

# WishMaker

FALL/WINTER 2024



**Make-A-Wish®**  
NORTH DAKOTA

★ CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WISHES ★

Join us in celebrating  
**40 Years of Impact** by  
honoring our joyful  
beginnings.

Above L-R: Wish kid Allison received her wish to meet Hanna Montana in 2010; Wish kid Kathryn with volunteers Kelly, Ruth and Bonnie; Wish kid Kajj wished to be a "cop officer" in 2010. Near right: Wish kid Victoria wished to be a Cruise Line Director in 2005. Far right: Wish kid TJ, age 9, jumps for joy in honor of our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.



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Make-A-Wish North Dakota

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TJ, age 9, got to experience a personalized visit to the Kennedy Space Center.

## Features

### PAGE 4

## A HISTORY OF MAKE-A-WISH NORTH DAKOTA

Learn how a little girl's dream to play in the snow led to 40 years of wish granting in North Dakota.

### PAGE 10

## TJ'S WISH TO GO TO SPACE

To Emerado ... and Beyond!

## In this Issue

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Colby, age 8, and his family were finally able to reconnect during his trip to Disney World® after having to live separately to accommodate for Colby's cancer treatments.





# Leadership Letter

## Your Why

### DEAR FRIENDS,

Greetings! We hope this message finds you happy and well.

It finds us in our new fiscal year where we welcomed three new board members: Jason Hicks, Kristen Hintermeyer, and Stacy Roers Irmen. See the complete roster of our statewide Board of Directors at the bottom of this page.

It also finds us preparing to celebrate 40 Years of Impact in North Dakota! Our chapter founders (page 4) imagined communities coming together, helping families heal, and making lives better for everyone involved in a wish. Since 1985, we have evolved and changed with the times. But we have always stayed true to our vision to grant the wish of every eligible child and our values of child-focus, integrity, impact, innovation, and community.

In a perfect world, cancer or heart malformation or rare disease wouldn't exist. And someday, there may be a cure for every single condition our wish kids face, but in the meantime, together, we are a catalyst of joy. As long as there is a need for a wish, we count on you joining us in bringing hope, strength and joy to North Dakota children for 40 more years.

We wouldn't be where we are today without SO many people making a difference over the decades—that means YOU! Thanks to all wish children and families who opened their lives to Make-A-Wish, donors who invested in our mission over the

years, volunteers who have given hours of their lives to wish fulfillment and fundraising, medical professionals who refer and partner, board members, and more. We would love to know your “why”—Why did you decide to volunteer? Why did you give that first gift? Why did you refer a child? If you are willing to share, please send your story to [info@northdakota.wish.org](mailto:info@northdakota.wish.org) as we would love to highlight these “whys” next year.

We look forward to celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday throughout calendar year 2025. From our first wish (page 4) to those wishes waiting, we will reflect on how we got to this point in our history and reignite our passion to **transform lives**, one wish at a time. Please join us as volunteers, wish alumni, or attendees for upcoming events like World of Wishes, Wine & Wishes and the Dickinson Noon Lions Benefit (page 6). These events foster community—friend raising, awareness raising and raising the spirits of all involved.



We believe strongly in the power of our mission—it is our “why!” Everyone can use a bit of pixie dust in their lives. YOU are the reason we look back with pride on our 40 Years of Impact and look toward a future of continued force for good.

**WishMakers,  
Josh and Billi Jo**

### BOARD LEADERSHIP



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Chair,  
West Fargo



**Tanya Cox,**  
Chair-Elect/Vice Chair  
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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Bonnie Goldsberry,** Dickinson

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**Kristen Hintermeyer,** West Fargo

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**KrisAnn Norby-Jahner,** Bismarck

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**Kira Stenehjelm Noll,** Watford City

**Pastor Bruce Vold,** Hatton

**Jenifer Jones-Dees, MD,** Chapter Medical  
Advisor, West Fargo

### WELCOME NEW DIRECTORS!



From left to right:

**Kristen Hintermeyer,** Bobcat Company,  
West Fargo

**Jason Hicks,** Baranko Brothers Inc,  
Dickinson

**Stacy Roers Irmen,** Sanford Health,  
Jamestown

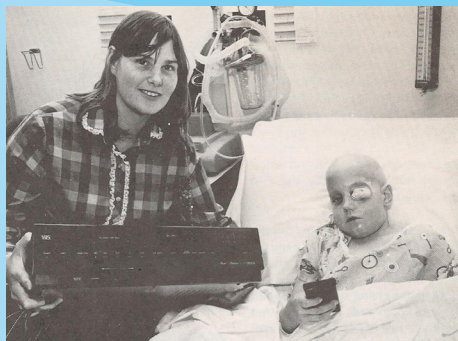
# A History of Make-A-Wish North Dakota

Forty years ago, a little girl named Stephanie was the catalyst to bringing Make-A-Wish to North Dakota. While at a conference in San Francisco, Jerry Novacek and Kevin Reitz were shown a video introducing Stephanie, a 4-year-old diagnosed with a malignant tumor from Florida, who had no greater wish than to see and play in the snow. In the video, they learned how Stephanie's local Make-A-Wish chapter raised money to send Stephanie and her family to Utah where they experienced what it was like to go sledding, have a snowball fight, and experience a full day in the snow.



The four founders with one of our first wish kids.

Kevin and Jerry were so moved by Stephanie and her story; they decided that North Dakota kids who also struggled with critical illnesses should have the same opportunities she did. They, along with Diane Weickert and Arlene Nelson, became the first official board members for Make-A-Wish North Dakota. Together, they put in tireless amounts of hours organizing events, fundraising, and granting wishes.



North Dakota's first wish child, Chris, and his mom check out his new VCR.

North Dakota's first official wish was for a 7-year-old boy named Chris. Chris, who was diagnosed with cancer, loved watching movies in the Pediatrics Center at what was St. Luke's Hospital at the time. However, due to his increasing treatment needs, there came a time when he was no longer able to do so, which led to his wish of having a VCR with a remote control of his very own to keep in his hospital room. His wish came true with the help of Videoland, a video retail store in Moorhead! With his VCR and favorite movie in hand, Chris was able to create his own movie experience right in his hospital room. For nine years, our founders and a strong group of volunteers were a force to be reckoned with, often spending 20-30 hours a week on top of working full time jobs, granting wishes and raising awareness for Make-A-Wish North Dakota. However, they knew the need was there for someone solely dedicated to our mission to ensure all eligible children were granted their wish.

That need brought the chapter's first President and CEO, Sharon Mazaheri, to our doors. Under her leadership, Make-A-Wish North Dakota was able to expand outside of North Dakota's metro areas. Most of the chapter's volunteer network was in Fargo, Bismarck, and Grand Forks at the time, so she worked tirelessly to help expand into smaller communities throughout the state.



Sharon, our first president and CEO with wish child Jacob.

Though our beginnings were humble, our mission is mighty. As we begin to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of granting wishes throughout North Dakota, please join us in recognizing the beginnings that helped lead us to what we are today: a statewide chapter with statewide board representation, dedicated network of 185 volunteers across North Dakota, and recognized as a nationally trusted nonprofit brand operating locally creating over 1,100 life-changing wishes, and counting.



# Our Pioneering Firsts

1986



## THE FIRST DISNEY WISH: TRACY, AGE 6

Though Tracy was our first Disney related wish, we have since granted over 300 wishes related to the Disney Parks.

1995



## THE TWIN GALAS

World of Wishes and Wine & Wishes, our two annual galas, began as "A Wish Auction" in 1995 in Bismarck. Now our staple events on each side of the state, these galas serve as a reminder to celebrate what brings us together: our wish kids and families.



2002



## DICKINSON NOON LIONS

A partnership spearheaded by former board chair Kelly Braun, the Dickinson Noon Lions Club has been a champion for Make-A-Wish North Dakota for the last 23 years. Over the years, their benefit has become one of the largest fundraisers for our chapter and is now considered one of the Dickinson area's premier events. Thanks to their advocacy and dedication, the Dickinson Noon Lions Club has raised over \$2 million alone! Make sure to mark your calendars to join them for their next benefit on **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

2009



## THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL TRIP: LANGLEY, AGE 15

Langley's wish to visit Egypt was a big milestone for our chapter and was proof that all wishes—no matter how big or far—*can* come true.



## Share Your Story!

Whether you're a wish alumni, a volunteer, or a donor, we want to celebrate how Make-A-Wish has impacted you in honor of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Stories may be used across social media platforms, at events, or within our newsletters and emails. If you are willing to share your story, please scan here!



## Save the Date

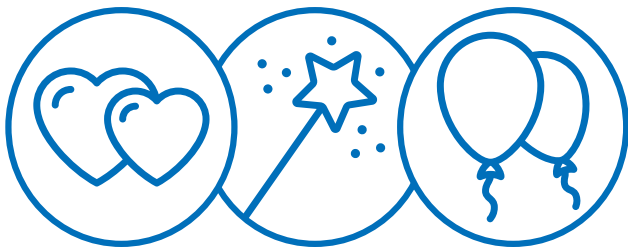
We're so excited to celebrate North Dakota wishes – past, present, and future. Consider supporting us at either of our upcoming galas.

### WORLD OF WISHES GALA FRIDAY, JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

BSC National Energy Center of Excellence,  
Bismarck, ND

*Mark your calendars for this heartfelt, lively evening that explores the lasting impression wishes have on our community! Join us for dinner and hear from local wish kids sharing the experience and impact of their wishes, hear how you can continue to support our chapter, and top off the night with a live AND silent auction. By attending this event, you can help make wishes come true!*

*Tickets are \$75 for an individual, \$15 for children 12 and under, and \$650 for a table of 8.*



### WINE & WISHES GALA SATURDAY, MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2025

Delta Hotels by Marriot, Fargo, ND

*We are back with another evening of celebrating hope and wishes! Join us this spring for our annual Wine & Wishes Gala with a night of fun, food, and wine tasting. Wish kids from the area will pull at your heart strings throughout the live auction program. A silent auction will also be open for bidding to help us grant even MORE North Dakota wishes!*

*To purchase tickets or learn more about either of these events, visit [wish.org/northdakota](http://wish.org/northdakota) or call 701.280.9474.*



*Scan for calendar*



## External Events

Thank you to the many external events that are hosted by various individuals, organizations and groups. The generous support provided by the many people who attend and participate in these events goes directly to making wishes come true for wish kids here in North Dakota.

We are honored to recognize the following events that took place between October 2023 and October 2024:

*Watch the next issue for more events! While every effort is made to include all external events, please alert us if we've missed any.*

- A Wishing Star Fundraiser (Fargo)
- Bakken BBQ (Dickinson)
- Bearscat Donut Sales (Bismarck, Mandan, Minot)
- Breakfast at the Bowers (Waubun)
- Chuck-E-Cheese
- Coins for Wishes (Wahpeton)
- Cooper Theatre "Wish" Movie Night (Cooperstown)
- Cowboy Christmas Fundraiser (Dickinson)
- Culver's Star Sales (Fargo, Minot, & Williston)
- Designer Purse Bingo (Hankinson)
- Dickinson Noon Lions Benefit (Dickinson)
- Glik's Register Campaign (Dickinson)
- HDR Inc. Chili Cook Off (Bismarck)
- In-Home Parties led by Board Directors
- Jousting for Jocelyn (Medora)
- Make-A-Wish Trivia (Hankinson)
- Memory Fireworks (Statewide)
- Makes Cents/MHA Systems Inc. Golf Tournament (Bismarck)
- Prairie Riders Motorcycle Club (Hannaford)
- Puzzle Competition (Mooreton)
- Roughrider Ink & Iron Expo (West Fargo)
- Sausage Fest (Moorhead)
- Shrimp Boil (Wahpeton)
- Style Uncorked (Williston)
- Sunflower Shindig (Emerado)
- Tommy's Express Car Wash Donation Drive (Fargo-Moorhead)
- Trick-Or-Treat Wish Walk (Fargo)
- USDA Wildlife Services Staff Holiday Party (Bismarck)
- Wish Upon a Pie (Tyler)



# The Launch of Something New

Three new events were launched this year! We'd like to extend a heartfelt "Thank you!" to the partners (new and old), board members, and volunteers who helped make these events possible. Here's to many more years of amazing partnerships!



## Tommy's Express Car Wash Fundraiser

Fargo-Moorhead

Throughout the month of August, **Tommy's Express Car Washes** throughout Fargo-Moorhead donated 10% of all WORKS Wash purchases. Thanks to their hardworking staff, they were able to raise **\$4,940** for North Dakota Wishes!



## Makes Cents/MHA Systems Inc. Golf Tournament

Bismarck

Wish dad, Richard Mayer, and his company **Makes Cents/MHA Systems Inc.** chose our chapter to be the beneficiary of their annual golf tournament this year! This event raised **\$37,500** and will allow us to grant 5 more wishes this wish cycle.



## Williston Fly-In Movie Night

Williston

Our chapter spearheaded this event in partnership with **Williston Basin International Airport** and **Overland Aviation** to provide a family-friendly, stress-free movie night for the Williston community. Through free-will donations and our Wish Upon A Star Raffle, we were able to raise **\$17,000!**

# Embrace the Power of Giving

With your support, wishes turn into reality. Consider donating during one of our statewide campaigns.

## DECEMBER

### 3 Giving Tuesday | Text and Online

*The Tuesday after Thanksgiving is nationally recognized as the official start to the Holiday Giving Season. Donate on Giving Tuesday by texting **"ndwishes"** to **44834!***

### 1-31 Holiday Wish Hero | Online

*Throughout the month, Make-A-Wish supporters aim to raise awareness and funds through peer-to-peer fundraising. To contribute to someone's campaign, visit: **wish.org/northdakota**.*

*Interested in Peer-to-Peer fundraising? Be a Wish Hero during our summer campaign! For more information, email Amanda at [agodfread@northdakota.wish.org](mailto:agodfread@northdakota.wish.org).*

## FEBRUARY

### 13 Giving Hearts Day | Online

*Widely considered to be the most generous day in our region, Giving Hearts Day is a 24-hour online giving day dedicated to investing in the power and impact of local nonprofits. Donations on Giving Hearts Day are matched by generous sponsors to ensure that your gift extends the extra mile. To donate on Giving Hearts Day, visit **[givingheartsday.org](http://givingheartsday.org)**.*



# Other Ways to Give

Whether you are looking to donate financially or through dedicating time, there are many ways to support our mission outside of the holiday season. Here are a few opportunities available for you to consider:

## THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP

*Are you a Thrivent member? If so, there are even more ways you can make a difference in our mission.*

*Here are the top three:*



### 1. Thrivent Choice Dollars® Program:

Make-A-Wish North Dakota is eligible to receive donations through this program, where Thrivent members direct Choice Dollars to enrolled organizations. We encourage you to choose our chapter when allocating your Choice Dollars – it's easily done online or by phone.

- Online, visit [thrivent.com](https://thrivent.com) and log in, click Direct Choice Dollars, choose Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Dakota and submit!
- Or call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice" and press 1 and a client service professional will help you.

### 2. Personal Donation Online through

Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing®: Want to make an even bigger difference? Thrivent pays 100% of the processing fees for members so that the donation fully goes to helping make wishes come true. Go to [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) and again, choose Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Dakota to donate. Or contact your Thrivent Financial Planner to see how granting wishes can be part of your legacy.

Thanks in advance for exploring these generosity programs through your Thrivent membership.

### 3. Volunteer through Thrivent Action

**Teams:** Thrivent encourages its members to give back through volunteerism and you can apply to lead a Thrivent Action Team, receiving seed money and resources to support a service project or fundraiser for Make-A-Wish North Dakota. Visit [thrivent.com/actionteam](https://thrivent.com/actionteam) for resources to help you brainstorm ideas and prepare for your project. Or collaborate with your local Thrivent representative to host educational workshops on financial literacy, estate planning, or charitable giving strategies which may include Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Dakota.

## WISHES IN FLIGHT MILES DRIVE

Make-A-Wish is one of the few charities that accepts unused airline miles to help defray the cost of travel wishes. While airline mile donations are accepted throughout the year, please join us for our annual Airline Miles Drive launching **Monday, March 3, 2025** by visiting our website at [wish.org/northdakota](https://wish.org/northdakota) or by calling 800.362.9474. Also, your company can host a signature miles drive at any time!



## KIDS FOR WISH KIDS

This program is a unique way to get kids involved with our mission. Kids for Wish Kids engages schools, youth organizations, and families in fostering volunteerism and leadership in kids by putting the kids in charge. Some popular fundraisers kids have done in the past are:

- Bake sales
- Danceathon/Walkathon
- Penny wars
- Lemonade stands

Scan here for more ideas for your very own Kids for Wish Kids campaign!





# The Foundation of Our Mission

From navigating the wish journey as a wish granter to helping bolster our mission via social media, volunteers are vital to our success and impact as a chapter. We're currently in need of volunteers and extra support in these areas. If you've ever considered volunteering with us before, now is the time! If you're able to contribute your time to any of these opportunities, please contact Angie at [aleier@northdakota.wish.org](mailto:aleier@northdakota.wish.org).

## HOLIDAY WISH STORE

The Holiday Wish Store is an opportunity for wish kids and their families to shop for themselves or their loved ones before the holidays, at no cost to them with no extra hassle. We keep this as a generic "Holiday Wish Store" to ensure we keep the opportunity open for everyone to participate and celebrate, no matter what holidays they choose to observe.

We're looking for volunteers to help run this event, which takes place both in person at our Wishing Place and virtually in December.



If you're unable to volunteer, we're also looking for donations to stock the store! Please consider donating through our Amazon wish list by scanning here or dropping off donations at the Wishing Place.

## GIVING HEARTS DAY AMBASSADORS

We need help amplifying our "Small Towns, Big Hearts" message throughout the state for Giving Hearts Day! As an Ambassador, volunteers would champion our message in small towns by partnering with schools, local businesses, or their friends to help drive donations on Giving Hearts Day.

## WESTERN WISH GRANTERS

Wish kids on the Western side of North Dakota need wish granters! As a wish granter, you'd be walking the wish journey with a wish kid by helping them determine their wish and keeping in contact while their wish is being designed.

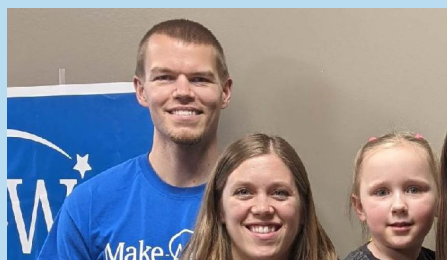
## Volunteer of the Month

### JUNE



ELLEN NOWATZKI

### JULY



BEAU & NICOLE KASHMARK

### AUGUST



DAN CONRAD

### SEPTEMBER



VANESSA LYSTAD

### OCTOBER



WESTON DRESSLER

### NOVEMBER



LISA & ERICK GRAFSTROM





## TJ's Space Adventure

When wish granters met with TJ, age 9 from Emerado ND, he easily spoke about all of his favorite things - cheese pizza and chicken, chocolate covered donuts and sprinkles, math class, science, video games, and fishing. With each thing he listed, TJ's face brightened up just a little bit more and wish granters knew they had a world of options for helping TJ determine his wish. But then, TJ unleashed **the big one**.





He started talking about space. “TJ would watch a lot of videos on space and that would help him get through his treatment because it would take his mind off of what he was having to go through,” said Terry, TJ’s dad.

TJ wants to be an astronaut, specifically an architect astronaut.

Thus began TJ’s wish journey.

Ellen and Pastor Bruce, TJ’s wish granters, learned that he is enamored with NASA and wanted the opportunity to meet real astronauts and ask them questions. Furthermore, he dreamed of exploring a spacecraft and learning all about the wonders of outer space. They did such a great job discovering what TJ loves, it was clear how to craft his wish to be an astronaut - he would get his very own space adventure at Kennedy Space Center in Orlando, Florida.

Once the wish was planned, it was time for the big reveal. TJ’s wish granters wanted to make it special for TJ, and they truly aimed for the stars!

They coordinated with a team at the University of North Dakota to give TJ a fun experience full of spaceflight simulations, trying on a spacesuit, and even getting to see what it’s like to live on Mars.

TJ’s excitement from his wish reveal carried through into his wish trip. He and his family started with two days of exploring at Kennedy Space Center, and it was a dream come true! Not only was TJ granted a private tour of the facility, he explored tons of spacecrafts, got to experience a few space missions, and spent time with STEM professionals at the facility doing activities they planned just for him.



The most exciting part, though, was meeting a real-life astronaut! TJ got to play 20 (and more) questions with Terry Wilcutt, an astronaut that led 4 missions to space throughout the 1990s.

Outside of his fun exploring space, TJ and his family were able to explore Universal Studios and got to spend a day at the beach reconnecting as a family. Even the hotel staff got involved in the magic of TJ’s wish – he celebrated his birthday during his wish trip, so they threw him a birthday party with treats for everyone! TJ had so much fun on his wish, he’s decided that he’s going to move to Florida when he grows up.

“Throughout the week, everyone treated TJ and our family so well and really went above and beyond,” Terry said.

Wishes like TJ’s help remind us how much hope and joy comes from a single wish – let’s continue helping make them come true!



# Wishes

Wishes granted between  
May 1, 2024 and  
October 1, 2024

## Mason, 8

respiratory disorder | Bismarck  
"I wish to go to Legoland®"

Wish Granters: Deidre Hillman &  
Melissa Ahonen



## Finn, 13

cancer | Carrington  
"I wish to go on a  
tropical vacation"

Wish Granters: Norma  
Hoberg & Callie Sinner



## Charlie, 3

cancer | Beulah  
"I wish to go to Disney  
World®"

Wish Granters: Eric & Nicole  
Ewoniuk



## Colby, 8

leukemia | Ypsilanti  
"I wish to go to Disney  
World®"

Wish Granters: Penny  
Peterson & Hailee Delaurier



## Arin, 16

cancer | Valley City  
"I wish to go to  
New York City"

Wish Granters: Penny  
Peterson & Tayna Cox



## Reagan, 10

brain tumor | Grand Forks  
"I wish to go to Miami"

Wish Granters: Samantha  
Whalen, Abby Crowley &  
Ellen Nowatzki



## Connor, 3

cancer | Mandan  
"I wish to go to Disney  
World®"

Wish Granters: Amber &  
Joseph Aldred



## Otto, 9

respiratory disorder | Dickinson  
"I wish to go to Hawaii"

Wish Granters: Markus Powell &  
Kelly Braun



## Conley, 6

brain tumor | Center  
"I wish to have a playset"

Wish Granters: Amanda  
Godfread & Tonya Gieser





## Royce, 8

*neuromuscular disorder | Lakota*

**"I wish to visit Super Nintendo World®  
at Universal Studios Hollywood®"**

Wish Granters: Karen Anderson &  
Katie Miller



## Damian, 16

*kidney disease*

**"I wish to go to Hawaii"**

Wish Granter: Brandy Jackson



## Kale, 15

*brain tumor | Harvey*

**"I wish to have a gaming system"**

Wish Granters: Karla Jacobson  
& Bob Meyer

## Eli, 4

*leukemia | Dickinson*

**"I wish to have a pirate  
playset"**

Wish Granters: Ivy Pokorny &  
Meagen Powell



## Riley, 18

*brain tumor | Williston*

**"I wish to have a dirt bike"**

Wish Granters: Abbey Dahlberg,  
Heather Drobnick & Katie Wyman



## Jacob, 14

*cancer | Stanley*

**"I wish to meet Ryan Reynolds"**

Wish Granters: Jenny Wilson &  
Heidi Guetzkow

## Miles, 7

*brain tumor | Minot*

**"I wish to spend time with my family"**

Wish Granters: Dawn Roness & Tara Hart



## Hayden, 18

*leukemia | Fort Yates*

**"I wish to have a  
gaming space"**

Wish Granters: Cindy  
Schaaf & Krista Rausch



## Sami, 15

*lymphoma | Bismarck*

**"I wish to go to Key West"**

Wish Granters: Laney Herauf  
& Cindy Schaaf



## Kenobi, 13

*cancer | Columbus*

**"I wish to have a Star Wars  
experience at Disneyland®"**

Wish Granters: Nikki Hill &  
Josh Herbold



## Weston, 3

*leukemia | Garrison*

"I wish to meet  
Cody Johnson"

Wish Granters: Tonya  
Gieser & Chris Kubal



## Noah, 9

*leukemia | Mandan*

"I wish to have a boat"

Wish Granters: Brittany  
Bowker & Mandy Stephens



## TJ, 9

*cancer | Emerado*

"I wish to be an astronaut  
and go to space"

Wish Granters: Ellen  
Nowatzki & Bruce Vold



## Morgan, 14

*cancer | Bismarck*

"I wish to have a camper"

Wish Granters: Deirdre  
Hillman & Heather Nelsen



## Isabella, 4

*cancer | Tioga*

"I wish to go on a train ride to Seattle"

Wish Granters: Jenny Wilson &  
Heidi Guetzkow



## Kiera, 5

*heart condition | Fairmount*

"I wish to go to the Mall Of America  
and have a princess spa experience"

Wish Granters: Kaycee Fuder &  
Kristi Green



## Additional Wishes

### AZRAEL, 13

*leukemia*

"I wish to go to Hawaii"

Wish Granters: Joseph Oppedisano & Amelia Nigro

### GIRL, 8\*

*cancer*

"I wish to have a playhouse with a slide"

Wish Granters: Karla Jacobson & Lana Nicholas

\*This wish child and their family have requested to remain  
anonymous



## Roz, 12

*vascular disorder | Dunseith*

"I wish to go to New York"

Wish Granters: Brooke Miller  
& Chris Gauthier

## Jaxson, 16

*leukemia | Fargo*

"I wish to have a jet ski"

Wish Granters: Emily  
Flanagan & Landon Vogel



## We Remember

**Dexter**

8/8/2012 - 8/7/2024

**Jacob**

5/6/2010 - 8/8/2024



# Meet the Team

Our team has undergone changes over the recent months. Please join us in congratulating our team on some new roles, as well as welcoming our newest faces!

## Billi Jo Zielinski, President and CEO

For the past 11 years, Billi has worked to champion our mission. A Jill of all trades, she has many roles and responsibilities, including nurturing all chapter relationships, managing chapter funds, and being chief spokeswoman for all North Dakota wishes.



**My wish: "My wish changes every day!"**

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## Kayla Pederson, Database Manager

As our most tenured staff member with 16 years of service, Kayla uses her extensive knowledge of partners, donors, and volunteers to help us maintain and update our internal database. She also puts her expertise to work by helping brainstorm different ways to connect those passionate about our mission.



**My wish: "I wish to hang out with Garth Brooks"**

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## Kelli Just, Medical Affairs Coordinator

Kelli is the newest member of our team, in the newest role! Kelli is the chapter's first Medical Affairs Coordinator. She works to ensure we are connected to all children who are eligible for a wish by connecting with medical professionals throughout the state and educating on our referral process. She also works to ensure eligibility for all referrals that do come through our pipeline and acts as the chapter's spokesperson for wish families starting their wish journey.



**My wish: "I wish to enjoy a hot air balloon ride with my family when the sun is shining bright"**

## Amanda Godfread, Regional Director

Amanda was the pioneer for her role and hit the ground running to help build awareness for our mission through the Western part of North Dakota. From her home base in Bismarck, she continues to make connections with key partners for our chapter, in addition to managing our Peer-to-Peer fundraisers and spearheading World of Wishes.



**My wish: "I wish to meet Princess Catherine"**

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## Lindsey Wagner, Mission Delivery Senior Manager

Lindsey started her journey with our chapter as an intern and is now leading our chapter's wish granting efforts. From the moment of referral to maintaining relationships with our wish alumni, Lindsey is part of the wish journey from start to finish.



**My wish: "I wish to live on a farm with rescued animals"**

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## Melissa Lehr, Wish Coordinator

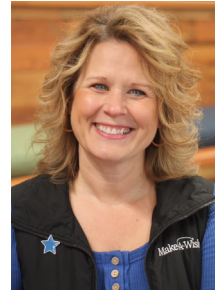
As a wish mom, Melissa has a unique understanding of what makes a wish magical and puts her experience to use coordinating the logistics of bringing a wish together. Her keen attention to detail helps ensure that things like wish boosts and wish reveals are put together without a hitch.



**My wish: "I wish to design and upgrade all the closets in my home with custom storage"**

## Angie Leier, Volunteer and Operations Director

Angie combines her experience in the hospitality industry with her love of giving back to help guide our volunteer network and ensure the smooth operations of our team office. She also helps lead our medical outreach efforts to ensure our chapter is connected to every child eligible for a wish.



**My wish: "I wish to have a winery where I could raise goldendoodles as service animals"**

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## Abby Crowley, Finance and Development Coordinator

Our master of spreadsheets and numbers, Abby helps manage our chapter accounts, donations, and finances. She recently took on the additional responsibility of working on our development team as the lead or all external events on the eastern half of the state and our Fargo gala, Wine & Wishes.

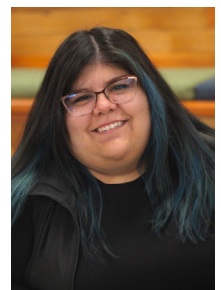


**My wish: "I wish to experience a John Denver concert at Red Rocks Amphitheater"**

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## Jasmine "Jazzy" Lara, Communication Coordinator

Jazzy joined our team in July. Using her background in public relations and marketing, she works to spread our mission by sharing our wish kids' stories. Additionally, she helps strategize how to best amplify our stewardship efforts through statewide media markets.



**My wish: "I wish to have a masterclass in cooking and baking with Gordon Ramsey and Abby Jimenez"**



## MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION® OF NORTH DAKOTA

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Fargo, ND 58104

Find us on:



Help us keep our mailing list updated!  
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58501  
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Below are a few of the opportunities to give back this holiday season. Learn more at [wish.org/northdakota](https://wish.org/northdakota).

### WHEELS FOR WISHES

Change a child's life by donating your car, SUV, truck, motorcycle, boat or RV to our charity car donation program, Wheels for Wishes. The quick and easy process eliminates the hassle of selling your vehicle because they do all the work for you! Most importantly your generous donation grants local wishes. For more information, call 800.362.9474 or visit [wheelsforwishes.org](https://wheelsforwishes.org).

### LEAVE A LEGACY

There's nothing more powerful than leaving a lasting gift of hope. A planned gift, left through a bequest, retirement plan, life insurance policy or other means, ensures your legacy lives on through wishes—enhancing the lives of children with critical illnesses. Learn more here:



### TOY DRIVES

Gifts of toys, games and gift cards enhance the wish experience with more joy and excitement for wish kids. By hosting a drive to collect these items for your local chapter at work or church or as a family, you can be a part of bringing that extra joy to a child fighting a critical illness.

### SHARE THE LOVE

Help spark hope and transformation for a child with a critical illness this holiday season during the 2024 Subaru Share the Love® Event. From November 21, 2024, through January 2, 2025, with every new Subaru purchased or leased at one of more than 630 participating Subaru retailers nationwide, Subaru will donate \$250 to the customer's choice

of charities\*, including Make-A-Wish. See your local Subaru retailer for details or visit [Subaru.com/share](https://Subaru.com/share).

Subaru of America, Inc. and its retailers have donated more than \$285 million to charity through 17 years of the annual Subaru Share the Love Event. Since 2011, Make-A-Wish® has received more than \$32 million of those funds, transforming the lives of more than 3,300 wish children.

\* Purchasers/lessees must make their charity designations by January 12, 2025. The four national charities will receive a guaranteed minimum donation of \$250,000 each. See your local Subaru retailer for details or visit [subaru.com/share](https://subaru.com/share). All donations made by Subaru of America, Inc.