, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m, to help make wishes come true. When you make a \$15+ donation, Bergstrom Automotive will match your donation and give you a \$30 discount on your oil change.

Plus, every day in June, Bergstrom Automotive will donate \$5 for each new fan or follower (@bergstromauto) on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. Learn more at [bergstromauto.com](http://bergstromauto.com)

## REV UP FOR JUNE 3500 & DRIVE FOR DREAMS

Stop by a **Bergstrom Automotive** dealership throughout the month of June to participate in a variety of great fundraisers, including brat fries, bake sales, car washes, silent auctions & more!

## GOLF FOR WISHES

Be sure to save September 22 for our annual Golf for Wishes signature event at Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva.

You can help make wishes come true while enjoying 18 holes on the world-famous Brute or Highlands courses, as well as inspiring moments with wish kids, breakfast, snacks on the course, bloody mary bar, margaritas, old fashioned, silent auction, heavy apps and more. Secure your foursome and sponsorship today: [wish.org/wisconsin/golf-geneva](http://wish.org/wisconsin/golf-geneva)

For more information, including a complete listing of all golf outing fundraisers, please visit [wish.org/wisconsin/golf](http://wish.org/wisconsin/golf).



### MAY 31 @ FOX CITIES STADIUM, APPLETON STAR WARS NIGHT

The Wisconsin Timber Rattlers are hosting their Star Wars Night on May 31st where proceeds from the jersey auction benefit Make-A-Wish Wisconsin. New this year, Make-A-Wish supporters are able to join the fun with discounted tickets – get yours today!

### JUNE 26 @ FOX CITIES STADIUM, APPLETON RANW MAKE-A-WISH FUNDRAISER

The REALTORS Association of Northeast Wisconsin is hosting their annual Timber Rattlers Fundraising event in support of wishes, complete with raffles, inspiring wish stories & baseball! Includes dinner, two beverages, raffles, auction and more. For more information, visit [wish.org/wisconsin/ranw25](http://wish.org/wisconsin/ranw25)



Join the **Pok a Snoz Snowmobile & ATV Club** for their Fun Car Show on June 14th at Funny Farm Bar & Grill in Mosinee and help make Kolby's wish to fish in Venice, Louisiana come true. Visit [pokasnoz.com/activities](http://pokasnoz.com/activities) for details.



Now through June 14th, every time you shop at a StoneRidge Piggly Wiggly location, you can help make wishes come true! Simply **Round-Up for Wishes**.

Locations available in De Pere, Kaukauna, Little Chute, Wautoma and Winneconne.

### JUNE 14 @ CLARK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS MAKE THEIR HEARTS SMILE



Come see the great trucks, enjoy lots of food, door prizes and more all to make wishes come true. For more info or to sign up your truck, contact Punk Montgomery at (715) 238-7797.

### JULY 27 @ ABC SUPPLY STADIUM, BELOIT BORDER BOUHAHA SOFTBALL SLAM

The Beloit Sky Carp, in collaboration with Green Bay Packers' legend and Make-A-Wish Champion, Mason Crosby and TEAM LAMMI, are hosting a spirited charity softball game with proceeds benefiting Make-A-Wish Wisconsin.

Mason will be joined by former Packers Hall of Fame wide receiver Jordy Nelson and other football stars and influencers, promising a thrilling afternoon of camaraderie and sportsmanship. Get your tickets now at [wish.org/wisconsin/masoncrosby](http://wish.org/wisconsin/masoncrosby)



The **UWGB Phoenix Women's Basketball Team** partnered with Make-A-Wish Wisconsin again this year with a local wish kid to help raise funds. Sponsored by Bergstrom Automotive, the event included raffles, pre-game wish program, youth jersey giveaway & more, raising \$4,473 to grant a local child's wish.



This year's **Wish Night** gala, held on April 10 at the Pfister Hotel, was an inspiring evening, filled with powerful stories, fundraising and family. Close to 500 community leaders gathered for the event, and along with the help of our sponsors, volunteers, auction and wine donors and wish ambassadors, raised enough funds to grant more than 100 wishes. Wish alum Brandon, Henry, Jacob and Olivia shared their stories. Special thanks to our Gold Sponsors, Gavin & Terry Hattersley and Sedgwick.

**Mark your calendars now for next year's Wish Night on April 16, 2026.**

Watch the videos featured at Wish Night: [youtube.com/makeawishwisconsin](https://youtube.com/makeawishwisconsin)  
View photos from Wish Night: [flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin/albums](https://flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin/albums)



**Wishmakers of Wisconsin** brought the Mardi Gras magic to their annual Cheers for Wishes event. From live artists and an amazing brass band, to mouthwatering NOLA bites, casino games and more, they raised \$66,245—nearly double what they raised last year! Huge thanks to presenting sponsor ORBIS Corporation for helping make this event possible.

**Save the date for next year's Cheers for Wishes Mardi Gras on February 20, 2026.**



**Culver's** locations hosted star sales throughout April and a Share Day to raise \$10,000+ for local wish kids.



The 17th annual **Rock for Wishes**, featuring local bands, auction, raffles & more, helped make wishes come true!



WishMaker **Dylan Eggert** and **Boldt** held a Pi Day fundraiser for wishes, through pie sales & donations.



Basketball officials and fans rallied in yellow whistles in memory of their friend, son, and brother Greg Von Rueden. **Yellow Whistles for Greg** raised \$15,000+ for wish kids!



**Rhythm & Wishes** hosted by the St. Norbert Wishmakers on Campus Group was held on March 29th this year, complete with auction, raffles, music & more.



**Brodhead High School Student Council's Wish Week** raised \$3,600+ for wishes through penny wars, bake sales, miracle minutes and spirited basketball games.



## Donor Spotlight

# MILWAUKEE MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Make-A-Wish Wisconsin has had the privilege of working with Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport for more than 40 years. About 75% of wishes involve air travel, and a large number of those wishes fly out of MKE Mitchell International Airport each year.

The staff at MKE Mitchell International Airport work closely with Make-A-Wish to make travel for wish families seamless and enjoyable. They have supported Make-A-Wish through in-kind advertising support within the airport and have also provided auction items and other support. Airport Director Brian Dranzik served on our Board of Directors for six years, providing guidance and expertise in navigating travel for our wish families.



Wish kid Hana at the newly updated Make-A-Wish Wisconsin KidsZone at Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport

In March, we were excited to gather with officials at the MKE Mitchell International Airport to hold a ribbon cutting for the newly updated Make-A-Wish Wisconsin KidsZone play areas, located on Concourses C and D. Wish kid Hana and her family joined in the celebration as Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley and Airport Director Brian Dranzik officiated the event. These play areas will provide children and their families with welcoming and engaging moments of joy and relaxation during their travels. The spaces also serve as a reminder of the vital role airline miles play in making wishes come true.

"Make-A-Wish Wisconsin is so grateful for the support of MKE Mitchell International Airport," said Wendy Cozzens, Make-A-Wish Wisconsin CEO. "We could not fulfill our mission without their help, and it means so much to have them as a part of the Make-A-Wish family."

You can help more wish kids travel through MKE Mitchell International for their travel wishes by donating your airline miles today. For more details, visit [wish.org/wisconsin/miles](https://wish.org/wisconsin/miles)

## THANK YOU, DONORS

Our sincere thanks to the donors listed below and on the following pages, who made contributions and in-kind donations to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin between January 1 and March 31, 2025. *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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*I wish to  
go to Atlantis,  
Bahamas*

**Ezra, 13  
respiratory  
disorder**



# WISH ART CORNER

If you are a wish kid, a wish sibling, a wish parent or ANYONE who has been inspired by a special wish experience, we want to see your one-of-a-kind art!

Send your wish-inspired artwork to the Make-A-Wish Wisconsin Chapter Office (c/o Wish Art, 11020 W. Plank Court, Suite 200, Wauwatosa, WI 53226).

*Wish art, listed left to right, top to bottom, by wish kids Lillian (Atlantis, Bahamas), Alexander (Hawaii), Jacob (Walt Disney World®) and Vera (personal baking station).*



## IN HONOR AND MEMORY

Our sincere thanks to everyone who gave gifts between January 1 and March 31, 2025 in honor or memory of the people and businesses listed below. *We have made every effort to acknowledge these gifts correctly and completely. Please contact us and accept our apologies should any error or omission be discovered.*

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Ken Meyer  
Irmi Miller  
Elizabeth Orcholski  
Nancy Padden  
Larry Pfaff  
Lynn Reed  
Dorothy Robeson  
Dan Rottier

Sharron Rottman  
Shirley Schmidt  
Catherine Schroeder  
Zachary Schulz  
Randy Schwartz  
Zachary Sprader  
John Stelpflug  
Alice Stuhr  
Edward Tritz  
Bob Uecker  
Shawn Van Wyk  
Greg Von Rueden  
Barbara Wagner  
Matthew Christian  
Weborg  
Betty Wicht  
John Zalewski



# THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted January 1  
- March 31, 2025

## ...to go to Alaska

### Atom, 14

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

## ...to go to Atlantis, Bahamas

### Olivia, 10

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

### Ezra, 13

Wish Granters: Heather Process & Polly Frisque

### Cale, 15

Wish Granters: Michelle Wolfe & Julia Wahl

### Barrett, 17

Wish Granters: Kevin & Dale Johnson, Julia Wahl and Shannon Seymer-Tabaska

## ...to have a Camper

### Felix, 4

Wish Granters: Anna Miller, Donna Neeman & Amber Friedrichsen

### Lucas, 9

Wish Granters: Kimberly James & Daniel Giles

### Brandon, 10

Wish Granters: Michele Schaez & Patty Adams

### Braxton, 10

Wish Granters: Tanya Davis & Daniel Giles

### Sophie, 12

Wish Granters: Trent & Linda Zellmer

## ...to go to Clearwater, Florida

### Otis, 5

Wish Granters: Jill Ullmer, Julie Vanlaanen & Lisa Yursis

## ...to go on a Colorado Ski Trip

### James, 16

Wish Granters: Kathy Finley & Kristin Paul

## ...to go on Disney Cruise Line®

### Makenna, 20

Wish Granter: Amy Reineking

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

### Rowan, 2

Wish Granters: Jan Holling & Tacy DeRouin

### Blair, 3

Wish Granters: Julie Irwin & Barb Richison

### Emmett, 3

Wish Granters: Megan Salinas & Patricia Miller

### Evelyn, 3

Wish Granters: Melissa Gorman & Lisa Rice

### Graham, 3

Wish Granters: Julie Irwin, Kristan Klumb & Kelly Flattum

### Hana, 3

Wish Granters: Lisa Rice & Dana Mejic

### Mackenzie, 3

Wish Granters: Jennifer Yetter & Mark Lacke

### Oaklynn, 3

Wish Granters: Molly Koldeway & Angela Perez

### Walter, 3

Wish Granters: Trent & Linda Zellmer

### Hazel, 4

Wish Granters: Joseph & Kathy Bartel, Steven Hesselberg and Joy Lancour

### Lukas, 4

Wish Granters: Laura Vacek & Anissa Johnsen

### Annabella, 5

Wish Granters: Rachel Langer & Brianna Hansen

### Easton, 5

Wish Granters: Steven Hesselberg & Joy Lancour

### Liv, 5

Wish Granter: Larry Levy

### Mason, 5

Wish Granters: Lorna Whalen & Patricia Bemowski

### Santana, 6

Wish Granters: Molly Koldeway & Angela Perez

### Kelly Anne, 9

Wish Granters: Jordyn Dutkiewicz & Cheryl Anderson

### Alexis, 10

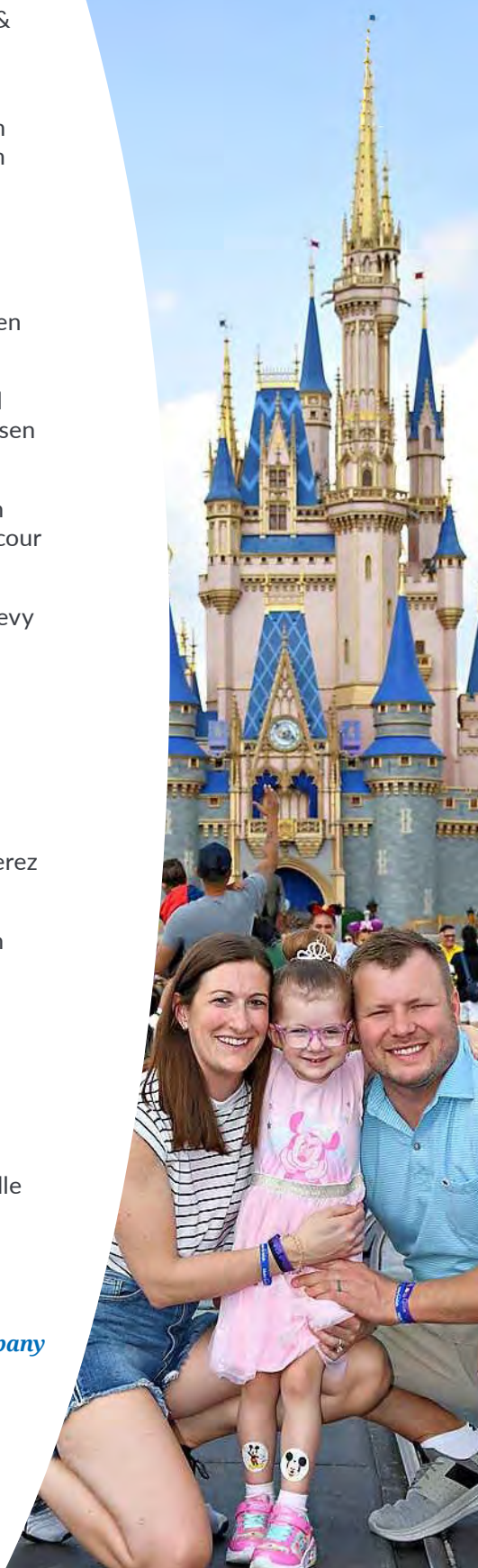
Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

### Annika, 10

Wish Granters: Michelle Wolfe & Patty Adams



*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 go to Hawaii*

# ESCAPE FROM THE UNKNOWN

Kingston, 13, is your typical active child who loves to play in sports like soccer, volleyball and basketball, as well as hide-n-seek, tag and essentially any game outdoors with friends.

Except, unlike most kids, he has been diagnosed a genetic condition where his heart's electrical system takes longer than usual to recover between beats, which can lead to dangerous heart rhythms and potentially sudden cardiac arrest.

Children with Kingston's condition are more likely to have symptoms with exercise, but can sometimes have symptoms with strong emotions or even while resting.

Christa, Kingston's mother, shares that "thankfully, Kingston has never experienced any symptoms so far. However, because he also carries the gene, this condition can be triggered at any point of his life. After being diagnosed, Kingston started on heart medications, to help lower the chances of heart problems like arrhythmias and sudden cardiac arrest. Unfortunately, he noticed the medications made him slower. He felt he couldn't run as fast or he would get tired easily. Because of this, he decided not to continue with soccer this year, which he has been playing since 3rd grade."

Kingston has an interest in other cultures, adventure and really loves swimming and the water. When he heard from friends that Hawaii is beautiful and has active volcanoes, he knew Hawaii could be his perfect escape for all of that and more.

"Kingston's wish trip really was bittersweet. Although Kingston can live a pretty normal life, there is always that thought in the back of our minds that tomorrow is not really promised. **If something were to happen to him, it would be instant. No goodbyes... no warning signs... no way of knowing. We are so appreciative of being able to go and experience his Hawaii wish as a family.**

Kingston enjoyed his snorkeling excursion. He had a great time swimming with the fishes and seeing so many different varieties. We loved the mountains and all the ocean views. He most definitely also loved eating shrimp musubi.

Being able to see the joy on Kingston's face and create beautiful memories within this wish trip has made us so grateful for each day we continue to have with him. We created many wonderful memories and will definitely keep them dear to our hearts," Christa expressed gratefully.





# THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted January 1  
- March 31, 2025 (Cont.)

## **Brayson, 10**

Wish Granters: Tara  
Buringa & Thomas Bauer

## **Jayden, 10**

Wish Granters: Diana  
Moreno & Larry Levy

## **Jocelyn, 10**

Wish Granters: Julie Irwin,  
Janelle Disher & Cheryl  
Muller

## **Kaycen, 10**

Wish Granters: Jodi Halpin  
& Maurine Braun

## **Kirk, 10**

Wish Granters: Carrie  
Cookson & Linette Britt

## **Marquis, 10**

Wish Granters: Larry Levy,  
Nicole Gunn & Mariah  
Abdel-Fattah

## **Yamileth, 10**

Wish Granters: Cathy  
Speirs, Sandy Strack & Kim  
Gosz

## **Addison, 11**

Wish Granters: Amanda  
Sarazen & Carol Erdmann

## **A'myra, 13**

Wish Granters: Jorian  
Greenwood & Larry Levy

## **Harleigh, 13**

Wish Granters: Carol  
Erdmann & Patty Hanson

## **Sophia, 13**

Wish Granters: Holly De  
Long & Jaime Rietveld

## **...to go to Disneyland® Resort**

## **Courtney, 18**

Wish Granters: Corinne  
Kennedy, Linda Ryfinski  
& Larry Levy

## **...to go to Florence, Italy**

## **Lucy, 17**

Wish Granters: Arielle  
Serrano & Alyssa Madison

## **...to go to the Florida Keys**

## **Jaxson, 9**

Wish Granters: Mallory  
Fritsch & Michele Fritsch

## **...to have a Goalball Court**

## **Jacob, 3**

Wish Granters: Jill Ullmer,  
Lindsey Beattie & Julie  
Vanlaanen

## **...to have a Goldendoodle Puppy**

## **Bo, 12**

Wish Granters: Kevin &  
Dale Johnson

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

## **Azra, 7**

Wish Granter: Peggy Van  
Grinsven

## **Kirsten, 16**

Wish Granter: Larry Levy

## **...to go to Hawaii**

## **Zander, 5**

Wish Granters: John &  
Stacy Kokalj

## **Adrian, 6**

Wish Granter: Larry Levy

## **Declan, 6**

Wish Granters: Ann  
Leonard & Paige Leonard

## **Case, 9**

Wish Granters: Alexis  
Ruetten, Kristen Wetzell  
& Jan Holling

## **Lily, 9**

Wish Granters: Jill Ullmer  
& Traci Steinbach

## **Charley, 11**

Wish Granters: Alyssa  
Madison & Debra Mikulski

## **Kingston, 13**

Wish Granters: Kathy  
Finley & Kristin Paul

## **Averi, 14**

Wish Granters: Amanda  
Mutchler, Jean Zoulek  
& Arielle Serrano

## **Clayton, 14**

Wish Granters: Lisa  
Lewitzke and Mike &  
Carolyn Conley

## **Atley, 15**

Wish Granters: Kimberly  
James & Daniel Giles

## **Elijah, 18**

Wish Granters: Mark Lacke  
& Megan Rosandich

## **Abigail, 19**

Wish Granters: Kimberly  
James & Amanda Kozik

## **Nathan, 21**

Wish Granter: Alyssa  
Welch

## **...to have a Horse**

## **Charlotte, 7**

Wish Granters: Torrey  
Calkins & Carrie Biggin

*I wish to go  
to Hawaii*

**Charley, 11**  
lymphoma

## OUR *wish* COMMUNITY



Pictured left to right: Dr. Singh, Dr. Kovach, Dr. Beacher, Liz Reid RN, Hillary Giorgi APNP, and Nicole Hunker APNP



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 Teegan's shopping spree wish (pictured next page right) come true!

The **Children's Wisconsin Cardiology/Electrophysiology Team** has played a vital role in Teegan's health. Liz Reid, Teegan's RN, shares, "from my perspective, we often have to restrict kids like Teegan from competitive sports for their safety, so it's nice if they get the opportunity to do something that is just for them and special. Make-A-Wish provides an opportunity for our patients to have an amazing time while remaining medically safe."

The **Kendra Scott Foundation** is committed to empowering women and youth through health and wellness, education, and entrepreneurship. They bring their mission to life through signature programs and partnering with like-minded organizations. This year, the Kendra Scott Foundation proudly launched a national partnership with Make-A-Wish to help grant life-changing wishes to children with critical illnesses. This partnership builds on years of connection with local Make-A-Wish chapters to expand Kendra Scott's impact. A special moment was when they hosted wish kid Teegan at their Brookfield store to make her dream of a local shopping spree come true.

Carrie Knight, Event Manager at Kendra Scott, shares "one of the most memorable moments was our recent Make-A-Wish Kid Shopping Day with wish kid Teegan, which brought such joy to not only her and her family but our entire staff and other shoppers. The joy in the midst of trials is a wonderful thing to gift! As we reflect on this partnership, one belief rings true, those who support Make-A-Wish are often more blessed than the recipients."

Teegan's parents said that the wish experience "...made Teegan feel special, normal, like she wasn't sick. It was nice to see her happy and excited about something."

## MAKE-A-WISH® REFERRAL SOURCES

Our thanks to those who referred and treated children with wishes granted between January 1 and March 31, 2025:

### **Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago:**

Kelsey Pease, LCSW; Dr. Angela Jae Waanders, MD

### **Boston Children's Hospital:**

Dr. Lissa Baird, MD

### **Children's Wisconsin:**

Kristin Gorecki, RN; Dr. Abdul Elkadri, MD; Sheila M Dodds, MSW; Dr. Nicholas Antos, MD; Michelle Honeck, MSW; Latoya Stamper, MSW; Dr. Ryuma Tanaka, MD; Dr. Amy Moskop, MD; Dr. Sara Dawson, MD; Dr. Rajasree Sreedharan, MD; Carol Carson, RN; Dr. Joseph Cava, MD; Dr. Paul Harker-Murray, MD; Dr. Sarah Rumler, MD; Nicole Barnes, MSW; Dr. Michael Burke, MD; Dr. Melissa Azul, MD; Dr. Joshua Kovach, MD; Dr. Zachary Graff, MD; Dr. Allison Remiker, MD; Dr. Danielle Fair, MD; Carrie Torkilson, MSW; Rose Ackmann, RN; Dr. Avantika

Singh, MD; Dr. Julie An Talano, MD; Stephanie Offord, NP; Dr. Rebecca Steuart, MD; Dr. David Margolis, MD; Dr. Kerri Becktell, MD; Emily Brandl, NP; Liz Reid, RN; Dr. Angela Steineck, MD; Corynne Meiser, MSW; Dr. Matthew Buelow, MD; Dr. Stephanie Handler, MD

### **Essentia Health - Duluth:**

JoHannah Orman, CCLS

### **Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare:**

Dr. Todd Dalberg, MD; Dr. Art Beisang, MD

### **Gundersen Health System:**

Cheri Hill, CTRS; Dr. Jennifer Orozco, MD

### **SHS St. Vincent's Children's Hospital:**

Dr. Peter Holzwarth, MD; Billie Hermans, LPN; Sophia Smith, Child Life Professional; Dr. John Hill, MD; Kailee Hanson, Child Life Professional; Dr. Cathy Long, MD

### **Marshfield Children's Hospital:**

Laurie Weber, RN; Dr. Monica Cohen, MD; Dr. Victoria Viegut, MD; Dr. John Brandt, MD

### **Mayo Clinic:**

Meghan Wodill, LGSW; Dr. Madeleine O'Keefe, MD; Dr. Carl Cramer, MD

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

Dr. Mary Zupanc, MD; Joyce Kilgore-Carlin, MSW; Dr. Cathy Lee-Miller, MD; Craig Becker, MSW; Darci Pfeil, NP; Dr. Jennifer Kwon, MD; Bethany Doherty, MSW; Dr. Rebecca Richards, MD; Dr. Kathleen Maginot, MD; Kim Sue Lamster, MSW; Dr. Margo Hoover-Regan, MD; Jill Bowdish, CAPSW; Dr. Mary Ehlenbach, MD; Solomy Ntambi, MSW; Dr. Austin Stuckert, MD; Dr. James Stadler, MD; Megan Fecht, CAPSW; Dr. Rachel Engen, MD; Ashley Schnirring, MSW; Dr. Anne Marsh, MD; Dr. Kenneth DeSantes, MD; Dr. Hara Levy, MD; Eden Jackson, RN; Dr. Luke Lamers, MD; Dr. David Hsu, MD; Dr. Christina Amend, MD; Dr. Janet Legare, 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).

*Below: 17-year-old Lucy's wish to go to Florence, Italy came true in March.*





# THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted January 1  
- March 31, 2025 (Cont.)

## ...to have a Hybrid Shopping Spree

### Marlana, 18

Wish Granters: Larry Levy & Yasari Wolschlag

## ...to have a Shopping Spree

### Londyn, 13

Wish Granters: Mike & Carolyn Conley

### Teegan, 14

Wish Granters: Melissa Reina & Yasari Wolschlag

### Haven, 15

Wish Granters: Deea Breunig & Carmen Bruss

### Malik, 16

Wish Granters: Geet Pandya, Larry Levy & Mariah Abdel-Fattah

## ...to meet John Cena

### Dontavian, 11

Wish Granters: Karen Kaempffe & Sandy Strack

## ...to meet Salish Matter

### Brooklyn, 9

Wish Granter: Lyn-Le Buus

## ...to meet the cast of "The Rookie"

### Alexander, 13

Wish Granters: Carol Nelson, Daniel Rogan & Christina Reschke

## ...to have a Milwaukee Bucks Experience

### Anthony, 10

Wish Granters: Megan Salinas & Maria Keizer

## ...to go to the NBA All-Star Game

### Henry, 15

Wish Granters: Steven Hesselberg & Joy Lancour

## ...to go to Broadway Shows in New York City

### Addison, 17

Wish Granters: Larry Levy, Alyssa Madison & Jeff Wysocki

## ...to have an Online Shopping Spree

### Kiriana, 15

Wish Granters: Joseph & Kathy Bartel and Lyn-Le Buus

### Viktor, 20

Wish Granter: Adena Ruckoldt

## ...to go to Orlando

### Abigail, 12

Wish Granters: Lisa Rice & Meredith Niesen

### Adelyn, 12

Wish Granters: Margaret Walters & Shelby Robbins

### Mylee, 13

Wish Granters: Shelby Robbins & Jodi Halpin

## ...to have a Pontoon Boat

### Ben, 10

Wish Granters: Jean Zoulek & Zachary Guerrero

## ...to have a Room Makeover

### Danna, 11

Wish Granters: Jo Marchionda & Diana Moreno

## ...to go on a Royal Caribbean Cruise

### Dominic, 18

Wish Granters: David Noshay & Larry Levy

## ...to go to San Diego

### Samuel, 5

Wish Granters: Shari & Todd Beland and Dawn Ogrezovich

## ...to have a Sloth Party

### Stella, 14

Wish Granters, Make-A-Wish Minnesota: Diane Falken & Bill Kuhn

## ...to go to St. Lucia

### Faith, 17

Wish Granters: Lisa Yursis & Patty Hanson

## ...to go to Vail, CO

### Eliska, 17

Wish Granters: Kristan Klumb, Lynn Wagner, Cheryl Muller & Joy Lancour

## ...to have a Vehicle Makeover

### Nathan, 16

Wish Granters: Robert Schuette & Michel Klein

## ...to go to Whistler, BC

### Benjamin, 16

Wish Granters: Elizabeth Reynolds & Sandra Nissen

*I wish to have a shopping spree*

**Teegan, 13**  
heart condition





## MAKE-A-WISH VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

*Behind every wish are volunteer WishMakers who donate their time and talents to make the impossible possible. The following volunteers have gone a step beyond:*

JANUARY 2025

### YASARI WOLSHLAG

"My favorite part of being a wish granter is bringing a sense of light to wish kids during their darkest times while they battle their illness," she says. "Being a part of the process from wish discovery to wish delivery day is the greatest joy, seeing their faces light up and the anticipation of wish day!"



FEBRUARY 2025

### MICHELE BERGSTROM

As a volunteer wish granter for 35 years, Michele has helped grant 79 wishes and is working on wish 80! She remarks, "I believe everyone has an inherent obligation to do good in this world, and Make-A-Wish embodies pure love and a dedication to helping a very special group of people—medically challenged children."



MARCH 2025

### MAYME HOFFMAN

"I volunteer because Make-A-Wish Wisconsin does such a wonderful job bringing such joy and memories to so many children and their families," she says. "Make-A-Wish is a wonderful organization to volunteer for. I strongly encourage anyone thinking of volunteering to do so."



## WHO GETS A WISH?

A child with a critical illness older than 2½ years and younger than 18 years and has not received a wish from any other wish-granting organization is potentially eligible for a wish from Make-A-Wish Wisconsin.

After a child is referred, Make-A-Wish will work with the treating physician to determine the child's eligibility for a wish, i.e. suffering from a progressive, degenerative or malignant condition that, despite adherence to the treatment plan, is currently placing the child's life in jeopardy.

These are the only criteria used to determine a child's eligibility.

If you or your child meets all of the above qualifications, we invite you to begin the process today by contacting the Make-A-Wish Wisconsin office at 800.236.WISH (9474), or refer online at [wish.org/refer](https://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: 13-year-old Sophia's wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort came true this past January.*

## VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

### 25 YEARS

Jennifer Hoepfner  
Terrylynn Johnson

### 20 YEARS

Ann Slifka  
Sandy Yost  
Sandra Smith

### 15 YEARS

Tina Zylka  
Shari Beland  
Kathy Woolford  
Ronna Monahan

### 10 YEARS

Kelly Burk  
Susan Danner-  
Rivers  
Maggie Walters  
Kimberly Damp

### 5 YEARS

Travis Stargardt  
Charles Palmer  
Amanda Schindler  
Michele Fritsch  
Cheryl Becker

## ¿CONOCE A ALGUIEN BILINGÜE?

¡Siempre estamos buscando más intérpretes! 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).



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

**Azra, 7**  
congenital heart  
disease

## WISH SPONSORS

Thank you to the following sponsors who contributed at least \$4,000 or more to sponsor the wishes granted between January 1 and March 31, 2025.

ABC Supply Co., Inc.	Doris Mertens	Joe & Jennifer Imhoff	Northcoast Media Group	The Richard K. & Theresa A. Davis Family Foundation
AHS Girls Swim & Dive Team	Elizabeth Bertrandt-Klug	John & Nancy Lee	OnMilwaukee	The Village Companies
Albert & Shirley Schmidt	Estate of Bernadine Mattes	John Arnold	Paul Lipton Charitable Fund	Thomas Wisniewski
Andrew & Lisa O'Connell	Estate of Daniel A. Veith	Joyce Cullen	Peggy Ann	Timothy & Susan Anderson
Associated Bank	Evelyn M. & Amil C. Bach Foundation	K.C. Stock Foundation	Peter & Jodi Sprinkmann	Tina Kraussel - Skating with Santa
Baird	Fiserv Solutions, Inc.	Karen J. Glanert Charitable Trust	Pok-A-Snoz Snowmobile Club, Inc.	Tony Staniak
Barbara Daly in honor of her grandchild and wish kid Margaret	Fond du Lac Area Foundation	Kathryn & Patrick Brown	Pop-A-Top Polar Plunge	Tracy Alpert & John Burke
Beloit Sky Carp	FOX6 WITI-TV	Kenneth Muth	Quest - Angie Lefebvre	UW-Athletics
Bergstrom Automotive	Gavin & Terry Hattersley	Kessler's Diamonds	Ray Steffen	UWGB Phoenix Wish Night
Bobby's Bar	GE Healthcare	Ladish Company Foundation	Realtors Association of NEWI - Timber Rattlers Game	Waupun Truck-N-Show
BreakThru	Generac Power Systems	Make Their Hearts Smile Truck Convoy	Rheem	Wausau West DECA
Brian & Kathy Gottlieb - Windows for a Cause	Gundlach Family Fund of Messiah Lutheran Church	Maria Sartori	Richard Kessler	WBAY-TV2
Carma Laboratories	Habush Habush & Rottier	Mark Phillips	Rose Ann Becker	Wheels for Wishes
Carol Molski	Harrigan for Wishes	Meggie Owsiak	S.C. Johnson	William Wright
Carolyn Scherer	Harris Turer	Men with a Purpose Golf Outing	Schreiber Foods In Honor of Mike & Leanne Haddad	Windows for a Cause
Central Wisconsin Equipment	Henry H. (Sr.) & Marion (Polly) S. Uihlein Foundation	Michael Klurfeld	Scott and Linda Haag	Wisconsin ATV/UTV Charity Ride
Chad Hamilton	Hupy and Abraham	Mike & Paula Hamilton	Shannon Kobylarczyk	Wisconsin Public Service Corp
Cheers for Wishes	In Honor of Marcus Corporation	Mike McEvoy	Steve Dunkman	Wisconsin Scottish Rite Foundation
Christa & Todd Graverson	In memory of Bradan Hermes	Milwaukee Admirals	Steve Girard	Wisconsin Underground Contractor's Association (WUCA)
Cindy & Scott Boho	Irene Turowski	Molson Coors Beverage Company	Steve Stricker American Family Foundation	Yacht Blast for Kids
Contact Transport Services	James Stark	Muchow & South Central Heating & Cooling	Surewood Forest Wishes for Kids	
Cornerstone Foundation of Northeastern Wisconsin	Jesse & Tiffany Mack	Mukwonago for Wishes	Szymczak Racers	
Cornerstone One	Jessica Nast	Nate Dax Memorial Bass Open	The Good Dentist	
David & Mary Swanson		National Exchange Bank Foundation, Inc.	The Jendusa Family	

## WE REMEMBER

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

★ Aiden    ★ Evan    ★ Nathan    ★ Hadley    ★ Stella    ★ Liv  
 ★ Katelyn    ★ Connor    ★ Mason    ★ Daryl    ★ Oaklynn    ★ Avery

## Inside this Issue:

**Volunteer Spotlight:** Behind every wish are volunteers who make the impossible possible.

**Donor Spotlight:** This cherished donor has opened Make-A-Wish Wisconsin KidsZone play areas.

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

**Cover Story:** Kingston's wish allowed him to escape from the unknowns of his critical illness.



### Help keep our mailing list current!

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



# SPARK THE *wish* EFFECT

*Register your team. Fundraise. Walk. Spark hope for wish kids.*



Join us at this year's Walk For Wishes® events in Madison and Milwaukee! Online registration is FREE and easy.

The Madison event includes a petting farm along with Bucky Badger, free fun for the whole family, kids dash and 1-mile walk.

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



### MADISON

McKee Farms Park, Fitchburg  
Saturday, August 23, 2025  
[wish.org/wisconsin/madisonwalk](http://wish.org/wisconsin/madisonwalk)



### MILWAUKEE

Summerfest South Gate  
Saturday, September 6, 2025  
[wish.org/wisconsin/mkewalk](http://wish.org/wisconsin/mkewalk)