

Legacy of Wishes

WINTER 2025 wish.org/akwa

One Wish; Two Perspectives



By Wish Alum, Tucker

Life is full of surprises — good and bad. **When I was diagnosed with cancer at 17, I never imagined**

anything good could come from it. But on my first night in the hospital, I received a backpack filled with items for teens — a gift from a wish kid named Harry. He included a letter, making me feel seen, understood and empowered to believe I'd survive.

Cancer tried to break me down, but helpers like Harry wouldn't let it. Treatment was brutal. Being away from my home, friends and family felt even harder. **To escape reality's sting, I turned to video games** — the only thing that felt normal while I lay in that uncomfortable hospital bed.

When I learned I could make a wish, I wanted to bring hope to other kids fighting illness, like Harry did for me. **I wished to provide 11 handheld gaming consoles to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital** — one for each oncology room. The Bungie Foundation funded them, and **my wish became our chapter's 9,000th wish granted.** A good surprise, for once.

On my wish day, the surprises kept coming — including meeting one of our local chapter's co-founders, Penni Maples, whose words illuminated a brighter future I was creating.



By Chapter Co-founder, Penni Maples

As I stood cheering, a wave of emotion hit me. Before me walked Tucker — a quiet,

brave young man — pulling two carts of gaming consoles he wished to give to the hospital that saved his life. **I'd spent years here as an RN. It's where our chapter's first wish kids were treated. And now our 9,000th wish was coming true!**

It's amazing to reflect upon how far we've come since our origin in 1986. **Wishes don't happen by luck; they happen because of people like Tucker and people like you who show up for wish kids.**

My heart swelled 9,000 times over that day. And I can't help but wonder: What will our 10,000th wish be?

Remember — you're part of our legacy! Thank you for helping kids like Tucker not only receive hope — but pass it on.



500 Wishes and Counting: One Man's Mission of Hope



When Ken Kieffer attended his first Make-A-Wish volunteer training in 1997, he knew he was stepping into something extraordinary. A busy attorney and father of three, Ken waited until his youngest went off to college before diving in. **Not a day has passed since then that he hasn't been "all the way, all in, all the time" for Make-A-Wish.**

That desire to help others has deep roots in his upbringing. As a child, he recalls seeing the mood shift at home once his mom returned from volunteering. "She always seemed happier...and I thought to myself, 'that's pretty cool.'"

Taking a page from her book, he began dabbling in volunteer opportunities while in college but wasn't able to fully devote his life to serving others until he was in his 50s. **Now approaching his 500th wish,**

Ken's impact is profound. He mentors new volunteers and leads by admirable example. He treats every wish kid with the same love and attention he gives his own children. "They deserve everything," he explains.

For Ken, it's never been about the numbers. "Every wish is a child, not a number." He has left an indelible mark on countless wish kids, including Sarah, whose wish was granted a decade ago but has been an anchor through years of treatment, loss and hardship. She said, "Ken's smile and the gift of joy with no strings attached taught me that happiness can exist even in the hardest seasons."

Ken's legacy extends beyond the wishes he's granted. He's included Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington in his will, ensuring future generations of wish kids experience the same hope and joy that he has experienced time and time again as a wish-granting volunteer. **"I see all the good Make-A-Wish does — and it's not free. If I can help, I will."**



Planned Giving Pays Off — Emotionally and Financially



Ken's story is a powerful reminder: volunteering and giving back can transform lives — including your own. "You become a better person when you become a Make-A-Wish person," he said.

Hope begins with you — and your legacy can keep it alive. Learn more about planned giving at wish.org/akwa/planned-giving

Plan for Tomorrow, Impact Forever

Your estate plan can do more than lessen the burden on your loved ones — it can power life-changing wishes for kids with critical illnesses. Many supporters include Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington in their plans to leave a legacy of hope. It's easy, impactful, and even offers tax benefits.

Create your free will or revocable trust today at FreeWill.com.



A Smart Way to Give Back and Save

Did you know that planned giving isn't just generous — it's also financially savvy? By including a charitable organization in your estate plans, you can make a lasting impact while enjoying meaningful tax benefits.

What are planned gifts?

Planned gifts, such as bequests, charitable trusts, or beneficiary designations, allow you to support the causes you care about without affecting your current financial situation.

How are planned gifts financially beneficial?

These gifts often reduce estate taxes, capital gains taxes, and even income taxes, depending on how they're structured. For example, donating appreciated assets like stocks can help you avoid capital gains tax while still receiving a charitable deduction.

It's a win-win: you support a mission that matters to you and potentially reduce the tax burden on your estate and heirs.

Are there other benefits to making a planned gift?

The benefits of making a planned gift go beyond your finances. Planned giving gives you the opportunity to leave a legacy that reflects your values. It ensures that your support continues long after you're gone, helping nonprofits plan for the future with confidence.

Can I really make a difference? I'm not a millionaire!

The answer is yes! You don't need to be wealthy to make a difference. Every planned gift — large or small — helps build a stronger, more sustainable future for the organizations you believe in.

I'm ready to leave a legacy for wish kids. What's next?

If you're considering planned giving, talk to your financial advisor or reach out to us directly. We'd love to help you explore options that align with your goals. Contact **Lauren Martin** today at lmartin@akwa.wish.org or call **206.623.5314**.

Make your legacy count — for your loved ones, your finances, and the causes close to your heart.



Owen, wish granted 2024

*I wish to visit my favorite theme parks in Florida
Aplastic anemia*

Wish Update: Here's what you make possible!

Whether they're waiting for their wishes or their wish just happened, kids in Alaska and Washington are experiencing a powerful transformation because of you. If we could teleport to hug or high-five you, we would! Thanks for your continued generosity.



I wish to go on a cruise

Lucas, 9
Alaska
leukemia

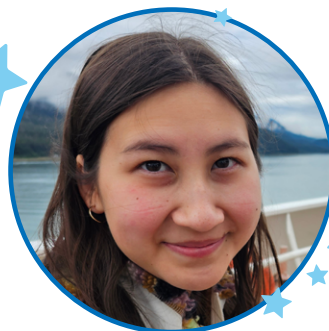
WISH INSPO: Lucas's rationale behind why kids deserve wishes will melt your heart. He said, "Because of all the pain they go through and how good they do."



I wish to go to Hawaii

Tempa, 4
Eastern Washington
metabolic disorder

DOUBLE THE FUN: Tempa and her sister both qualify for wishes, but Tempa is going first. We're excited to see what her sister chooses.



I wish to go an Alaskan Cruise

Rachael, 18
Western Washington
heart condition

FUN FACT: Since 2000, Royal Caribbean Cruise has granted hundreds of wishes for kids like Rachael. From sky diving to private kitchen tours, Rachael had a blast onboard.

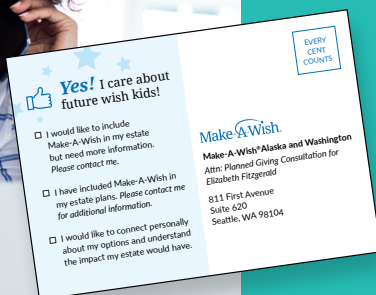
Lauren Martin
Vice President of Advancement



Is Make-A-Wish in Your Legacy Plans?

If you've included Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington in your estate plans, we'd love to hear from you! Let us thank you personally and welcome you to our **Legacy of Wishes Society** — a special community of supporters creating lasting impact for future wish kids.

Reach out to Lauren Martin at Immartin@akwa.wish.org or 206.623.5314.



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