

wishful THINKING

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
MAKE-A-WISH® WISCONSIN
2026 ISSUE 1

Granting Wish

9,000

Cozy's wish to have a playset

**WORLD WISH
MONTH®** *WishMakers Wanted!*

Make-A-Wish.
WISCONSIN

Make-A-Wish.
WISCONSIN

★ I'm a Wish Kid ★
★ and this is my ★
★ **WISH!** ★

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

Wow! What a year it has been—and all because of you. In late 2025, we reached a momentous milestone of granting our 9,000th heartfelt wish. Every single wish we have granted has brought joy to children during their toughest times.

These past 9,000 wishes have shown the passion and creativity of our wish kids and pushed our community to new heights to create strength, hope and transformation for everyone involved.

We brought Cozzy joy and healing through his playset wish after rigorous chemotherapy cycles and long hospital stays (page 8), we allowed Gabriel to never feel excluded from adventures with his off-road wheelchair (page 9), and we sparked the strength for David to forget about his severe heart condition and have fun—he was able to be a kid again (page 13)!

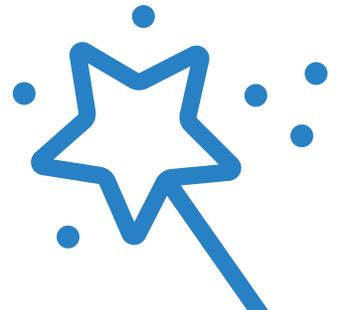
Our 2026 goal: to grant more life-changing wishes. This year alone, more than 450 children throughout Wisconsin will be diagnosed with a critical illness, qualifying them for a wish.

If you know of a child who may qualify for a wish, please urge his or her parents to contact us at **800.236.WISH (9474)** or wish.org/refer. Any child between 2½ and 18 diagnosed with a critical illness may be eligible.

With you by our side, we look forward to continuing to **transform lives, one wish at a timeSM** in this new year.

Tony
Tony Sikorski
Board Chair

Wendy
Wendy Cozzens
Make-A-Wish Wisconsin CEO



WISH NIGHT: HELP NEEDED

Our largest fundraising event is on April 16, 2026. We need auction items that will help raise funds to give kids battling critical illnesses hope through a wish come true.

Please sign up now to donate an auction basket at wish.org/wisconsin/auctionbaskets or donate auction items at wish.org/wisconsin/auction. Note: We need the items at our Wauwatosa office no later than March 19.

For questions or to arrange item pick-up, contact Grace: grawson@wisconsin.wish.org.

wish.org/wisconsin



WORLD WISH MONTH®

It started with a single wish on April 29, 1980: 7-year-old Chris, struggling with leukemia, wanted to be a police officer for a day. Six people answered the call, rallied the entire community, and granted a wish that lifted Chris up during his darkest days.

These original WishMakers were inspired by the impact the wish had on Chris and vowed to do more. A global movement was born, Make-A-Wish®. Today, over a half-million children have received wishes that replace fear with confidence, sadness with joy and anxiety with hope. The connection, optimism, inspirational generosity and kindness surrounding each wish have united countless communities.

Each April, in honor of the founding wish and the original WishMakers, Make-A-Wish is recruiting the next generation of mountain movers, heart-forward make-it-happeners, donors, volunteers, partners and collaborators.

Because wishes don't come true by luck or chance. They come true because of WishMakers like you! From small donors to big corporations, from caring, everyday individuals to A-list celebrities. We are powered by your passion. We depend on your talents. We grant more wishes because of your continuous commitment and support to a cause bigger and more important than ourselves. We are nothing without our WishMakers.

Everyone has the power to help make wishes come true. Everyone has the power to be a WishMaker. It's as easy as sharing your unique talents or giving some of your precious time or treasure. Every little bit makes a difference.

But we need more. We need you. All it takes to make wishes come true, is you! **WishMakers Wanted: wish.org/wisconsin/wishmakerswanted**

Pictured: Wish kid Sophyii, 11, middle, with her family.



WELCOME, NEW STAFF

We are pleased to welcome three talented new members to our Make-A-Wish Wisconsin team who are working to make more life-changing wishes come true.



Grace Rawson
Events Coordinator



Brianna Librizzi
Wish Alum Coordinator



Mariana Vergara Caverro
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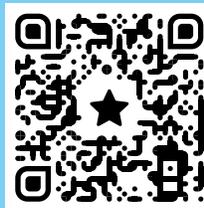
For a full Make-A-Wish Wisconsin staff listing, please visit wish.org/wisconsin/our-staff

CREATE A LEGACY OF HOPE

At Make-A-Wish Wisconsin, we see how wishes have the power to transform lives every day. A wish fulfilled can bring joy, hope, and strength in ways that feel almost magical. We're thrilled to introduce a special way for you to help make more life-changing wishes possible: creating your plan for the future.

We've partnered with FreeWill to offer a free, easy tool to craft your will. By taking this important step, you can protect your loved ones, ensure your wishes are fulfilled, and include a gift to bring dreams to life for kids facing critical illnesses. Creating your free will takes just 20 minutes and can be updated anytime.

Begin your plans today, scan the QR code to incorporate a gift of any size and create a legacy of hope for Wisconsin's wish kids. *QR code links to freewill.com/makeawishwisconsin*



MARCH 15 @
UW-MILWAUKEE PANTHER
ARENA, MILWAUKEE, WI
WISHES CUP



Join wish alum Zack Morehouse at a Milwaukee Wave soccer game, in his mission to help make wishes like his come true by raising critical funds through ticket sales, silent auction & more. For more details, visit wishescup.com

APRIL 11 @ TANNER'S BAR
& GRILL, KIMBERLY, WI
**ROCK FOR
WISHES**



The 18th Annual Rock for Wishes, featuring seven of the area's best bands, an auction, raffles and more, will raise vital funds that give local wish kids the joy and hope they need most. For more details, visit facebook.com/rockforwishes/

MAY 15 @ BISHOPS BAY COUNTRY CLUB, MADISON, WI



Join NFL Football Hall of Famer & UW Badger standout Joe Thomas and the area's top-level business and community leaders as we raise money to grant local wishes at Wishes by the Bay, presented by Exact Sciences, American Family Insurance and Crownstone Wealth Management.

Meet wish kids, hear life-changing stories, and enjoy an evening of food, drinks, entertainment and more, on the shores of beautiful Lake Mendota.

For more details, visit wishesbythebay.com



wishful GIVING 

This past year's Wishful Giving holiday campaign made a big impact on wish kids, their families and our community. Thank you to everyone who participated whether you volunteered, shared your wish story, were a sponsor or made a contribution.

The campaign included our annual Wishful Giving Radio Event, presented by Kesslers Diamonds on iHeartMedia, a telethon on WITI-FOX6 and storytelling on OnMilwaukee.com, Milwaukee Uncut and Hometown Voices. Thanks to everyone who gave, we raised enough funds to grant more than 50 wishes.

Special thanks to wish alum Vera, pictured above, for serving as the face of this year's campaign. Vera was born with a respiratory disorder and her wish to have a personal baking station was granted in 2024.



**SLAM DUNK FOR
MAKE-A-WISH**

On January 17, the Marquette Women's Basketball program hosted wish families and Make-A-Wish Wisconsin staff for a Make-A-Wish Wisconsin Day as Marquette took on Georgetown.

Wish kids participated in pre-game and in-game opportunities on the court. Our friends at Bergstrom Automotive also gave jerseys to the first 200 kids who came to the game. Thank you to Bergstrom Automotive and to Marquette Women's Basketball for facilitating such a special day.



Across Wisconsin, **Skating with Santa** events brought holiday magic to communities in Madison, Neenah, and Hartland while raising critical funds to grant wishes. UW-Madison Wishmakers on Campus hosted the inaugural event, welcoming more than 50 skaters who enjoyed an indoor celebration with Santa, Mrs. Claus, Elf, and a special appearance by Bucky Badger. Neenah welcomed nearly 200 guests, raising nearly \$14,000, with festive visits from Santa, The Grinch, and Bluey and Bingo. In Hartland, nearly 200 guests braved the cold and helped raise \$30,000, enjoying Santa, Mrs. Claus, holiday goodies, and unforgettable seasonal joy. Thank you to everyone who joined us across the state to help make wishes come true!



Local philanthropist & Make-A-Wish volunteer, Billy Weber, held **39 for 39 Running for Wishes** where he ran 39 miles in honor of his 39th birthday on October 4th.

Through his efforts, he was able to help grant two local wishes!



The **Lakeshore ATV-UTV Club** annual Charity Ride raised \$11,000 to help make even more wishes come true.



Northeast Wisconsin wish alum hosted **Season of Wishes Craft Sale** and raised over \$9,000 for wishes.



Renewal by Andersen hosted their annual **Windows for a Cause** events in Milwaukee and Appleton for an evening of fun and purpose. Thanks to the community's generosity, they raised a combined \$64,000+ in support of wishes.



The **Wisconsin Underground Contractors Association (WUCA)** raised \$50,000+ at their annual fundraiser, bringing their incredible lifetime giving to over \$1 million! We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated and to WUCA for their long-standing partnership. Thanks to their generosity over the years, nearly 200 wishes have been granted to Wisconsin children.



The 3rd annual **ATV Poker Run**, presented by Thermal Chaos Pub raised critical funds for the local wish kids awaiting their greatest wish come true!



Holidays in Sheboygan held their annual **Guest Bartender Night!** Complete with raffle baskets, tips, donations & more, they raised an incredible \$20,000+ for wish kids.



Donor Spotlight

PAYTON ALEXANDER MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Celebrating its 5th year in 2026, the Payton Alexander Memorial Golf Outing honors the life and legacy of Payton Alexander, who was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma at age 15 and bravely fought for nearly four years before passing away in 2021.

A New Berlin, Wisconsin native and New Berlin West High School graduate, Payton lived life with determination and joy, excelling academically, participating in sports, pursuing her passion for animals, and cherishing time with family and friends. She never allowed cancer to define her.

In memory of Payton, this annual event, hosted by the The Payton Alexander Foundation, brings the community together for a day of golf, dinner, silent auction, raffles, and more, raising funds to grant wishes for local children. Through this outing, Payton's strength, kindness, and love for life continue to inspire hope and make a lasting impact.

The 5th Annual Payton Alexander Memorial Golf Outing will return to New Berlin Hills Golf Course on June 20, 2026. For more details, visit facebook.com/PaytonAlexanderFoundation

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 October 1 and December 31, 2025. We have made every effort to acknowledge these gifts correctly and completely. Please contact us and accept our apologies should any error or omission be discovered.

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\$50,000+

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I wish to go to Tokyo, Japan

Francisco, 13
congenital heart disease

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 inflammatory disorder

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I wish to have a playset!

WISH 9,000

Make-A-Wish Wisconsin recently granted its 9,000 wish to four-year-old Cozy. His mother, Irene, shares their wish journey:

Cozy was diagnosed with AML (acute myeloid leukemia), an aggressive, fast-growing cancer of the blood and bone marrow. We discovered this after months of trying to understand what was going on after Cozy's entire body had turned yellow from a blockage that was backing up his liver bile. After misdiagnosis, we discovered there was a cancerous tumor located on the head of his pancreas. This was the point in which he began the a rigorous treatment with chemo and living within hospital walls for the better part of 2024.

Cozy chose a swing set for his wish because he loves to be outside. He also wanted something he and his siblings could enjoy for years to come. The diagnosis and treatment caused our family to be separated for weeks at a time, as we had to have a parent live in the hospital with Cozy and his baby brother, while another parent would stay with our daughter at home. This playset brings us all back together.

For any family facing cancer or a possibly deadly diagnosis, it shakes you deeply and tests your resilience. **Cozy had indescribably difficult nights and days, but the hope of his wish being granted was a constant comfort to look forward to.** We will forever be grateful for Make-A-Wish and the individuals who are a part of this incredible organization. **The joy this wish has given not just Cozy but all of our children has been truly healing.**

To learn more about Cozy's wish journey, turn to page 10 and read "Our wish community."



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 Moski Corporation
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 Andy O'Halek
 Valerie Oleary
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 Judith Shapiro
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 Michael Sireno
 S. Slavens
 Stephen Vander Sluis
 Yvonne Smith
 Steve Sorenson
 Kyle Spader
 Sam Spika
 Griffin Sponagle
 Cynthia Stevens
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 Thomas and Judy
 Verhagen
 Vermont Lutheran
 Church
 Mark Von Rueden
 Vrakas Chili Cookoff
 Tricia Wagner
 Susan Waldoch
 Lyle Watson
 Angela Watzka
 Whitnall DECA
 Dawn Welnicke
 Karen Werner-Deutsch
 Tammela Wiedl
 Jeremy Wiernasz
 11/11 Make-A-Wish
 Challenge
 James and Kay Woelfel
 Lauren Wolfe
 John Zader

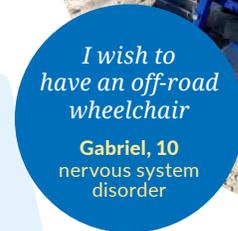
IN-KIND DONATIONS

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 Lighthouse Productions
 Northcoast Media Group

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 Pfefferle Management
 Sheraton Waikiki
 Skye Creek Kennels

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 Crossmark Graphics Inc.
 Disneyland® Resort
 H.J. Martin And Son, Inc.
 Hot Sake Sushi Bar &
 Kitchen
 Hyatt House Jersey City
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\$1,000 to \$4,999
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 Iron Duck
 JW Marriott
 Kaukauna Cotton Candy
 Klem Studios
 Krystal Kleer Ice
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 Margarita's Famous
 Mexican Food &
 Cantina



*I wish to
 have an off-road
 wheelchair*

Gabriel, 10
 nervous system
 disorder

Marquette Golf Club
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 Hey Soup Sister

High Kaliber Bbq
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 Kickin Ash Bbq
 Knotts Berry Farm
 Magic Coach
 Transportation
 Midwest Sip & Social
 Mobile Bar Company
 Milwaukee Bucks
 North Star Mohican
 Casino Resort
 Orlando Medical Rentals
 Orthodontic Specialists
 Parties with Character
 Pepsi-Cola Of Green Bay
 PMI Entertainment
 Group
 Qdoba Mexican Eats
 Racine Danish Kringle
 Skytide Group
 Stadium View Sports Bar,
 Grill & Banquet Hall
 Jim Stollberg
 Sundara Inn & Spa
 Taste Of India
 Taverne In The Sky At
 Lodge Kohler
 The Dough Shoppe
 The Swan Club
 The Waterfront Beach
 Resort, A Hilton Hotel
 Thermal Chaos Pub
 Thrivent Financial
 Timbavati Wildlife Park
 Traveling Bags
 Tria Frog Treats /
 Unhinged Cravings
 Waterford Wine & Spirits
 Wilderness Resorts &
 Waterparks



Dr. Zachary Graff, MD
Children's Wisconsin



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 Cozzy's wish (page 8) come true!

The **Children's Wisconsin** team has played a vital role in Cozzy's health. Dr. Zachary Graff, MD, Cozzy's primary oncologist, shares:

"Cozzy went through a lot to get to his eventual diagnosis. Being granted a wish gave something for Cozzy to look forward to, something to use his imagination for, something that connected him to life outside of the hospital. His playground wish will serve as a permanent place for Cozzy to be a kid, something that was taken from him for over 6 long months of treatment."

With a strong commitment to family, community, and giving back, **PlayN Wisconsin** has proudly partnered with Make-A-Wish Wisconsin for the past 15 years. Owners Shannon and Jim Hadac's connection to the organization is deeply personal. "In 2009, our daughter was a wish recipient," Shannon shared. "Then in 2011, when we opened PlayN Wisconsin, we reconnected to help grant wishes and provide donations."

Each wish request carries mixed emotions. "**Every email we receive is bittersweet,**" Shannon explained. "**We're grateful for the opportunity to help, but each email also represents another child facing a life-threatening illness.**" Despite that reality, the impact of being involved continues to inspire the entire PlayN Wisconsin team. "Seeing how delivering a wish affects our staff and how it changes them is truly heart warming."

A recent wish PlayN Wisconsin helped bring to life was for Cozzy. Moments like these reinforce why the partnership matters so much. "We love Make-A-Wish and look forward to sharing it with others who may not know about the organization," Shannon said. "We're grateful to be in a position where we can help each and every time."

We are grateful to have PlayN Wisconsin as a partner in the wish journey. Their support helps bring hope, joy, and lasting memories to children and families across Wisconsin.

MAKE-A-WISH® REFERRAL SOURCES

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

Children's Minnesota:
Dr. Lane Miller, MD

Children's Wisconsin:
Carly Bolli, MSW; Cira Virhage, LCSW; Dr. Alexis Gumm, MD; Dr. Amanada Jimenez Barquero, MD; Dr. Andrew Foy, MD; Dr. Angela Steineck, MD; Dr. Ann Allen, MD; Dr. Anoop Singh, MD; Dr. Dan Beacher, MD; Dr. Danielle Fair, MD; Dr. David Margolis, MD; Dr. Hema Patel, MD; Dr. Kaitlin Kirkpatrick, MD; Dr. Kerri Becktell, MD; Dr. Kimberley Zvara, MD; Dr. Michael Burke, MD; Dr. Nathan Schloemer, MD; Dr. Nicholas Antos, MD; Dr. Paola Palma Sisto, MD; Dr. Peter Shaw, MD; Dr. Richard Tower, MD; Dr. Sara Sabbagh, MD; Dr. Sarah Rumler, MD; Dr. Steven Kindel, MD; Dr. Zachary Graff, MD; Hillary McCown, NP; Liz Reid, RN; Megan Teed, NP; Michelle Honeck, MSW; Paige Powell, SW; Robin Kostroski, MSW; Sheila Dodds, MSW; Shelley Chapman, NP; Wendy Reese, RN; Dr. Peter Shaw, MD; Dr. Michelle Frommelt, MD; Lisa Neidhold, RN; Nicole Barnes, LCSW

Gillette Children's Hospital:
Dr. Marcia Ward, MD

Gundersen Health System:
Dr. Christen Chamberland, MD

HSHS St. Vincent's Children's Hospital: Kailee Hanson, CCLS; Dr. Cathy Long, MD;

Mayo Clinic:
Britt Particelli, LCSW; Dr. Nawras Habash, MD; Dr. Peter Schoettler, MD; Erin Wall, LCSW

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center:
Dr. David Abramson, MD

Prevea Health:
Dr. Beth Woods, MD; Dr. Joshua Rankin, MD; Dr. Terence Edgar, MD

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital:
Dr. Andrea Rock, MD

UW Health American Family Children's Hospital:
Craig Becker, MSW; Bethany Doherty, MSW; Darci Pfeil, APNP; Dr. Adam Kney, MD; Dr. Austin Stuckert, MD; Dr. Christina Amend, MD; Dr. Derek Hoyme, MD; Dr. Ellen Connor, MD; Dr. Heidi Kloster, MD; Dr. Margo Hoover-Regan, MD; Dr. Nicholas Pytel, DO; Dr. Sonya Kirmani, MD; Faith Schiefelbein, MSW; Jill Bowdish, CAPSW; Kim Sue Lamster, LCSW; Solomy Ntambi, MSW



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 Sullie's wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort came true in November.

*I wish to go to
the Walt Disney
World® Resort*

Dylan, 7
cancer

THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted October 1 -
December 31, 2025

...to go to Balboa Island, CA

Aviv, 3

Wish Granters: Shelby
Robbins & Calli Fiez

...to have a Barrel Horse

Liliana, 12

Wish Granters: Mark Lacke &
Kelly Bowman

...to have a Beach Experience in Clearwater, FL

Talithia, 3

Wish Granters: Nikole
Chapman & Susan Danner-
Rivers

...to have a Camper

Chloe, 3

Wish Granters: Dan Giles &
Tanya Davis

Jazmine, 14

Wish Granters: Lydia
Maternoski, Jamie Prost,
Steve Hesselberg & Joy
Lancour

...to go on Disney Cruise Line®

Easton, 10

Wish Granters: Krystle
Mitchell & Lori Barry

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

Omar, 3

Wish Granter: Patti Rodencal

Sullie, 3

Wish Granters: Jamie Prost,
Melissa Brown, Claire Gloss
& Lisa Rice

Tjuan, 3

Wish Granter: Larry Levy

Emmett, 4

Wish Granters: Kim
Christensen & Dan Giles

Hope, 4

Wish Granters: Patty Adams
& Joy Cantrall

Izabella, 4

Wish Granters: Jim Corona &
Sara Zibert

Olive, 4

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Zoe, 4

Wish Granters: Arielle
Serrano & Deb Mikulski

Aria, 5

Wish Granters: Patty Hanson
& Lisa Yursis

Danny, 5

Wish Granters: Kara
McManus & Megan
Rosandich

Gavin, 5

Wish Granters: Steve
Hesselberg & Joy Lancour

Layla, 5

Wish Granters: Patty Adams
& Meredith Niesen

Lena, 5

Wish Granters: Marie
Waddell & Patti Rodencal

Nazir, 5

Wish Granters: Nancy
Schimmelpfennig, Tammy
Kreger & Larry Levy

Noelle-Elise, 5

Wish Granters: Dee Dee &
Rodney Ugent

Ryle, 5

Wish Granters: Holly De
Long & Patti Rodencal

Sophia, 5

Wish Granters: Tracey
Dorsey & Arielle Serrano

Dylan, 6

Wish Granters: Frankie Garr
& Danielle Matysik

John, 6

Wish Granters: Amanda
Burton & Krystle Mitchell

Aria, 7

Wish Granters: Holly De
Long, Jennifer DeBruin & Sue
Lamprich

Calvin, 7

Wish Granters: Caitlin
Desjarlais & Shelby Robbins

Dylan, 7

Wish Granters: Sara Zibert &
Jim Williams

Jada, 7

Wish Granters: Traci
Steinbach & Kim Gosz

John, 7

Wish Granters: Linette Britt
& Carrie Cookson

Wyatt, 8

Wish Granters: Jeff Wysocki
& Donna Neeman

Erick, 10

Wish Granters: Nicole
Sandler & Carolyn Griese

David, 11

Wish Granters: Jeremy &
Megan Kox

Le'Nylah, 11

Wish Granters: Yasari
Wolschlag, Laura Vacek &
Terese Einhorn

Alfonso, 12

Wish Granter: Patty Hanson

Lauren, 13

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Mason, 13

Wish Granters: Sandy Strack
& Karen Kaempffe

Alison, 15

Wish Granter: Patty Hanson

Elianna, 15

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Cody, 16

Wish Granters: Shelly Fritsch
& Mallory Fritsch

Michael, 16

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Malachi, 17

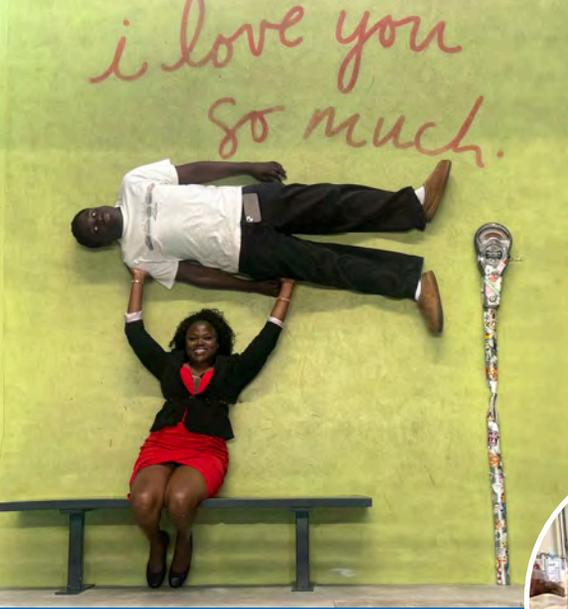
Wish Granters: Dee Dee &
Rodney Ugent

Faith, 18

Wish Granters: Yasari
Wolschlag & Hailey Van
Boxtel



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



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:

OCTOBER 2025

Jaime Rietveld



"I first received a wish from Make-A-Wish in 2010 when I was 17. I always wanted to give back as an adult, so in 2024 I signed up to be a wish granter," Jaime shares. "These kids may be having horrible days, months, even years battling medical conditions that no child should have to go through. Yet, every time I meet with them or drop something off at their door, they are full of smiles."

NOVEMBER 2025

Jeff VanVreede



"I have been involved with Make-A-Wish for 15 years," says Jeff. "I chose to volunteer after seeing the impact the organization makes and the wonderful people who support their cause. Meeting wish families, other volunteers, sponsors, the Make-A-Wish staff, they're all amazing."

DECEMBER 2025

Lisa Rice



"I have volunteered as a wish granter for almost 10 years!" says Lisa. "The first word that came to mind when thinking about volunteering at Make-A-Wish is hope. The kids receiving wishes are going through a very difficult time, yet they are so positive and excited for their wish. It really makes you look at the big picture and realize how much there is to be grateful for in life."

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: 17-year-old Oluwasemiloore's wish to have a shopping spree came true this past October.

VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

25 YEARS: Carolyn Conley, Mike Conley

20 YEARS: Linda Smedema, John Smedema

15 YEARS: Holly De Long

10 YEARS: Robert Rode, Polly Frisque, Shelby Robbins, Kayla Gendron

5 YEARS: Kristen Wetzel

¿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.

THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted October 1 - December 31, 2025

Jesus, 18

Wish Granter: Patty Hanson

Roberto, 18

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Phineas, 20

Wish Granters: Lauren Baus & Tracy Miller

...to go to Disneyland® Resort

Josemaria, 7

Wish Granter: Patty Hanson

Fernando, 11

Wish Granter: Tracy Bantz

...to have a Gaming Computer

Xavier, 15

Wish Granters: Holly De Long & Jaime Rietveld

Kadyn, 16

Wish Granters: Dana Mejic & Cheryl Becker

...to go to Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa

Andrew, 6

Wish Granter: DJ Rogan

Chase, 7

Wish Granter: Lynn Wagner

Easton, 15

Wish Granters: Julie Wahl & Michelle Wolfe

Clarissa, 19

Wish Granters: Linda Ryfinski

...to go to Hawaii

Callan, 6

Wish Granters: Sara Suehs & Kylee Wunschel

Aubri, 12

Wish Granters: Bailey Jedrzejewski, Teri McDowell

Calvin, 13

Wish Granters: Marie Waddell & Sandy Yost

Olivia, 13

Wish Granters: Shannon Seymer-Tabaska, Julie Wahl & Michelle Wolfe

Amelia, 15

Wish Granters: Rachel Geittmann, Kristen Hurt

Brandon, 15

Wish Granter: Claire Ruggiero

Natalie, 15

Wish Granters: Courtney Wisniewski & Hayley Pfaff

Abbie, 16

Wish Granters: Julie Irwin, Barb Richison & Kelly Flattum

Abigail, 16

Wish Granters: Teri McDowell & Emily Figueroa

...to have a Homeschool Room Makeover

Shane, 3

Wish Granters: Tacy DeRouin & Jim Williams

...to have a Shopping Spree

Noah, 17

Wish Granters: Barbara Bongard, Teri McDowell & Larry Levy

Byron, 19

Wish Granters: Michele Garcia-Salas & Barbara Janetzke

...to go to London, England

Aubrey, 16

Wish Granters: Dana Mejic & Abbey Schuff

...to meet the Miami Dolphins

Natalie, 17

Wish Granters: Lynn Wagner & Kelly Durham

...to go to Morgan's Wonderland

Vincent, 12

Wish Granters: Jane Scanu & Jodi Halpin

...to meet Mr. Beast

Kaylee, 14

Wish Granters: Courtney Wisniewski, Mariah Tremain, Lyn-Le Buus & Katie Jakubowski

...to go to New York City

Sawyer, 17

Wish Granter: Diana Moreno

...to have an Off-Road Wheelchair

Gabriel, 10

Wish Granters: Shannon Seymer-Tabaska & Peggy Van Grinsven

...to have an Online Shopping Spree

Xavier, 18

Wish Granters: Maxwell Glaser & Marvelous Panlilio

...to go to Osaka, Japan

Maxwell, 13

Wish Granters: Annette Fieber & Kelli Susee

...to go to Playa del Carmen, Mexico

Cynder, 16

Wish Granters: Mary Streveler & Tom Bauer

...to have a Playset

McKenna, 3

Wish Granters: Patty Hanson & Alanna Martella-Parman

Cozzy, 4

Wish Granters: Kelly Wagner & Laurie Wetterau

...to go to Puerto Rico

Guillermo, 13

Wish Granters: Patty Hanson & Brandon Hanson

I wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort

David, 11
heart transplant

...to have a Room Makeover

Aida, 18

Wish Granters: Dawn Marcott & Karen Batz

...to go on a Royal Caribbean Cruise

Ava, 14

Wish Granters: Frankie Garr, Melissa Reina & Betsy Roth-Wojcicki

...to have a Sensory Room

Elijah, 6

Wish Granters: Carol Nelson, Christie Bartzen & Lynn Wagner

...to have a Shopping Spree in Austin, Texas

Oluwasemiloore, 17

Wish Granters: Mariah Abdel-Fattah & Dana Mejic

...to go to Tokyo, Japan

Francisco, 13

Wish Granters: Emily Figueroa & Bryan Pauls

...to have a UTV

Ambrose, 3

Wish Granters: Craig & Paula Hokanson

Wyatt, 15

Wish Granters: Carly Parker & Sandy Strack

...to go to Wisconsin Dells

Arianna, 21

Wish Granters: Janice Holling, Tammy Grace, Barb Pahlow & Lisa Steinkamp

Adan, 6

Wish Granters: Jordyn Dutkiewicz & Cheryl Anderson



I wish to go to London, England

Lucy, 16
inflammatory disorder

IN HONOR AND MEMORY

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

IN HONOR OF...

Tracy Alpert
 Chiara Bauer
 Steven Baumgartner's
 20th Anniversary with
 Executive Agenda
 Sarah, Daniel and
 James Coppin
 Chris Gelina
 Susie Gidan
 Patti Gorsky Pollack
 Mike Haddad
 James Hellenbrand
 Jacob Hirschuber
 Barb Kaufman
 Dee Ann Keip
 Ken & Christina Kunda

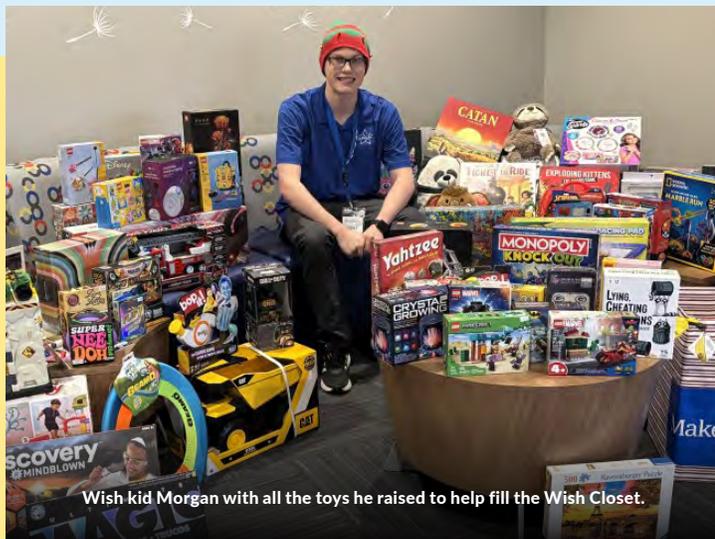
Nick Lundquist
 Make-A-Wish Wisconsin Staff
 Reality Construction
 Lauren Redell
 Elise Rowe
 Xander Sell
 Alyssa Simonz (who is now
 a nurse at Children's in
 Milwaukee)
 The Sprecher Family's
 7 Grandbabies
 Cole Steffen
 Ryan Stephen
 Benjamin Thompson
 Charles, Benjamin, Henry
 Brezinski and Alivia Yunek
 Jake Zajc

IN MEMORY OF...

Jolene Anderson
 Andrew Bachlietner
 Ruth Barland
 Randy Bergstrom
 Robert Bezjak
 DJ Blackburn
 Melissa Bulman
 Brianna Brunner
 Tammy Cornford
 Susan Dobran
 Timothy Dodge
 Devyn Doughty
 Albert and Minnie
 Eckstein
 Sharie Emanuel

William Gay
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 Andi Gimbel
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 Zachary Sprader
 Kaden Stark
 Tracy Sweet
 Charlotte Tetzlaff
 Catherine
 Schroeder
 Sharon Thomas
 Wayne Tietyen
 Ed Tritz
 Peter Welnick
 Jerold Zvara



A STATEWIDE EFFORT, A STATEWIDE IMPACT

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters across Wisconsin, our Wishful Giving Toy Drive was a huge success! Together, we exceeded our goal and collected 7,969 total items to support **wish kids and their siblings** throughout their wish journeys. **Thank you for helping bring excitement and joy to wish kids across the state.**

The continued support from long time partners and new organizations alike truly reflects the strength of our statewide community. We could not do this work without our donors, whose generosity keeps our wish closet stocked and supports families throughout their wish journeys.

WISH SPONSORS

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

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| ABC Supply Co., Inc. | Dr. Catherine Long | Karen J. Glanert | |
| Albert Schmidt & Family | Dustin & Jenna Aude | Charitable Trust | |
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| Brad & Holly Schlossmann | Green Bay Packers | Michael & Ellen Schlossmann | |
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| Buca's Bartender Battle | Habush Habush & Rottier | Mukwonago for Wishes | |
| Carma Laboratories | Harri Hoffmann Family Foundation | Nate Dax Memorial Bass Open | |
| Charles Leys | Harrigan for Wishes | Northwestern Mutual | |
| Chi Omega Nu | Hunzinger Construction Co. | O'Hare Wealth Management | |
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| Culver's of Sheboygan - Share Day | Jesse & Tiffany Mack | | |
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| Design Air | | | |
| | | | Plexus Young Professionals Charity Golf Outing |
| | | | Realtors Association of NEWI |
| | | | Richard Kessler |
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| | | | Running for Wishes |
| | | | Sandy McMonagle |
| | | | Sargento |
| | | | Sophia Kemos |
| | | | Steve & Tami Schraufnagel |
| | | | Steve Dunkmann |
| | | | StoneRidge Piggly Wiggly |
| | | | Surewood Forest Wishes for Kids |
| | | | Team Jake |
| | | | Team Sarah STRONG |
| | | | The Jendusa Family |
| | | | The Shepherds of Bock Fund |
| | | | Tim & Lorri Cisler |
| | | | Titus Talent Strategies |
| | | | Trevor Farrell |
| | | | Uline |
| | | | von Briesen & Roper S.C. |
| | | | Warren & Ann Pierson |
| | | | Wausau West DECA |
| | | | Wheels for Wishes |
| | | | Windows for a Cause |
| | | | Wishmakers of Wisconsin |
| | | | WITI-TV FOX6 |



I wish to go Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa
Chase, 7
 rare disease

WE REMEMBER

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

- ★ *Isiac*
- ★ *Peter*
- ★ *Essence*
- ★ *Adan "Leo"*
- ★ *Lincoln*
- ★ *Timothy*

Inside this Issue:

WishMakers Wanted: Everyone has the power to help make wishes come true.

Wishes by the Bay: Join us on the shores of beautiful Lake Mendota to help grant wishes!

Cover Story: Wish 9,000 – Cozzy's playset wish brings hope and healing.

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



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).

Golf Season

IS ALMOST IN FULL SWING!



Join us at any one of these golf outings and you will help make wishes come true for children with critical illnesses.

Bring your friends, client, co-workers or family and enjoy a great day of golf.

For more information, including a complete listing of golf events, please visit wish.org/wisconsin/golf.

COUNTRY CLUB CHALLENGE

June 19, 2026, Nakoma Country Club, Madison, WI

GOLF FOR WISHES

July 13, 2026, Butte Des Morts Country Club, Appleton, WI

GOLF FOR WISHES

August 17, 2026, Blackwolf Run, Kohler, WI

GOLF FOR WISHES

September 16, 2026, Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva, WI