

wishful THINKING

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
MAKE-A-WISH® WISCONSIN
2025 ISSUE 4

RENEWED HOPE

*I wish to go to the Junior Excel
Broadway Workshop*

Gourmet Wishes

*Nearly 100 wishes funded in
just one heartwarming night!*

WISHES IN FLIGHT

Donate your airline miles

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

On August 31st, we ended fiscal year 2025. Thanks to the support of thousands of donors, volunteers, medical professionals and people like you, together, we granted an amazing 434 life-changing wishes for children fighting critical illnesses.

12-year-old Vivian (page 10) is one of the many children who has experienced a transformative wish because of supporters like you. Every day, wishes like hers come true – wishes that allow kids to see beyond their illnesses, to glimpse what the future could bring. And data shows that kind of hope can give them a better chance of recovering.

No matter what role you choose to play, you can make an investment in a child's future, for their hope, strength and joy. As we approach the holidays, please consider unwrapping the power of a wish (page 14), donating toys from our wish list (page 14), being part of our Wishful Giving radio event on December 11 & 12 (page 16) or making a donation to help spark joy for children with critical illnesses.

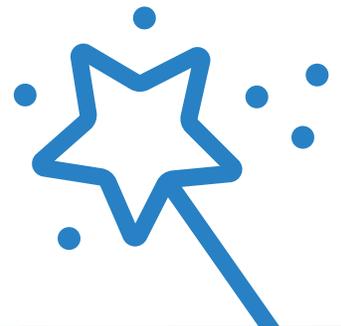
With you by our side, we are on a quest to bring every eligible child's wish to life, because research* shows wishes are an important part of a child's treatment journey. Thank you for being part of the Make-A-Wish Wisconsin family.

Thank you, and happy holidays,

Tony
Tony Sikorski
Board Chair

Wendy
Wendy Cozzens
Make-A-Wish Wisconsin CEO

*2022 Wish Impact Study: wish.org/impact-study



HELP WISHES TAKE FLIGHT!

75% of wishes involve air travel, whether it's a wish to go to New York City (like Lola pictured right), the Walt Disney World® Resort, Hawaii, to meet a favorite celebrity and more.

You can help make those wishes come true by donating your United, Delta, jetBlue or American Airline miles to Make-A-Wish.

Visit wish.org/wisconsin/miles, submit your frequent flier number found on your statement and the number of miles you wish to donate.

If you have questions or need help making your donation, please contact Haley at hgengler@wisconsin.wish.org.



WELCOME, BOARD MEMBERS

With the start of a new fiscal year on September 1, we are thrilled to welcome four new Directors to our Board who bring outstanding talent, expertise and passion to the Make-A-Wish mission.

Bobby Adamov serves as the Vice President, Business Operations for Exact Sciences. Bobby played football for Wisconsin and served as a captain of the 1998 BigTen and Rose Bowl championship team.



Tanya Holler Muench has been Director of Corporate Communications for WEC Energy Group since November 2020. In this role, she manages strategic issues and message alignment across the utility corporation, oversees customer and internal communications, guides reputation and brand management and supports strategic partnerships and outreach for corporate initiatives.



Vinny Rottino brings over 20 years of professional baseball experience, having served as a player (2003-2016), a scout and a broadcaster. He currently shares his expertise with fans as the In-Game TV Analyst for the Milwaukee Brewers. He also leads Prep Baseball Wisconsin as the state's scouting director, helping youth athletes find the right college fit to continue their playing careers.



As Chief Financial Officer, **Tony Staniak** oversees Quad's financial activities, determines capital allocation, and directs the preparation of financial reporting and forecasts. He is also responsible for strategic planning, accounting, finance, treasury, tax, investor relations and corporate development. Tony is a father of four children, including his oldest son who survived medulloblastoma and is a Make-A-Wish alum.



SKATING WITH SANTA



Join us in Neenah (**Dec. 2**), Madison (**Dec. 11**) or Hartland (**Dec. 14**) to enjoy holiday festivities with ice skating, photos with Santa and unique activities per event location. Admission to these events includes all the activities and skate rental.



Purchase tickets and learn more at wish.org/wisconsin/skating-santa.

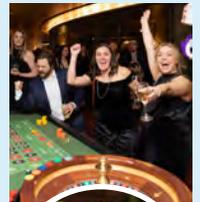
Neenah and Hartland events hosted by Wishmakers of Wisconsin and Madison event hosted by Wishmakers on Campus UW-Madison.

GUEST BARTENDER NIGHT

Holidays Pub & Grill's Guest Bartender Night in Sheboygan is back again this year on **December 17, 2025**, to help make wishes come true! Complete with raffle baskets, tips, donations & more, the group aims to break their fundraising record of \$15,500!

CHEERS FOR WISHES: MARDI GRAS

Wishmakers of Wisconsin is excited to announce the annual Cheers for Wishes will take place on **February 20, 2026**, at Saint Kate - The Arts Hotel in Milwaukee. This festive, Mardi Gras-inspired evening will feature live Dixieland music from the Extra Crispy Brass Band, a silent auction, live artists, New Orleans-style appetizers, casino tables, tarot readings, beads, masquerade masks, and of course, King Cake. Purchase your early bird tickets and learn more at cheers26.givesmart.com.



DAVE & BUSTER'S MAKE-A-WISH SPIRIT NIGHT

Come out to Dave & Busters in Wauwatosa on **December 2, 2025** for an evening of food, fun and giving back! When you eat and play between 5pm - 9pm, 20% of all sales will be donated back to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin to help grant life-changing wishes. Bring your friends, family and coworkers - it's a great excuse to have fun and make a difference.



GOURMET WISHES

More than 800 guests joined us at Gourmet Wishes, presented by Sartori Cheese & Albert Schmidt & Family, was held at The Resch Expo overlooking Lambeau Field. Guests indulged in an abundance of delicious gourmet appetizers, decadent desserts, martinis, wines and craft beers served up by nearly 50 of the area's finest establishments, live music, an impressive live and silent auction, golden ticket raffle and an inspiring program featuring wish kid Alyse.

Alyse is a sweet, inspiring and incredibly talented young lady with a deep love for music, big cities and discovering new places. Her wish to record her original song, "Alive" in a professional recording studio in LA came true in June, and we told her story throughout the evening. As well, Alyse performed her powerful song "Alive," which shares how she felt as she battled cancer, on stage.

Special thanks to all of our participants, leadership committee, cherished restaurant and vendor partners, sponsors and volunteers, we raised enough funds to help grant nearly 100 wishes! Save October 14, 2026 for next year's event.



WALK FOR WISHES®

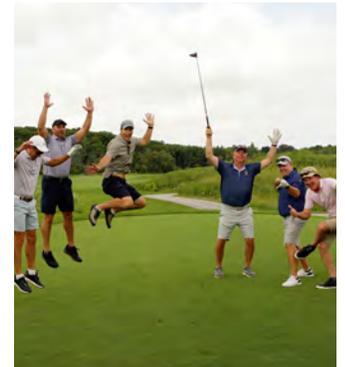
This year's Walk For Wishes events in Madison and Milwaukee were a big success, raising enough funds to grant more than 45 wishes. Madison Walk For Wishes, presented by UW Health Kids saw 200+ participants enjoy a fantastic family morning, including a visit from Bucky Badger, petting farm, kids dash and more. Milwaukee Walk For Wishes, presented by Design Air brought 750+ people out to the South gate of the Summerfest grounds for a morning of family fun filled with activities, giveaways, a kids dash and more. Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers and all participants. Save these dates for next year's events: Madison – August 22, 2026 and Milwaukee – August 29, 2026.

GOLF FOR WISHES

It was a beautiful day to hit the greens at Golf for Wishes, presented by ABC Supply at Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva. About 260 golfers participated in the event, helping raise enough funds to grant more than 34 wishes. Wish alum Brennen and Kyler assisted our golfers at the Wish Kid Putt holes, and Kyler's family shared their inspiring story with our guests during the program. Thank you to all of our sponsors, participants, volunteers, donors and supporters for helping make this year's event a big success. Save Wednesday, September 16, 2026 for next year's outing.

GOLF FOR WISHES PRESENTED BY SARGENTO & MASTERS GALLERY FOODS

Nearly 300 golfers experienced an inspiring day of world class golf at Blackwolf Run with lunch, fun hole events, special treats, and chances to win prizes throughout the day. Plus, guests experienced a fun After Party at Pine Hills Country Club with food stations, a live & silent auction, live entertainment, fun activities and an inspiring program. Together, we raised enough critical funds to help grant nearly 65 wishes! Thank you to our dedicated leadership committee, generous sponsors and supporters. Special thanks to our presenting sponsors Sargento and Masters Gallery Foods for their generosity in helping to make this important and spectacular event possible! Save August 17, 2026 for next year's outing.



View photos from these four Make-A-Wish events on Flickr: [flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin/albums/](https://www.flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin/albums/).



The 9th annual **Nate Dax Memorial Bass Open** took place at Huckleberry Harbor in Shawano for an inspiring day of fishing, story telling & raffles and raised \$16,165 for local wish kids!



The **Plexus Young Professionals (PYP)** resource group held their 5th annual Charity Golf Outing and hit a record-breaking goal of raising \$15,320 to help make wishes come true!



The 15th annual **Men with a Purpose Golf Outing** had another great year of helping to make wishes come true. Through their incredible efforts, they raised a record amount of \$50,868!



Steve and Miki Stark continue to build Kaden's legacy to DO MORE. This year at their annual **Kaden's Wish Tailgate Party**, they raised \$26,000 for wishes.



Chi Omega Nu - Madison Chapter raised \$15,000 at their annual Walk it Out Fashion Show where local wish kids are styled by the sisters ready to strut the runway.



Tennie's Jewelry, located in Appleton & Oshkosh, helped raise \$6,000 in critical funds for local wish kids awaiting their greatest wish through their incredible Christmas in July sale!



Thank you to everyone who supported **Yacht Blast for Kids 2025**, including the committee, boat captains and sponsors! Each summer, approximately 30 wish families set sail on premier yachts in Milwaukee's beautiful waters for a magical day of boating, games, celebration and a festive Packers party, creating unforgettable memories!



Wish kid Sophia hosted her Wish Upon A Lemon stand in July at Produce for Purpose to help make wishes like hers come true for other kids battling critical illnesses!



Renewal by Andersen partnered up with the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers to raise funds for wish kids this summer by hosting a Strike Out challenge! Together, they raised \$2,245.



The Kraemer Wisconsin Cheese annual golf outing raised \$36,300 for life-changing wishes. Their dedication to our mission and commitment to wish families is truly inspiring.



The 3rd annual **Slayer Showdown** was held and brought 8U & 9U baseball teams throughout the state together at Memorial Park in Combined Locks to raise \$7,500 for a local child's wish.



Donor Spotlight SUREWOOD FOREST WISHES FOR KIDS



Surewood Forest Wishes for Kids is a passionate group of 13 members who dedicate their time and energy to making wishes come true for local children. Based in Tomahawk, Edgar, and Marathon, this incredible team hosts a variety of fun-filled events throughout the year – including a pool tournament, dart tournament, golf tournament, UTV mystery ride, and their largest annual event, the beloved Pig Roast each August.

While they may be a small group, their impact is anything but. Thanks to the overwhelming support from their community, Surewood Forest Wishes for Kids proudly donated an amazing \$30,000 to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin this year alone!

Their mission says it all: “To grant one wish at a time, to one child at a time, to make their life just a little more enjoyable.”

We are so grateful for this dedicated group and the countless hours they pour into helping make wishes possible. Thank you, Surewood Forest Wishes for Kids, for turning hope into joy for children across Wisconsin!

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 July 1 and September 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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- Estate of Beverly A. Archibald
- Wheels for Wishes
- Men with a Purpose Golf Outing
- Yacht Blast for Kids
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- Windows for a Cause Milwaukee
- Make Their Hearts Smile

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- Country Cabinets



I wish to go to Hawaii
Adia, 7
nervous system disorder

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I wish to have a custom gaming PC
Jakai, 18
 lymphoma

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I wish to go to the Florida Keys

Gloria, 17
 kidney transplant

Qdoba Mexican Eats
 Ridgeway Country Club
 Saint Kate - The Arts Hotel
 Sargento Foods Inc.
 Scan Group
 Sesame Place San Diego
 SkyTrak
 Spoonlickers
 The Big Cheese & Glacier Transit & Storage

The Fifty By Sonesta
 The Highlands Sportsmen's Club
 Thrivent Financial
 Trilliant Foods
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 Wisconsin Distributors
 Wis-Pak
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Larry Levy, 2025 Todd Lappin Volunteer Leadership Award winner, with Ali Schilz, Volunteer Manager.



Encore Limousine and Sedan, Inc., 2025 Marilyn Mueller Champion Award winner, assisting with Guadalupe's wish.



Axel's wish to have a gaming setup came true this past September.

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

The Make-A-Wish Wisconsin Board of Directors and staff gathered on November 13 for the annual Hail & Farewell celebration, where we thank outgoing Board Directors and welcome new Directors. Hosted by the Milwaukee Yacht Club, we also had the opportunity to celebrate two outstanding Make-A-Wish champions.

Larry Levy is a volunteer wish granter who has always gone above and beyond in his role as a Wish Granter for nearly 30 years. In fact, he recently granted his 250th wish – the most wishes granted by one wish granter in Wisconsin's history! We were thrilled to present Larry with the Todd Lappin Volunteer Leadership Award for the impact he has made on so many children, their families and our community. Congratulations, Larry!

Encore Limousine and Sedan, Inc. was awarded this year's Marilyn Mueller Champion Award! Encore has been Make-A-Wish Wisconsin's longest-standing limousine partner, offering 50% discounts on every ride provided to our wish families. Encore has created their own culture with staff, drivers, and other providers that fully embraces the Make-A-Wish mission and has demonstrated remarkable adaptability in their commitment to supporting Make-A-Wish Wisconsin. Thank you, Encore!

SUBARU SHARE THE LOVE

Unwrap the power of a wish this holiday season during the 2025 Subaru Share the Love® Event.

For every new Subaru purchased or leased from November 20, 2025 through January 2, 2026, Subaru and its retailers will donate a minimum of \$300 to charity.

Since 2011, Subaru and its participating retailers have donated more than \$38 million to Make-A-Wish! To learn more visit wish.org/Subaru.

THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted
July 1 – September 30, 2025

...to go to Alaska

Henry, 9

Wish Granters: Susan & Stephen Shea

...to have a Basement Makeover

Hayden, 18

Wish Granters: Lisa Rice & Michele Schaetz

...to have a Camper

Angel, 2½

Wish Granters: Carolyn Griese & Barbara Bongard

Olin, 3

Wish Granters: Barbara Pahlow & Calli Fiez

Savannah, 3

Wish Granters: Ronna Monahan & Lori Barry

Waylon, 3

Wish Granters: Leah Zirbel & Megan Salinas

Theodore, 4

Wish Granters: Elizabeth Erickson & Cassie Seeley

Jaxson, 5

Wish Granters: Stephanie Martell & Carley Hintz

Andrew, 12

Wish Granters: Lisa Steinkamp & Renee Weiss

...to go to Charleston, South Carolina

Javier, 4

Wish Granters: Kathy Finley, Larry Levy & Jennie Stangel

...to go to Chicago

Lincoln, 2½

Wish Granters: Kathy & Joseph Bartel

...to have a Chill Out Chair

Annika, 8

Wish Granters: Jim Corona & Jan Berkholtz

...to have a College Scholarship

Ty, 18

Wish Granters: Carolyn & Mike Conley and Bobbi Mosesson

...to have a Custom Gaming PC

Jakai, 18

Wish Granters: Jeff & Kristen Hurt

...to play Dungeons & Dragons in a Castle

Marie, 20

Wish Granter: Cheryl Anderson

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

Kinsley, 3

Wish Granters: Lynn Wagner & Kelly Durham

My'Ari, 3

Wish Granters: Angela Shea & Rachel Madden

Ivori, 6

Wish Granters: Megan & Jeremy Kox

Kaleb, 6

Wish Granters: Dawn Marcott & Clare Hohman

Liam, 6

Wish Granters: Kriste Simonson & Peggy Van Grinsven

Nova, 6

Wish Granters: Abbey Schuff & Katie Tobert

Grant, 7

Wish Granters: Angela Perez, Jan Berkholtz & Jaime Mueller

Bryson, 8

Wish Granters: Danielle Matysik & Dana Mejic

Carson, 8

Wish Granters: Meredith Niesen & Alyssa Madison

Fionah, 8

Wish Granters: Margaret & Jeffrey Connor

Jayceon, 8

Wish Granters: Ryan & Whitney Lien

Lucy, 8

Wish Granters: Frances Garr, Sherry Miracle & Angela Marx

Blake, 9

Wish Granters: Melissa Brown & Sarah Maier

Jesus, 9

Wish Granter: Patty Hanson

Stella, 9

Wish Granters: Tracy Bantz & Tracey Dorsey

Gael, 10

Wish Granters: Stephen & Susan Shea

Nazareno, 10

Wish Granters: Bryan Nothem & Margaret Walters

Cayla, 11

Wish Granters: Scott Vrablik & Dana Mejic

Alina, 12

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Kayden, 13

Wish Granter: Tracy Bantz

Raymond, 13

Wish Granters: Patti Dickert & Bobbi Mosesson

Ronan, 13

Wish Granters: Meredith Niesen & Patty Adams

Isaiah, 15

Wish Granters: Natalie Binder & Jaime Rietveld

Payton, 15

Wish Granters: Katie Jakubowski, Yasari Wolschlag & Katie Tobert

Ryan, 15

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Xavier, 18

Wish Granters: Holly Young & Yasari Wolschlag

...to go to Disneyland® Resort

Daniel, 4

Wish Granters: Margaret Walters & Dana Mejic

Carlos, 9

Wish Granters: Emily Mayer & Elizabeth Sobczak

...to go to Durango, Colorado

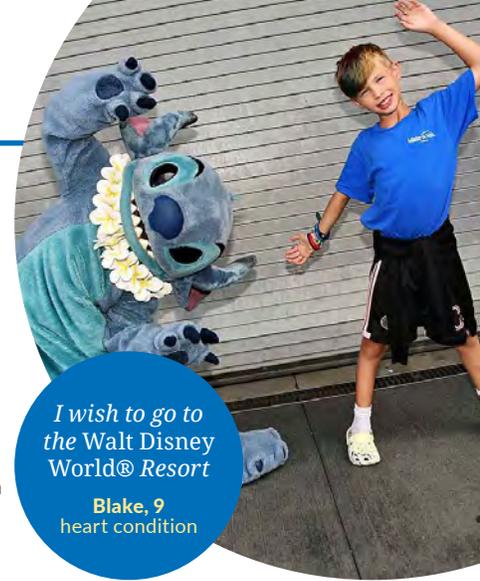
Aiden, 10

Wish Granters: Teresa McDowell & Emily Figueroa

...to go to the Florida Keys

Sam, 15

Wish Granters: Lisa Yursis & Brandon Hanson



I wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort

Blake, 9
heart condition

Gloria, 17

Wish Granters: Shannon Seymer-Tabaska & Jaime Rietveld

...to have a Gaming Set-Up

Axel, 8

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

...to have a Golf Simulator

Matthew, 17

Wish Granters: Bryan Pauls & Daniel Rogan

...to go to Hawaii

Noah, 6

Wish Granter: Jennifer Wenzlaff

Adia, 7

Wish Granters: Lisa Lewitzke & Brianna Hansen

Cole, 7

Wish Granters: Lynn Wagner & Kelly Durham

Keviano, 12

Wish Granters: Kristin Paul & Kathy Finley

Damian, 13

Wish Granters: Rosie Miliacca & Maria Jaramillo Torres

Elijah, 13

Wish Granter: Anna Lopez-Camacho

Kylie, 13

Wish Granter: Alyssa Welch

Alexandria, 15

Wish Granters: Stephen & Susan Shea

Ruby, 15

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Courtney, 16

Wish Granters: Craig & Paula Hokanson



Special thanks to The Walt Disney Company for providing complimentary admission and special perks for every family who experiences a Disney wish.

RENEWED HOPE



My daughter, Vivian, was born with a genetic disease that causes sticky, thick mucus to build up in her body. This can damage her lungs, digestive tract and other organs. It can be difficult get enough nutrition. She is prone to frequent infections. **Just breathing and existing can be 10 times more work for her than "normal" kids.**

Vivian's diagnosis came less than 48 hours after her birth, as she had a blockage in her intestines. She underwent surgery, during which large sections of her bowel were removed. The surgeons were unable to reconnect her intestines and she was left with a stoma (one end of her intestine sticking out of her abdomen with a bag for waste). She had the stoma for the first 3 months of life, before a reconnection surgery was able to be performed.

Life was always exciting, but also very nerve-wracking for us. We had to be extra cautious about not getting her sick, because every illness could mean more scarring in her lungs. Going to the park was fraught with worries like, will she pick up germs that could hurt her lungs? Will she lose too much salt in her sweat and get heatstroke? Will I have enough stoma supplies with? Is she eating enough? Are her enzymes working so she can gain weight properly and develop healthy lungs? On and on, but also, life had to move forward.

At school-age, Vivian became a great advocate for herself and her needs. She also continued to grow creatively and always loved dancing or putting on a show for anyone who would watch. At school, she attended her first play. Her class met the actors afterward and Vivian came home just GUSHING about how cool that was. And so, a seed was planted.

Her first acting class was at age 7 and she loved it! Vivian kept getting ensemble roles year after year, but loved the stage and was dreaming of a career in acting. She would read books about acting, practice singing, make up her own dances, record little dramas that she and her sister or cousins and friends came up with-- just anything to be acting! She was able to take a local acting class at age 11, which landed her a speaking role in a performance and continued to bolster her dream.

At this time Vivian was also suffering from crippling anxiety and weight loss due to her health struggles. **Acting was her anchor, as being onstage was one of the only times she felt good.** Thankfully, this is also when Vivian was referred for a wish.

When she learned of the Broadway Junior Excel week-long summer acting camp, she came to me in tears, thinking it was an impossible dream because this camp was in New York. She was so excited about the fact actors from actual Broadway musicals taught the classes, plus a chance for her to perform a song in front of real industry executives! **She felt like this wish was too much to ask for, that it was wasting resources for other "sicker" kids. It broke my heart to watch her truly believe there was a dream that was "too big" for her. Incredibly, her wish was granted. In that one moment, Vivian was validated as worthy of investment.**

Vivian shared with me that her favorite parts of the wish experience were "meeting other kids like me who are excited about acting, getting a lot of helpful tips from the Broadway actors and the dance intensive—where they taught us all a dance from a Broadway musical. I loved learning more about my vocal abilities. Everything I learned in camp was so helpful to my goal of becoming an actress when I'm older!"

Watching my very humble daughter finally realize she had a dream worth investing in and seeing how that brought a spark back to her eye was absolutely exactly what our family needed. Vivian had been struggling with lots of bad news about her disease, plus really challenged with heightening anxiety. Those things were bringing my normally happy-go-lucky daughter down. She truly didn't believe she could be granted a wish like this. My heart swelled to see Vivian get up on that stage, by herself, on the performance day.

We felt seen, heard and held throughout the entire trip. **The wish experience gave my daughter a sense of power over her future, where her disease often makes her feel powerless.** Watching her get really excited, without reservation or anxiety, was really special. **In Vivian's own words, "THANK YOU SO MUCH!!! It means so much to me that you helped me take the biggest leap in increasing my acting skills!" You are all heroes for making her wish come true.**



*I wish to go
Sesame Place in
San Diego*

Jonathan, 7
nervous system
disorder



THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted
July 1 – September 30, 2025

Keanan, 16
Wish Granters: Arielle Serrano & Alyssa Madison

Hennessy, 18
Wish Granter: Michele Schaetz

Brittney, 19
Wish Granters: Kriste Simonson & Julie Carr

Martin, 19
Wish Granter: Anna Lopez-Camacho

Kaylene, 20
Wish Granter: Anna Lopez-Camacho

...to have an Inground Trampoline

Cailinn, 17
Wish Granters: Christina Italiano & Esmeralda Perez

...to go to the Junior Excel Broadway Workshop

Vivian, 12
Wish Granters: Cheryl Anderson & Lori Piekarski

...to go to a Laurie Berkner Band Concert

Elise, 4
Wish Granters: Hayley Pfaff & Larry Levy

...to have a Shopping Spree

Qadir, 5
Wish Granters: Angela Marx & Jorian Greenwood

Akareontae, 13
Wish Granters: Kelli Susee & Annette Fieber

Andrea, 15
Wish Granters: Peggy Van Grinsven & Jennifer Yetter

Jovanni, 15
Wish Granters: Larry Levy & Jennifer Flamboe

...to have a Shopping Spree at Fox River Mall

Guadalupe, 15
Wish Granters: Peggy Van Grinsven, Julie Carr, Kriste Simonson & Carly Parker

...to go to London, England

Lucy, 16
Wish Granters: Jan Berkholtz & Tracey Dorsey

...to go to Mall of America

Arley, 10
Wish Granters: Dawn Marcott & Cassie Seeley

...to meet Dwayne Johnson

Dixie, 15
Wish Granters: Katie Jakubowski, Michelle Wolfe & Julie Vanlaanen

...to meet Rick Berman

Dylan, 16
Wish Granters: Peggy Van Grinsven & Karen Kaempffe

...to throw out a Milwaukee Brewers First Pitch & Share a Medical Awareness Video

Marina, 16
Wish Granters: Faith Horn & Theresa Braam

...to go to the Monster Jam Finals

Collin, 7
Wish Granters: Carly Parker & Jaime Rietveld

...to have a NASCAR Experience

Lucas, 6
Wish Granters: Hnub Vue & Sandra Nissen

...to go to New Jersey

Saniyla, 11
Wish Granters: Tiffany Van Buren, Brianna Hansen & Tammy Kreger

...to go to New Orleans, LA

Colton, 15
Wish Granters: Toni & Charles Palmer

...to go to New York City

Norah, 9
Wish Granters: Margaret Walters & Bailey Jedrzejewski

Aiden, 13
Wish Granter: Kristin Paul

Lola, 15
Wish Granters: Calli Fiez & Shelby Robbins

...to go to New York Fashion Week

Recep, 18
Wish Granters: Julie Carr & Sara Suehs

...to have an Online Shopping Spree

Arianna, 12
Wish Granters: Joy Lancour & Steven Hesselberg

Ariana, 16
Wish Granters: Diana Moreno & Larry Levy

Facundo, 16
Wish Granter: Julieta Alonso

Ashlee, 17
Wish Granters: Patti Dickert & Daniel Rogan

Kolby, 17
Wish Granters: Kimberly James & Mary Streveler

Nathaniel, 17
Wish Granters: Jennifer Mrdutt & Mary Streveler

Treyneil, 18
Wish Granters: Mariah Tremain & Teri McDowell

Dacey, 20
Wish Granter: Anna Lopez-Camacho

...to have a Playset

William, 3
Wish Granters: Kathy & Joseph Bartel

...to have a Princess Party

Nya, 5
Wish Granters: Angela Perez & Megan Salinas

...to go to Puerto Rico

Pedro, 16
Wish Granters: Holly Young & Daniel Rogan

...to go on a Road Trip

Luetta, 18
Wish Granters: Lisa Yursis & Patty Hanson

...to have a Room Makeover

Tolera, 11
Wish Granters: Sandra Nissen & Jessica Gall

...to go on an Alaskan Royal Caribbean Cruise

Noah, 19
Wish Granters: Julie Vanlaanen & Lisa Yursis

...to go to Sesame Place in San Diego

Jonathan, 7
Wish Granters: Lauren Hannes & Amanda Mutchler

...to go to San Francisco, CA

Harper, 8
Wish Granters: Mary Streveler & Teri Finnerty

...to have a Splash Pad

Weston, 12
Wish Granters: Meghan Brzinski, Lauren Szolyga & Larry Levy

...to go to Summer Slam WWE

Enzo, 5
Wish Granters: Holly De Long & Jenni Eickelberg

...to have an Above Ground Swimming Pool

Hudson, 6
Wish Granters: Peggy Van Grinsven & Holly De Long

...to have a UTV

Sophia, 18
Wish Granters: Greg & Polly Frisque

...to go to Wisconsin Dells

Rafe, 16
Wish Granters: Kimberly Curran, Amber Friedrichsen & Melissa Brown

...to go on a Yacht Trip

Tatum, 21
Wish Granter: Daniel Rogan

*I wish to go
to Puerto Rico*

Pedro, 16
lymphoma





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:

JULY 2025

Kelli Susee

"Make-A-Wish truly gets to the heart of the child by spreading joy through unique wishes," exclaims Kelli. "My values align with the mission of Make-A-Wish, providing an opportunity to share my compassion through service. I love knowing that I can play a small part in providing hope to a child and their family!"



AUGUST 2025

Patty Hanson

"I volunteer because I love interacting with kids and I want to help and Make-A-Wish Wisconsin gives me the opportunity to do both. I get to grant wishes to these amazing children, see their smiles and enjoy all these moments with their families," says Patty. "There is no other organization in my opinion, that cares so much for kids with critical illnesses, their families, the volunteers, and their staff as Make-A-Wish Wisconsin does."



SEPTEMBER 2025

Torrey Calkins

"I am a former wish kid. I received my wish in 2006 and knew that I would want to give back to Make-A-Wish someday. Now, I have been a volunteer wish granter for over four years," Torry shares. "Seeing the excitement on the kid's faces when we present them with their wish is truly an awarding 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 making a referral 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: 5-year-old Qadir's wish to have a shopping spree came true this past August.

VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

30 YEARS: Janice Moen

25 YEARS: Ellen Stark

15 YEARS: Sue Neumeyer

10 YEARS: Ricardo Lopez, Christina Reschke, Craig Hokanson, Paula Hokanson, Molly Koldeway, Cynthia Kuehl, Joy Cantrall, Karen Kaempffe

5 YEARS: Kristin Stoehr, Rachelle Oudenhoven, Carrie Biggin, Jill Patty

¿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

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 Vivian's wish to go to the Junior Excel Broadway Workshop (page 10) come true!

The Medical Professionals at **Children's Wisconsin** played a vital role in Vivian's wish. Vivian's Medical Team not only provides constant care and support for Vivian's health, but they also took the meaningful step of initiating the wish referral. Their dedication extends far beyond the clinic—they helped bring joy and everlasting memories to Vivian and her family!

Kristin Kruschel, APNP, pictured right, is part of Vivian's amazing medical team and shared, "We are honored to partner with Make-A-Wish to offer children with lifelong breathing conditions a chance to experience something truly joyful beyond their medical challenges. Make-A-Wish gives children the chance to step away from their rigorous treatments to breathe, dream, and feel the magic of being a child. It's humbling to witness Make-A-Wish bring a renewed sense of hope and possibility — reminding children that their condition does not define their future."



Another key partner in making Vivian's wish come true is **United Airlines**, who has proudly partnered with Make-A-Wish for nearly 40 years to help grant life-changing travel wishes for children and their families.

With more than 70% of wishes involving travel, this partnership plays a vital role in helping Make-A-Wish chapters focus even more of their resources on creating unforgettable experiences for wish kids.

At United, the heart of the partnership extends far beyond the skies. "Our employees also support Make-A-Wish families throughout their travel journey and provide them with custom send-off bags that have activities, goodies, and gifts for the families." This thoughtful gesture is something Vivian experienced as part of her wish journey.

From volunteers across the country, United's care and compassion makes every journey feel personal and full of joy.

"United customers have raised more than 46 million miles over the past six years alone." For United, each mile represents more than a flight, it's a moment of hope and kindness that helps make wishes take flight for wish kids.

MAKE-A-WISH® REFERRAL SOURCES

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

Children's Minnesota

Theresa Huntley, MSW; Kellin Swanson, MSW

Children's Wisconsin

Carrie Torkilson, MSW; Christine Luckman, APSW; Dr. Abdul Elkadri, MD; Dr. Allison Remiker, MD; Dr. Amanda Brandow, MD; Dr. Angela Steineck, MD; Dr. Cindy Schwartz, MD; Dr. Dan Beacher, MD; Dr. David Saudek, MD; Dr. Jessica Schnell, MD; Dr. Kerri Beckett, MD; Dr. Lane Miller, MD; Dr. Michael Burke, MD; Dr. Nathan Schloemer, MD; Dr. Nicholas Antos, MD; Dr. Paul D Harker-Murray, MD; Dr. Richard Tower, MD; Dr. Ryuma Tanaka, MD; Dr. Sara Dawson, MD; Dr. Scott Van Why, MD; Dr. Siri McCord, MD; Dr. Stephanie Handler, MD; Dr. Zachary Graff, MD; Hillary McCown, NP; Kathryn Seidl, NP; Latoya Stamper, MSW; Liz Reid, RN; Michelle Honeck, MSW; Nicole Barnes, LCSW; Sara K. Quates, NP; Sheila M Dodds, MSW; Stephanie Offord, APNP

Gundersen Health System

Cheri Hill, CTRS; Dr. Antoinette Peters, MD; Dr. Jennifer Orozco, MD; Dr. Erin Davis, MD

HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital

Ashley Thompson, CCLS; Dr. Cathy Long, MD; Sophia Smith, CCLS; Dr. John Hill, MD

Marshfield Children's

Dr. Rajasekhar Bodicharla, MD

Mayo Clinic

Britt Particelli, LCSW; Dr. Zach Wilson, MD; Morgan Starkson, MSW; Dr. Rebecca Ameduri, MD; Dr. Peter Schoettler, MD

Prevea Health

Dr. Terence Edgar, MD

Unity Hospice

Dr. Amy James, MD

UW Health American Family Children's Hospital

Eden Jackson, RN; Jill Bowdish, CAPSW; Kristan Sodergren, NP; Kim Sue Lamster, LCSW; Dr. Rebecca Richards, MD; Dr. Sarah Mc Dermott, MD; Kara Michalkiewicz, MSW; Faith Schiefelbein, MSW; Dr. Katelyn Furuya, MD; Dr. Adam Kney, MD; Dr. Leanne Mansfield, MD; Bethany Doherty, MSW; Kristin Casey, NP; Brittany Storhoff, APNP; Dr. Jennifer Kwon, MD; Dr. Michael Eckrich, MD; Ashley Schnirring, LCSW; Dr. Sonya Kirmani, MD; Dr. Christina Amend, MD; Hope Imaizumi, MSW; Dr. Derek Hoyme, 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: 13-year-old Raymond's wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort came true in August.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY

Our sincere thanks to all who gave gifts between July 1 and September 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...

August Anderson
Margaret Barton
Grant Carr and Phoebe Berndsen
Carolyn Conley
Alan Dukor in Honor of Father's Day
Fran Franklin's 90th Birthday
Larry and Kathy Gentine
Mr. and Mrs. James Gruenwald
Don Huibregtse
Meredith Kanner
Karen Holmes
Shel Lozof
Lise Meissner
Jay Orcholski
Elise Rowe

Catherine Schroeder
Xander Sell
Bunny and Bill Spitz Special Anniversary
Laura Vacek
Judy Winnik
Marisue Zillig's 80th Birthday

IN MEMORY OF...

Natasha Abts
Shelby Bartz
George Binsfeld
Ronald Corlyn
Suzi Derzon
Albert and Minnie Eckstein
Elaine Gorr
Sally and Jerry Grall

Judy Hauschild and Patricia Eder
Debra Herman
Bradán Hermes
Nicole Hirsch
Marie Hollingsworth
Mark Huber
Donald Huibregtse
William "Bill" Jackson
David Johnsen
Michael Johnson
George Jones
Caroline Klein
Sarah Knezic
Wendy Knight
Charlotte Koppel
Kathrine Krzyan

Carole Levine
Scott Luber
Nancy Jill Mueller
Johnny Nolte
Randy Rasmussen
Mel Resnick
Lance Rettenmund
Tom Richter
Susan Rietjens
Dorothy Robeson
Jon Roebken
Paul Schlagenhaft
Juanita Schwyhart
Dick Sendik
Zachary Sprader
Edward Tritz
Dan Van Able
Janet Wagner
Diane Weber Gautier
Beth Young
David Zastrow

wishful GIVING



Every child deserves a childhood full of joyful experiences. And a child's joy is a light of hope for all of us – especially during the holiday season. Right now, a child is battling the pain, fear and trauma caused by a critical illness. Facing scary surgeries that can't wait until after the new year. Isolating treatments that make family gatherings and celebrations impossible.

"Wishful Giving" is your unique and powerful opportunity to ensure these children don't wait even one unnecessary day for the life changing hope and joy that only a wish can bring – at a time when they truly need it most. **When you grant a wish for the holidays, you are giving a child with a critical illness a gift like no other.** You create a turning point in their medical journey, and the joy of childhood they've lost is suddenly within reach. This boost in their emotional well-being is **the most precious gift, because it can lead to improved health outcomes.**

This holiday season, consider giving the gift of hope by making a donation at wish.org/wisconsin/donate.

You can also give through non-cash options through our Smart Giving site. Whether it's a gift of stock, a donor advised fund (DAF) gift, cryptocurrency or an IRA distribution, every gift will make a difference this holiday season. Learn more at wish.org/wisconsin/givingsuite.



Bring hope and joy to wish kids and their siblings by donating new toys. Shop our Wish Closet Store at mawwi.mindfulgiving.org or request a collection box to host a drive at your workplace, school or community.

Have questions or want a collection box? Email Haley: hengler@wisconsin.wish.org.

Please return all toys by Friday, January 9, 2026 to the Make-A-Wish Wisconsin chapter office.

Let's make this season brighter for kids across Wisconsin!



WISH SPONSORS

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

ABC Supply Co., Inc.
 AHS Girls Swim & Dive Team
 B.O.Bz Car Club
 Badger Mutual Insurance Company
 Barbara Daly
 Bergstrom Automotive June 3500
 Border Brouhaha
 Brad Zellner
 BreakThru
 Buca's Bartender Battle
 Carmex
 Carol & Jim Molski
 Chi Omega - Carroll University
 Chris McIntosh
 Cindy & Scott Boho
 CoVantage Credit Union
 Design Air
 Ed & Joyce Creske Family Foundation
 Estate of Beverly A. Archibald
 Estate of Marvin K. Reuter
 Exact Sciences
 Forest County Potawatomi Foundation
 Gilbert W. Siron Charitable Foundation

Great Northern Corporation
 Greater Milwaukee Foundation - Frederic and Linda Wein Fund
 Greater Milwaukee Foundation Hal and Joyce Kuehl Fund
 Green Bay Packers
 Harri Hoffmann Family Foundation
 Harrigan for Wishes
 Hunzinger Construction Co
 iHeartMedia
 In Honor of Mirabel's 10th birthday
 In Memory of Randy Marcott
 Inpro Corporation
 James Stark
 Jerry Parins - Cruise for Cancer
 Jodi & Terry Riesterer
 Joe and Katie Bush
 Jon & Karen Van Drisse
 Joseph Clauer
 Kathleen Kellogg
 Kerin Peterson
 Klumb Family Foundation
 Disney Wish Fund
 Kopp's Frozen Custard Bob Uecker Flavor

Kraemer Wisconsin Cheese
 Kristin & Patrick Walsh
 Kristine & Brian Finell
 Laps for Charity
 Larry & Kathy Gentine
 L'BRI Pure n Natural
 Lee Mechanical
 Lighthouse Productions
 LiUNA Construction & General Laborers Local #330
 Marcus Corporation
 Mark Radtke
 Master Printwear
 Meijer
 Men with a Purpose Golf Outing
 Miesfeld's Market, Inc.
 Milwaukee Admirals in memory of Bob Uecker
 MLG Capital
 Mootown Properties
 Mukwonago for Wishes
 Nicholas Family Foundation
 Nicole Dermer
 Northwestern Mutual
 O'Hare Wealth Management
 Oliver Van Ermen
 Orbis Corporation
 Outagamie County Deputy Sheriff's Association
 Painters and Allied Trades District Council 7
 Payton Alexander Golf Outing
 Pop-A-Top Polar Plunge
 Realtors Association of NEWI -

Timber Rattlers Game
 Renewal by Andersen
 Rheem
 Richard Kessler
 Rock for Wishes
 Rusty Smart
 Sargento
 Schreiber Foods - In Honor of Mike & Leanne Haddad
 Sean Mars
 Sheila Armstrong
 Snap-on, Inc.
 StoneRidge Piggly Wiggly - Round Up for Wishes
 Surewood Forest Wishes for Kids
 Team SARAH Strong
 The Capital Group
 The Jendusa Family
 The Shepherds of Bock Fund
 Theodore W. Batterman Family Foundation, Inc.
 Tony Fuerst
 Tracey Dorsey
 Uline
 WBAY Channel 2
 West Bend Mutual Insurance
 Westosha-Salem Kiwanis Club
 Wheels for Wishes
 WIXX 101
 WUCA
 Xiogenix
 Y100



I wish to throw out a Milwaukee Brewers First Pitch & Share a Medical Awareness Video

Marina, 16
respiratory disorder



I wish to go to the Monster Jam Finals

Collin, 7
leukemia

WE REMEMBER

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

- ★ Declan
- ★ Shelby
- ★ Lance
- ★ Elaina
- ★ Carson
- ★ Xavier
- ★ Maliah
- ★ Dylan
- ★ DJ
- ★ Keviano
- ★ Zuza

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Wauwatosa, WI 53226

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Inside this Issue:

Toy Drive: Bring hope and joy to wish kids and their siblings by donating new toys.

Skating with Santa: Join us in Neenah, Madison or Hartland for holiday fun that helps grant wishes!

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

Cover Story: Vivian's wish to go to the Junior Excel Broadway Workshop provides renewed hope.



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).

Make-A-Wish
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wishful GIVING



The 17th annual **Wishful Giving Radio Event** (formerly Wish-A-Thon) will be back December 11 & 12, 7am - 7pm, on B97.3, Milwaukee's Home For The Holidays and on iHeartRADIO.com or the free iHeartRadio app.

Throughout this two-day radio event you will hear inspirational stories direct from the children and families who have received and benefited from a wish come true.

Learn more and become a Wish Club or Diamond Club member and receive a \$500 Kesslers Splurge Card at radiowishes.com

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