

wishful THINKING

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
MAKE-A-WISH® WISCONSIN
2025 ISSUE 3

FOOD FOR THE SOUL



Nola's wish to go to Japan

OUR *wish* COMMUNITY

*There are many partners
who contribute to the impact
of every wish we grant*

LEGACY OF LOVE

You can support wish kids not
just today but for years to come

Gourmet Wishes

Indulge in incredible food and drinks
while making wishes come true



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

Make-A-Wish®
WISCONSIN

Summer is the busiest season here at Make-A-Wish® Wisconsin. Once the school year ends, many families are finally free to enjoy destination wishes. The warmer weather allows us to hold fun outdoor fundraisers like golf outings, car shows, baseball games and Walk For Wishes®. The end of summer also marks the end of our fiscal year.

And this year, we're on track to grant 425 wishes in a single fiscal year! It's an achievement we are proud of. At the same time, we know that more than 500 Wisconsin children are predicted to be diagnosed with a critical illness every year. We need your help to close this gap and reach our ultimate vision: granting the wish of every eligible child.

There are multiple ways to get involved in our mission. Attend an upcoming fundraiser (page 4). Refer a child you know who may qualify for a wish (see page 13). Include Make-A-Wish Wisconsin as a beneficiary in your will (page 3). Volunteer as a bilingual wish granter (page 12).

While we close out summer and approach back-to-school season, we're also cheering on the incredible kids who fundraise to make other kids' wishes happen. We can't wait to see what they accomplish this school season through the Kids For Wish Kids® program (page 4).

No matter how you choose to help our magical mission, you can be confident knowing that nearly 80 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to granting the wishes of children with critical illnesses. We take the stewardship of the funds entrusted to us very seriously. Thank you for helping enrich lives through wishes. Together, we're making a difference for the families who need it most!

Warmest Wishes,

Joe Imhoff
Board Chair

Wendy Cozzens
Make-A-Wish Wisconsin CEO



WELCOME, NEW STAFF

We are pleased to welcome our new Senior Director of Development, Matt Johnson to our Make-A-Wish Wisconsin team.

Matt comes to us from Divine Savior Holy Angels (DSHA) where he served as Senior Director of Development and previously worked in development in college athletics.

Matt looks forward to raising the necessary resources to help create life-changing wishes for children across Wisconsin.



Matt Johnson
Senior Director of
Development

wish.org/wisconsin



Left to right: Patti Gorsky, Judy Schwerm and Wendy Cozzens.

A Legacy of Wishes

For 41 years, Make-A-Wish Wisconsin has been granting life-changing wishes to children, bringing hope, strength and joy to more than 8,800 kids and their families. This powerful impact has touched countless communities across the state, guided by a strong legacy of exceptional leadership.

Judy Schwerm became President of Make-A-Wish Wisconsin in 1987, and when she began, the fledgling organization was so small that the volunteer Board had to pay for wishes with their personal credit cards and then raise the funds after to get reimbursed. Judy brought incredible awareness of Make-A-Wish to communities across Wisconsin. She also formed long-term relationships with donors, volunteers, staff and the medical community that continue to this day.

In 1999, Judy retired and was succeeded by **Patti Gorsky**. As President & CEO, Patti worked tirelessly, growing the organization from granting about 100 wishes a year to more than 400 a year. Last year, the Chapter granted a record-breaking 451 wishes. Patti continued building awareness and raising significant funds to ensure that no child battling a critical illness had to wait for a life-changing wish. Patti will tell you, one of her greatest points of pride is in the team she built.

One of her team members, **Wendy Cozzens**, was chosen to succeed Gorsky in 2025. Wendy delivers over 13 years of leadership in philanthropy, doubling the chapter's budget in her previous role. Wendy's leadership style emphasizes authenticity and compassion, carrying on the legacy of leadership that Judy and Patti began. Her entrepreneurial background as a business owner and her 20-year nonprofit career equips her to lead the organization well into the future with a goal of ensuring the wish of every eligible child.

Recently, Mike Strehlow from CBS58 Sunday Morning did a story about these three courageous women. You can watch their inspiring story at wish.org/wisconsin/legacyofleadership.

MAKE A CHANGE

Selfless. Dedicated. Generous.

THANK YOU, BOARD MEMBERS

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

Joe Imhoff has served as Board Chair for the last two years and served previously as Treasurer and Board Director. His journey with Make-A-Wish began when his daughter, Reagan received her wish to go to Hawaii in 2016. During his more than 8 years on the Board, Joe has made significant contributions, including most recently helping the Wisconsin Chapter transition its CEO.



As VP of Marketing at Carma Laboratories, **Jona Mancuso** has served on our Board of Directors for six years. She has brought her expertise, experience and support to our Board. She served on the COMMUNITY and Belonging Board Initiative, is a current member of the Wish Granting Committee and was previously Secretary on the Executive Committee. She also helped secure sponsorships for numerous Make-A-Wish events.



For the past six years, **Chris McIntosh** has made many contributions to the Make-A-Wish Wisconsin Board. As Director of Athletics for the University of Wisconsin, he has introduced many people to the Make-A-Wish mission. He is an active member of the Board Nominating Committee and Madison Advisory Council and played a significant role in our Madison Regional Office's 10th anniversary and 500th wish celebration which has now transformed into our annual Wishes by the Bay event.



Beth Straka is the Sr. VP Corporate Communications & Investor Relations for WEC Energy Group and is currently Board Secretary. She has served Make-A-Wish Wisconsin as a Board Director for the past six years, bringing strategic vision, leadership, passion and expertise. She is an active member of the Finance and Nominating Committees and has previously served in the Vice Chair role and on the CEO search committee. Beth has supported numerous events, including regularly bringing an energetic group to our Gourmet Wishes and Wish Night events each year.



FEATURED FUNDRAISERS

The Kids For Wish Kids® program engages students, schools and youth organizations in philanthropy and service activities in partnership with Make-A-Wish. The program encourages community service, leadership, volunteerism and teamwork. It builds team spirit and gives students hands-on experience fundraising to help create life-changing wishes for kids fighting critical illnesses.

Kids For Wish Kids puts kids in charge. They take the lead to brainstorm fundraising ideas, create action plans and manage everything from start to finish.

Reach out to Jordyn at jdutkiewicz@wisconsin.wish.org to get started today!



Vincent's wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort came true this past June.

KIDS FOR WISH KIDS

Inspiring kids, just like you (or your own!), can have an impact right in your community.

YACHT BLAST FOR KIDS

Join us for on Sunday, September 7, 2025, from 11am-6pm at the Milwaukee Yacht Club!

This incredible day supports Make-A-Wish Wisconsin and offers fun ways to get involved: host a wish family on your boat, sponsor the event, join us for the on-shore picnic or help plan by joining the event team.

For more information, visit yachtblast.org or email Jordyn at jdutkiewicz@wisconsin.wish.org to be part of the magic!



Since 2003, Maggiano's Little Italy has donated over \$10 million to Make-A-Wish and granted over 1,000 wishes. Now, year round, they will donate 5% of all kids meals to Make-A-Wish.

You can locate Maggiano's in Wisconsin at Mayfair Mall or locate other locations at maggianos.com.



CARS, CROISSANTS & COFFEE

Cars, Croissants & Coffee is a family friendly event for car enthusiasts to gather and enjoy a passion for fabulous vehicles of all types, makes and models all while raising funds to support Make-A-Wish Wisconsin and grant a local child's wish. Join us from June 15 to September 28 at the MLG Capital parking lot at Galleria West in Brookfield.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 17, 9am-12pm: Ferrari Club of America - WI Chapter
August 31, 9am-12pm: SuperCar 414 group + Car cruise
September 14, 9am-12pm: Event TBD
September 28, 9am-12pm: Season Closer and Auction!

Plus, the Annual Golf Outing at Legend of Brandybrook will be held on Monday, August 25. Contact Cars, Croissants & Coffee on Facebook for more information. Pre-registration is required.



On August 23rd the 9th annual Nate Dax Memorial Bass Open will take place at Huckleberry Harbor in Shawano, for an inspiring day of fishing, storytelling & raffles!

For more information visit facebook.com/NateDaxMemorialBassOpen.



Renewal by Andersen is partnering up with the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers to raise critical funds for wish kids this summer by hosting a Strike Out challenge!

For each strike out pitched at a home game, Renewal by Andersen will donate back to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin!



WISHES ON PAR

Golf for Wishes presented by CoVantage Credit Union was held on July 14th at Butte des Morts Country Club in Appleton

148 golfers joined us to experience an inspiring day of golf with fun hole events & incredible treats throughout the course, a delicious lunch sponsored by The Honey Baked Ham Co., an impressive auction and dinner where our guests were inspired by wish kid Hazel and her family who shared their impactful story.

Special thanks to our dedicated committee, participants, and sponsors for helping to make 20 life-changing wishes come true for local kids facing critical illnesses! Thanks to all of our caring sponsors who helped make this important event possible.

Photos from this event, courtesy of Mason Sterr, Midwest Restoration and Blake Soto, Sotography Productions are available at [flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin/albums/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/makeawishwisconsin/).

HEARTFELT HOPE

Wishes by the Bay, presented by Exact Sciences, was held on May 15th at Bishops Bay Country Club, Middleton

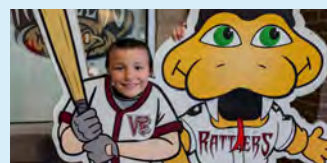
Over 250 Madison area business and community leaders gathered at Wishes by the Bay on the beautiful shores of Lake Mendota. Host and Make-A-Wish board member Chris McIntosh, along with Steve Stark and other wish families shared their inspiring and heartfelt stories while helping to raise \$125,000 for local wishes. Guests also enjoyed an impressive silent auction and bourbon extravaganza, Kessler's diamond pull, an appearance by Bucky Badger and incredible food.

Special thanks to our dedicated committee, participants and sponsors for helping to make 16 life-changing wishes come true for local children battling critical illnesses.

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



Longtime Make-A-Wish Wisconsin friends and champions, Mason & Molly Crosby and Team Lammi joined forces to host the first annual **Border Brouhaha** in partnership with the Beloit Sky Carp at ABC Supply Stadium on July 27. A crowd of fans, including wish families cheered on the celebrity players, including former Green Bay Packer, Jordy Nelson. The event raised more than \$15,000 for wishes.



REALTORS® Association of Northeast Wisconsin held their annual Timber Rattlers Fundraiser. Complete with raffles, wish stories & baseball!



Dells Camping Resort held their magical 5th annual Memorial Weekend fundraiser and raised over \$10,000 for wish kids, bringing together the smiling faces of campers and RVers.



The Madison Region office hosted the first annual **Country Club Challenge** golf tournament at Bishops Bay Country Club. Rick Viviani and Brent Yeager, Nakoma Country Club, took 1st place and the trophy.



StoneRidge Piggly Wiggly stores in De Pere, Kaukauna, Little Chute, Wautoma & Winneconne held another round up campaign and raised nearly \$55,000 in vital funds to help grant local kid's wishes.



The Wisconsin Timber Rattlers hosted their Star Wars Night, where proceeds from the jersey auction benefited wish kids.



Wish kid MaCollin hosted her 2nd annual lemonade stand and raised over \$7,500 to help make wishes like hers come true!



The 2nd annual **Harrigan for Wishes** Golf Outing at The Bull in Sheboygan Falls was a huge success. Run by a wish dad, this amazing outing raised an incredible \$56,000, doubling last year's efforts!

Donor Spotlight

YELLOW WHISTLES FOR GREG

In memory of 15-year-old Greg Von Rueden, who courageously battled osteosarcoma (a type of malignant bone tumor) before his passing in 2014, the Yellow Whistles for Greg campaign unites the Wisconsin basketball community every January.



Launched by officials and supported by the Wisconsin Basketball Officials Association (WBOA), the campaign has continuously raised funds for Make-A-Wish Wisconsin, granting life-changing wishes to several local children. Officials wear yellow whistles in Greg's memory and are encouraged to donate, honoring a beloved family deeply rooted in the officiating community.

Greg's wish to go to San Diego remains a cherished memory for the Von Rueden family! Thank you to all who support.

THANK YOU, DONORS

Our sincere thanks to the donors listed below and on the following page, who made contributions and in-kind donations to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin between April 1 and June 30, 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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\$50,000+

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June 3500
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Daisy, 17
congenital heart disease

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nervous system disorder

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 Chalmer's Jewelers
 Chief's Luau
 Comprehensive Dental
 Custom Home Heating and Air
 CZ Travel

The Endres Family
 Friend Like Me
 Fusion Recruiters LLC
 Susanne Gidan
 Green Bay Packers
 Habush Habush & Rottier S.C.
 Hawaii Flower Lei Company
 Hawaii Turtle Tours
 International Concrete Products, Inc.
 Jumpzylla
 Ko Olina Ocean Adventures
 Kualoa Ranch Hawaii, Inc.
 Lauren Kreibich Photography
 Luxury Limousines, Inc.
 Michael Best & Friedrich
 Milwaukee Bucks
 MKE Air & Water Show
 MKE Balloon Company
 Moody Gardens, Inc.
 Nike Clearance Store - Johnson Creek



North Shore Shark Adventures
 One AM Media
 Orlando Medical Rentals
 Paradise Cove Luau
 Patio Pleasures & Spas
 Pepsi - Windsor
 Pink Jeep Tours - Grand Canyon
 Quintessa Medical Spa
 Diana Rusch
 Sartori Cheese
 Sea Life Park Hawaii
 The Iron Horse Hotel
 The University Club

Tito's Handmade Vodka
 Traveling Bags
 UW Athletic Department
 UW Book Store
 Robert Walsh
 Waterford Wine and Spirits
 Wayde Peronto
 Whirlyball Brookfield
 Wilderness Resort
 Wines for Humanity
 Wonderfold Charitable Fund



BERGSTROM AUTOMOTIVE JUNE 3500

The incredible team at Bergstrom Automotive held their June 3500 sales event in support of Make-A-Wish Wisconsin and they raised a record \$375,000!

Throughout the month, the Bergstrom team conducted numerous creative fundraisers, and all Bergstrom Automotive dealerships donated \$5 for every test drive taken and \$50 for every vehicle purchased. Plus, Bergstrom Automotive donated \$5 for each new fan on their social media platforms. On Saturday, June 21st, Bergstrom dealerships throughout the Fox Valley, Green Bay, Oshkosh & Madison held a special Oil Change Day offering discounted oil changes with a donation of \$15 or more, and they matched all donations made to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin. Plus, Bergstrom team members doubled all donations for test drives, vehicle sales and for new fans on social media on this special day.

Thank you, Bergstrom Automotive team, for making a BIG impact on local wish kids.



GOLF FOR WISHES

There are only a few foursomes left for Golf for Wishes, coming up Monday, September 22 at the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa in Lake Geneva.

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

THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted
April 1 - June 30, 2025

...to go to Alaska

Adrian, 10

Wish Granters: Julie Vanlaanen & Lisa Yursis

...to go to Ark Encounter, KY

Sara, 4

Wish Granters: Laura Kuehl, Peggy Van Grinsven & Emily Johnson

...to go to the Atlanta Aquarium

Bethany, 10

Wish Granters: Jeanette Dickinson & Sandra Thompson-Melby

...to have a Bedroom Makeover

Nell, 7

Wish Granters: Kelli Susee & Annette Fieber

...to have a Boat Pass

Tyler, 15

Wish Granters: Marie Waddell & Daniel Rogan

...to have a Camper

Reese, 2

Wish Granters: Julie Irwin & Cheryl Muller

Jameson, 3

Wish Granters: Barb McCarthy & Georgette Stamm

Kade, 3

Wish Granters: Holly De Long & Marie Waddell

Wyatt, 4

Wish Granters: Ryan & Whitney Lien

Kingston, 6

Wish Granters: Kim Christensen & Daniel Giles

Charlotte, 16

Wish Granters: Angela Perez & Molly Koldeway

...to go to Chicago, IL

Lucille, 3

Wish Granters: Lydia Maternoski, Anna Miller, Lisa Yursis & Julie Vanlaanen

...to have a Custom Art and Gaming PC

Jameson, 17

Wish Granters: Larry Levy & Claire Ruggiero

...to go to the Disney Princess Wish Party

Mila, 6

Wish Granters: Ann Zogg & Shari Karasek

Mila, 8

Wish Granter: Maurine Braun

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

April, 3

Wish Granters: Tara Thom, Patti Dickert & Amber Friedrichsen

Avery, 3

Wish Granters: Arielle Serrano & Lisa Barfuss

Bennett, 3

Wish Granters: Marie Waddell & Nora Waddell

Fabian, 3

Wish Granters: Mathilde & Rodney Ugent

Jahzara, 3

Wish Granters: Barbara Bongard & Larry Levy

Brivianna, 4

Wish Granters: Emily Mayer & Elizabeth Sobczak

Delilah, 4

Wish Granters: Richard & Susan Nuccio

Dominic, 4

Wish Granters: Annette Fieber & Kelli Susee

Naomi, 4

Wish Granters: Lydia Maternoski, Sherry Miracle & Jody Lopez

Kade, 5

Wish Granters: Tacy DeRouin & Sherry McKee

Naomi, 5

Wish Granter: Jodi Halpin

Vincent, 5

Wish Granters: Leah Zirbel, Sunny Scott & Debra Mikulski

Asta, 6

Wish Granters: Candace Richter, Lynn Wagner & Daniel Giles

Jordan, 6

Wish Granter: Holly De Long

Maison, 6

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Otis, 6

Wish Granters: Julie Irwin & Kelly Flattum

Carter, 7

Wish Granters: Tara Thom & Julie Carr

Charlotte, 7

Wish Granters: Anna Miller & Melissa Brown

Corbin, 7

Wish Granters: Stephanie Martell & Carley Hintz

Eli, 7

Wish Granter: Hnub Vue

Evan, 7

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Noah, 7

Wish Granter: Anna Lopez-Camacho

Chase, 8

Wish Granters: Patty Hanson & Julie Vanlaanen

Christopher, 8

Wish Granters: Dana Mejic, Claire Denton & Rosie Miliacca

Ella, 11

Wish Granters: Lisa Yursis & Patty Hanson

Nathalie, 11

Wish Granter: Diana Moreno .

Tomas, 12

Wish Granter: Brenda Fritz

Isabella, 13

Wish Granters: Lynn Wagner & Kelly Durham

Harutyun, 14

Wish Granter: Joy Cantrall

Sami, 16

Wish Granters: Cheryl Becker & Dana Mejic

Adam, 19

Wish Granter: Kim Christensen

I wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort

April, 3
cancer

Kimberly, 19

Wish Granter: Patty Hanson

Samuel, 19

Wish Granters: Daniel Rogan & Bobbi Mosesson

...to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort & Universal Studios

Jack, 14

Wish Granters: Jodi Harris, Barbara Palmby & Carrie Cookson

...to go to Disneyland® Resort

Landon, 5

Wish Granters: Hnub Vue & Jeanette Dickinson

Sama, 8

Wish Granters: Jessica Diederich, Cathy Speirs & Lindsey Beattie

...to go to the Florida Keys

Reese, 11

Wish Granters: Ronna Monahan, Tamara Engelke & Kathy Woolford

Evander, 14

Wish Granters: Michele Bergstrom & Mayme Hoffman

...to have a Gaming PC

Adrian, 17

Wish Granters: Michelle Wolfe & Julia Wahl

...to have a Gazebo

DJ, 12

Wish Granters: Jodi Harris & Carrie Cookson

Abigail, 14

Wish Granters: Tammy Dahl & Amanda Kozik



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 Japan

FOOD FOR THE SOUL

After a spring break trip, Nola developed what was thought to be an allergic reaction to a sunburn. Overtime, she began to wake up each morning with a swollen face, swelling in her feet and legs, and was very, very tired all the time.

Fortunately, her doctor was quick to test for and determine a diagnosis, an autoimmune disorder called systemic lupus erythematosus. Her mother, Dana, shares Nola's story:

"Nola quickly began treatment with monthly blood tests, check-ins with multiple doctors and courses of high-dose steroids. A high dose of steroids for several months is pretty hard on an adolescent girl. Though she began to feel less exhausted and the swelling eventually began to subside, the weight gain from the steroids was really challenging for her self esteem. **She struggled with the feeling of social judgment about her body.**

On top of that, Nola is also old enough to understand that **her diagnosis means she will be on medication for the rest of her life, she will need to monitor her symptoms though regular blood testing, and avoid triggers like sun exposure, all while managing increased levels of fatigue, particularly in warmer seasons of the year.**

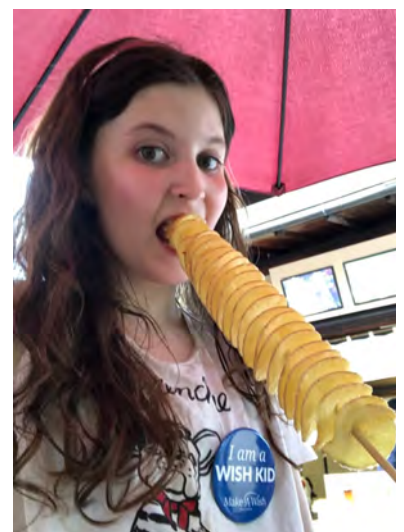
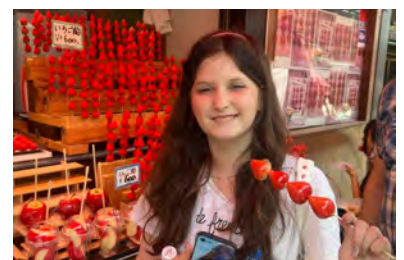
When Nola was first diagnosed, she was hospitalized for several days to begin infusions of her medications. She prepared for this hospital stay by ordering a huge series of manga books called Food Wars. These books have all the hallmarks of manga that make me cringe, but they also feature all kinds of amazing dishes cooked by Japanese chefs. Always a reader, Nola coped with her diagnosis and treatment through these books.

When Nola was offered a wish, she immediately knew she wanted to eat food in Japan. She wanted to see and engage with the culture around her favorite video game, Legend of Zelda, and she wanted to go to Universal Studios in Osaka, where they feature an immersive version of Nintendo's Mario World. She wanted to experience the culture of art, makeup, and fashion that informed the books she was reading.

Nola's favorite part of her wish in Japan **did** turn out to be the food culture. She had an amazing time dressing as a geisha in Kyoto and being immersed in Mario culture—but she was at her happiest walking down the market streets and trying new foods, ducking into conveyor belt sushi restaurants and eating Japanese strawberries.

It was so cool for her to learn from a local chef his family's traditions around shopping for and preparing a sushi lunch—she got to ask all sorts of questions and learn new techniques. It was such a pleasure to watch her and her sister learn to navigate the train system with confidence, and for Nola to use the Japanese she learned from Duolingo. Walking around dressed in a kimono in Kyoto allowed her to scope out all the treats she couldn't wait to try, and that was such a special experience.

This wish trip was life-changing for Nola. I am certain it was a transformational and joyful moment in her childhood. I'm grateful for the confidence and genuine joy I got to watch her develop and experience on her wish, and I'm so, so grateful our whole family could experience it with her."



THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted
April 1 - June 30, 2025

...to have a Golf Cart

Addison, 14
Wish Granters: Cheryl Anderson
& Yasari Wolschlag

...to have a Golf Simulator

Colten, 15
Wish Granters: Jeanette
Dickinson & Sandra Thompson-
Melby

...to go to Hawaii

Khleo, 5
Wish Granter: Jenna McReynolds
Stella, 5
Wish Granters: Arielle Serrano &
Joelle Rosen

Hazel, 6
Wish Granters: Kimberly Curran,
Renee Weiss & Caitlin DesJarlais

Oliver, 8
Wish Granters: Tara Thom, Doris
Mertens & Jeff Wysocki

Jack, 10
Wish Granter: Patti Rodencal
Hudson, 11
Wish Granters: Alyssa Madison &
Daniel Rogan

Anabel, 12
Wish Granters: Frances Suzanne
Garr & Angela Marx

Dylan, 15
Wish Granter: Cheryl Anderson

Aleena, 16
Wish Granters: Jan Holling &
Amanda Borleske

Hayden, 16
Wish Granters: Mary Pitzen &
Michele Schaez

Abigail, 17
Wish Granter: Larry Levy

Ana, 17
Wish Granters: Joy Lancour &
Steven Hesselberg

Daisy, 17
Wish Granter: Patty Hanson

Evion, 17
Wish Granters: Peggy Van
Grinsven & Kriste Simonson

Isabella, 17
Wish Granters: Julie Vanlaanen &
Lisa Yursis

Dustin, 18
Wish Granters: John & Linda
Smedema

Xavier, 18
Wish Granter: Holly De Long

Donovan, 19
Wish Granter: Kyra Willats

Miguel, 19
Wish Granter: Larry Levy

Ezri, 20
Wish Granter: Patty Hanson

Jadyn, 20
Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Travis, 19
Wish Granters: Maria Keizer &
Megan Salinas

...to have a Hot Tub

Gael, 4
Wish Granters: Hayley Pfaff &
Kiva Grote-Hirsch

...to be in a Broadway Show

Rosalie, 16
Wish Granters: Resmije Tairi &
Alyssa Madison

...to go to LEGOLAND, Orlando

Khristian, 8
Wish Granters: Leslie Kania &
Claire Ruggiero

...to go to Mall of America - Nickelodeon Universe

Dewayne, 18
Wish Granters: Beth Schuster &
Caitlin DesJarlais

...to meet Coyote Peterson - Brave Wilderness

Raedyn, 7
Wish Granters: Linda Ryfinski &
Corinne Kennedy

...to meet Lionel Messi

William, 10
Wish Granters: Tammie Reinbold,
Mark Reinbold, Patty Adams &
Meredith Niesen

...to meet Mark Rober

Elena, 5
Wish Granters: Jill Patty & Alexis
Ruetten

...to meet Phineas and Ferb

Isaac, 14
Wish Granters: Rachel Geittmann
& Arielle Serrano

...to have a Multisport Simulator

Kyler, 5
Wish Granters: Arielle Serrano &
Daniel Rogan

...to go to the NCAA Final Four

Carter, 17
Wish Granters: Resmije
Tairi & Jordyn Dutkiewicz

...to go to New York City

Valerie, 9
Wish Granters: Mary Streveler &
Carley Hintz

Catherine, 19
Wish Granter: Daniel Rogan

...to have a NYC Shopping Spree

Anupama, 12
Wish Granters: Torrey Calkins &
Casey Fergus

Clara, 17
Wish Granters: Tammy Grace,
Alexis Ruetten, Traci Steinbach &
Sandra Nissen

...to have an Omaha Zookeeper Experience

Ashlee, 12
Wish Granters: Lisa Rice &
Meredith Niesen

...to have an Online Shopping Spree

Myracle, 12
Wish Granters: Larry Levy &
Daniel Rogan

Liam, 16
Wish Granters: Mayme Hoffman
& Michele Bergstrom

Dana, 18
Wish Granters: Beth Schuster &
Alexis Ruetten

...to go to Osaka, Japan

Nola, 13
Wish Granters: Jill Patty & Kristin
Paul

...to go to Phoenix, Arizona

Daniel, 3
Wish Granter: Kimberly James

...to have a Playset

Camille, 4
Wish Granters: Dana
Sandra Smith

I wish to meet
Lionel Messi

William, 10
kidney transplant

Grayson, 7
Wish Granters: Dawn
Ogrezovich, Shari & Todd Beland

...to have a Professional Recording Experience

Alyse, 18
Wish Granters: Megan & Jeremy
Kox

...to go to Rome, Italy

Susan, 16
Wish Granters: Stephen & Susan
Shea

...to go to San Antonio & Galveston, TX

Lillian, 14
Wish Granters: Jody & Ricardo
Lopez

...to go to Universal Studios Hollywood

Andrew, 12
Wish Granters: Tammy Grace,
Patti Rodencal & Elizabeth
Reynolds

...to go to WrestleMania 41

Leland, 9
Wish Granters: Marie Waddell &
Holly De Long

...to go to Yellowstone National Park

Laurel, 16
Wish Granters: Sherry McKee &
Angela Shea

I wish to go to
Universal Studios
Hollywood

Andrew, 12
nervous system
disorder



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:

APRIL 2025

Angie Perez

"From meeting the families and discovering each wish kid's one true wish, to collaborating with fellow wish granters and the amazing Make-A-Wish Wisconsin staff to make those wishes come true. and, of course, the joy of delivering the wish—it's all incredibly special," says Angie of volunteering as a wish granter.



MAY 2025

Barbara Pahlow

As a volunteer wish granter for 8+ years, Barbara has learned about "the importance of community, the power of hope and positivity, and that the actual wishes are about more than just a special day. They are about helping families create memories, and about letting them know they are not alone."



JUNE 2025

Annette Fieber

"Something else I've learned is that Make-A-Wish truly puts the child first. The Make-A-Wish staff go above and beyond to make sure that each child feels special, heard and valued throughout the process, says Annette. "... helping bring their dreams to life is such a rewarding experience."



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.

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: 3-year-old Bennet's wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort came true this past May.

VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

15 YEARS: Bobbi Mosesson, and Shannon Seymer-Tabaska

10 YEARS: Jeanette Dickinson, Elizabeth Erickson, Michele Frommelt, Brianna Hansen, Jan Holling, Janet Kalpinski, Corinne Kennedy, Jody Lopez, Emily Mayer, Juli Moen, Heather Process, Claire Ruggiero, Elizabeth Sobczak, Sandy Strack, and Julie Vanlaanen

5 YEARS: Stephanie Martell

¿CONOCE A ALGUIEN BILINGÜE?

¡Siempre estamos buscando más interpretes! Si usted conoce a alguien bilingüe que le gustaría ayudar a cumplir deseos, por favor comuníquese con nuestra Gerente de Voluntarios, Ali Schilz al 800.236.WISH (9474) o aschilz@wisconsin.wish.org.

OUR *wish* COMMUNITY



Pictured left to right: Bonnie Rydelski, RN, Lauren Watson, PA-C, and Sheila Dodds, MSW



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 Sara's wish to go to the Ark Encounter come true!

Medical professionals at **Children's Wisconsin** have played a vital role in Sara's health. Bonnie Rydelski, one of Sara's RNs, shared, "for both Sara and her family, Make-A-Wish was 'the best medicine!' Sara excitedly counted down the days before her trip and after she returned she proudly shared with her medical and nursing team her wish trip stories!" Katie Sullivan, one of Sara's RNs, also shared "Sara's wish provided her the greatest escape from her cancer treatment. It allowed her to be a normal kid and experience the powerful story of Noah's Ark with her parents and sister."

With over 25 years in business and the largest selection of vehicles in Wisconsin, **Escort Limousine Service (E.L.S.)** is deeply rooted in the communities they serve. For the past 11 years, E.L.S. has proudly partnered with Make-A-Wish Wisconsin to help create joyful, unforgettable experiences by providing transportation for wish kids and their families, including Sara.

This partnership has become a meaningful part of the company's mission. "It has made me cherish every moment you have with family and friends," shared Keith Schuh, owner of Escort Limousine Service. Each ride is more than just transportation, it's a moment of celebration, hope, and joy.

At E.L.S., they believe it's often the smallest gestures that leave the greatest impact. "I feel that the simplest things make a difference. Knowing that the simplest thing will make a difference for a lifetime."

E.L.S. is honored to be part of the wish journey and remains committed to supporting Make-A-Wish Wisconsin in delivering hope to families across the state.

MAKE-A-WISH® REFERRAL SOURCES

Our thanks to those who referred and treated children with wishes granted between April 1 and June 30, 2025:

Children's Hospitals & Clinics of Minnesota - Minneapolis

Dr. Lane Miller, MD

Children's Wisconsin

Sheila Dodds, MSW; Michelle Honeck, MSW; Dr. Julie An Talano, MD; Dr. Michael Burke, MD; Dr. Matthew Harmelink, MD; Dr. Sara Dawson, MD; Liz Reid, RN; Dr. Joshua Kovach, MD; Christine Luckman, APSW; Elizabeth Weber, NP; Nicole Barnes, LCSW; Dr. Allison Remiker, MD; Dr. James Nocton, MD; Dr. Kerri Becktell, MD; Carolyn Scoptur, APNP; Dr. Aparna Ramasubramanian, MD; Dr. Rachel Phelan, MD; Dr. Janice Bitong, MD; Dr. Amy Moskop, MD; Dr. Joseph Cava, MD; Dr. Cindy Schwartz, MD; Anna Corrao, LCSW; Dr. Siri McCord, MD; Cira Verhage, LCSW; Mrs. Shelley Chapman, MD; Dr. Paul Harker-Murray, MD; Dr. Rajasree Sreedharan, MD; Erin Sirovina, APNP; Stephanie Offord, APNP; Dr. Richard Tower, MD; Dr. Zachary Graff, MD; Gina Lewis, NP; Dr. David Saudek, MD; Dr. Peter Shaw, MD; Dr. Raymond Fedderly, MD

Gundersen Health System

Taylor Pacana, BSW; Cheri Hill, CTRS; Dr. Antoinette Peters, MD

HSHS St. Vincent's Children's Hospital

Dr. Cathy Long; MD; Dr. Peter Holzwarth; MD; Emma Lehman; MSW; Dr. John Hill; MD; Ashley Thompson; Child Life Professional

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

Dr. Stephanie Chandler, MD

M Health Fairview Masonic Children's Hospital

Lauren Paget, MSW; Dr. Sarah Schwarzenberg, MD

Marshfield Children's

Michelle Kawlewski, LCSW; Wendy Geiger, APNP; Lorrie Busche, MSW; Dr. John M. Brandt, MD

Mayo Clinic

Meghan Wodill, LGSW; Dr. Madeleine O'Keefe, MD; Dr. Elaine Wirrell, MD; Britt Particelli, LCSW; Dr. Jonathan Schwartz, MD

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Juliana Yiu, LCSW; Dr. David Abramson, MD

Prevea Health

Dr. Terence Edgar, MD

Rush University Medical Center

Dr. Elizabeth Berry-Kravis, MD

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

Dr. Scott Lieberman, MD

UW Health American Family Children's Hospital

Bethany Doherty, MSW; Dr. Sarah McDermott, MD; Megan Fecht, CAPSW; Dr. Sonya Kirmani, MD; Dr. Mary Zupanc, MD; Dr. Nicholas Pytel, DO; Alison Rockwell, LCSW; Kristan Sodergren, NP; Craig Becker, MSW; Darci Pfeil, APNP; Kim Sue Lamster, MSW; Dr. Christina Amend, MD; Jill Bowdish, CAPSW; Dr. Mary Ehlenbach, MD; Dr. Kathryn Furuya, MD; Dr. David Hsu, MD; Faith Schiefelbein, MSW; Dr. Rachel Engen, MD; Alison Rockwell, LCSW; Brittany Storhoff, APNP; Ashley Schnirring, LCSW; Dr. Kathryn Cahill, LCSW; Dr. Jennifer Kwon, MD; Eden Jackson, RN; Dr. Catherine Allen, MD; Dr. Bermans Iskandar, MD; Joyce Kilgore-Carlin, MSW; Dr. Kari Weier, MD; Dr. Michael Ward, MD



REFER A CHILD TODAY

Make-A-Wish® relies on referrals from caring individuals to reach more kids with critical illnesses each year. Learn more about wish eligibility, who can make a referral and how the process works at [wish.org/refer](https://www.wish.org/refer).

Above: 3-year-old Jahzara's wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort came true in June.



Bethany's wish to go to the Atlanta Aquarium came true this past June.



CREATE A LEGACY OF LOVE

Make your will to make an impact on kids battling critical illnesses and all that matters. August is Make a Will Month, and we're encouraging our entire community to make their wills to make an impact—for their futures, their loved ones and wish kids and their families.

By documenting your wishes in a will, you can protect the individuals in your life, plan for all of your assets and even include an optional gift to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin to build your legacy with us.

YOU will help grant wishes for generations to come.

We've partnered with FreeWill as their secure online resource can help you create your will within 20 minutes for free.

Simply scan the QR code to learn more or visit wish.org/wisconsin/willmonth.



SCAN QR CODE
FOR INFO



Grayson's wish to have a playset came true this past May.

WORKPLACE GIVING

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

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

To learn more on how you can give through your workplace, please visit wish.org/wisconsin/wishmakers-work.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY

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

IN HONOR OF

Brantly Clark
Dr. Marc Cohn's Birthday
Cindy Conforti
Dr. Michael Gordon's Birthday
Patti Gorsky
Dan Kane - Hometown Hero Award
Zach Kunze
Bayden Ramus, wish alum class of 2013
Elise Rowe

Oliver Schmitz
Xander Sell
Buddy & Debbie Tate's 50th Wedding Anniversary
World Wish Month

IN MEMORY OF

Mary Andersen
August Anderson
Andy Bachlietner
Beth Cloutier Baker
Alice Boese

James "Jimmy" Campbell
Leo Castle
Joe Charney
Sam and Frances Clemens
Tommy Dahl
Mike Dujardin
Albert and Minnie Eckstein
Alice Fechter
Brett Golsteyn
Alicia Jo Gruennert
Liv Hammes

Joan Hatcher
Judy Hauschild and Patricia Eder
Justus Heise
Nicole Hirsch
Mark Huber
Donald Huibregtse Jr.
Robert Johnson
Sarah Knezic
Marianne Kuhlow
Dr. Gary London
Susan Louis
Betty Lutes
Laura Machak
Harry Glen Michelson
Nancy Jill Mueller
Boyd Perlson
Jason Pietsch
Wally Priewe
Thomas Richter
Susan Rietjens

Mary Rosenthal
Charlene Saunders
Shirley Schmidt
Catherine Schroeder
Marnee Schultz
Janet Snyder
Richard "Dick" Sohrweide
Joanne Sorce
Zachary Sprader
Beth Stapleton
John Stotz
Joann Taylor
John Thompson
Bob Uecker
Larry Vance
Teresa Walker
George and Irene Wilson
Lisa Wood-Fox
John Zimmerman
Tyler Bierenbaum, wish alum class of 2000

WISH SPONSORS

Thank you to the following sponsors who contributed at least \$4,000 or more to sponsor the wishes granted between April 1 and June 30, 2025.

101 WIXX	Eric & Tammi Stahre	Jean Clack	Milwaukee Admirals in memory of Bob Uecker	The HoneyBaked Ham Co
1834 Investment Advisors	Estate of Araxie Kalvonjian	Joanna Veldre	Molson Coors Beverage Company	The Jendusa Family
ABC Supply Co., Inc.	Estate of Daniel S. Veith	Joe & Jenny Imhoff	Mukwonago for Wishes	The Kohl & Stoop Families
Advanced Tooling, Inc.	Estate of Eleanor Darm	John & Linda Hirsch	Nan Gardetto	The Pat & Ruth Crawford Family Fund
Albert Schmidt & Family	Exact Sciences	John Wood	Nate Dax Memorial Bass Open	The Peter J. Seippel Foundation, Inc.
Aurora Medical Center Sheboygan	Faith Robinson Foundation	JP Cullen & Sons	Nikki Stafford	The Shepherds of Bock Fund
Beale Family Foundation	Foti Chiropractic	JT Rams LLC (Roofing Asset Management Systems)	Outagamie County Deputy Sheriff's Association	The Stoop Family
Beloit Sky Carp	Fusion Recruiters	Judy Gardetto	Patricia Groh	Tim & Sara Feldmann
Bergstrom Automotive - June 3500	GE Helathcare & The Sikorski Family	Justin & Amanda Boedecker	Patricia's Annual Birthday Poker Run	Tito's Handmade Vodka
Bleser Family Foundation	Godfrey & Kahn S.C.	Justin Hinkley (Nation's Roof)	Peter & Katy Spohn	Trev Timblin - Waupun Truck-N-Show
Blue Frog Property Management	Green Bay Packers	Karen Luedke	Peyton Pollnow	U.S. Venture, Inc.
BMO	Greenwoods State Bank	Kathleen Kellogg	Plymouth Industries, Inc.	UW Athletic Department
BreakThru	Greg Quinn	Kessler's Diamonds	Rainer Gedeit	UW Health Kids
Brian & Kathy Gottlieb - Windows for a Cause	Guest Bartender Night - Holidays Pub & Grill Sheboygan	Kraemer Wisconsin Cheese	Ralph & Christine Gundrum	Van Zeeland Manufacturing, Inc.
Carol McChesney Johnson	Harley-Davidson Foundation	Larry & Kathy Gentine	Richard Kessler	We Energies
CC Riders	Harrigan for Wishes	L'BRI Pure n Natural	Rock for Wishes	Wheels for Wishes
Cheers for Wishes	Henry H. (Sr.) & Marion (Polly) S. Uihlein Foundation	Luke Homan Foundation, Inc.	Sandy McMonagle	William & Sandy Heitz Family Foundation
Children's Wisconsin	Hunzinger Construction Co.	Make Their Hearts Smile Truck Convoy	Sargento Foods	Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association
Chuck & Holly Miesfeld	In Honor of Kirby Davidson's Retirement	Mars Family Foundation	Snap-on Incorporated	WUCA
Crownstone Wealth Management	In Memory of Lynn Reed	Masters Gallery Foods Gives Back	Steve & Tami Schraufnagel	Y100
Deena Hatch Foundation	James Lang	Men with a Purpose Golf Outing	StoneRidge Piggly Wiggly - Round Up for Wishes	Yellow Whistles for Greg
Design Air	James Stark	Michael Pregont	Tee It Up Fore Ty	Zacher Family in memory of Janet Snyder
Dr. David Margolis & Friends	Jane & Arthur Stangel Fund, Inc.	Mike & Leanne Haddad	The Dallman Family	
Encore Transportation		Miller & Sons		

I wish to have a camper

Kingston, 6
cancer

WE REMEMBER

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



Grayson



Elena

Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Wisconsin
11020 W. Plank Court, Suite 200
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

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Inside this Issue:

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

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

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

Food for the Soul – Nola's wish to go to Japan brings renewed strength and genuine joy.



Help keep our mailing list current!

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

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WISCONSIN



Join in the magic of making wishes come true, while experiencing our spectacular signature gala on October 15th at the Resch Expo overlooking Lambeau Field.

Indulge in delicious gourmet food, decadent desserts, martinis, wines, and craft beers at Gourmet Wishes.

More than 40 of the area's finest establishments participate and serve their best, including: Republic Chophouse, Mangiare, Primal Eats, Chives, Legacy Hotel, Taverne in the Sky at Lodge Kohler, and Cheesecake Heaven to name a few.

Plus, enjoy live music, an impressive auction, inspiring program with creative storytelling featuring local wish kids & much more.

Secure your place as a cherished sponsor of this incredible event today to help make life-changing wishes come true.

Please call (920) 993-9994 or email Kris at kteofilo@wisconsin.wish.org to reserve your table today!

