



wishful THINKING

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
MAKE-A-WISH® WISCONSIN
2026 ISSUE 3

GIVING THE FUTURE

Kennedy's wish to go to Japan

MAKE YOUR IMPACT

Volunteer, refer a child
or create a legacy of wishes

OUR *wish* COMMUNITY

*Fundraisers, volunteers
and partners who make
hope possible*

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

As we look back on another remarkable quarter at Make-A-Wish® Wisconsin, we are filled with gratitude and hope. Thanks to your generosity and commitment to our mission, more children than ever are experiencing the life-changing power of a wish.

This spring and summer have been especially inspiring. Between April and June alone, our team, volunteers, donors, medical partners and community supporters came together to grant 128 wishes for children facing critical illnesses across Wisconsin. Even more exciting, in June **we granted 66 wishes in a single month**, the highest monthly total in our chapter's history.



Each of those wishes represents so much more than a trip, a shopping spree or a special gift. Wishes provide children and families with moments of joy, hope and togetherness during some of life's most challenging times. In this issue, you'll meet Kennedy (page 10), whose wish to visit Japan gave him the opportunity to experience the future he had always imagined and reminded his entire family what is possible when hope takes center stage.

Reaching milestones like our record-setting June is only possible because of people like you. Throughout these pages, you'll see examples of the incredible support that fuels our mission (pages 4-5). From community fundraisers and corporate partnerships to dedicated volunteers and medical professionals, **every person plays a role in creating these unforgettable experiences.**



Wishes create immediate joy, but they also leave a lasting impact on families that can endure for years. That's why we're proud to share opportunities to support future wish kids through thoughtful legacy planning (page 14). By investing in the future of our mission, supporters ensure that generations of Wisconsin children will continue to experience the hope, strength and joy that a wish provides.

As our fiscal year comes to a close, we are proud of the progress we've made toward reaching every eligible child. Yet we know there is still more work to do. **Hundreds of Wisconsin children will be newly diagnosed with a critical illness this year, and we remain committed to ensuring that every one of them has the opportunity to experience the hope and strength a wish can bring.**

Whether you support Make-A-Wish Wisconsin through a donation, volunteer service, attending an event, referring a child, or simply sharing our mission with others, **you are helping transform lives.**

Together, we are creating brighter days for children and families who need them most. Thank you for believing in the power of a wish and for helping us continue to make history, one wish at a time.

With gratitude,


Tony Sikorski
Board Chair


Wendy Cozzens
Make-A-Wish Wisconsin CEO


wish.org/wisconsin


WISCONSIN



NEW KIDS ZONE SPONSORSHIP

Make-A-Wish Wisconsin was thrilled to announce that the **Green Bay Packers** are partnering with the Wisconsin Chapter in sponsorship of the Make-A-Wish Wisconsin Kids Zones at **Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport**.

Newly branded signage was unveiled in both the C and D Concourses at the airport on June 30 during a media event, featuring Make-A-Wish Wisconsin CEO Wendy Cozzens, Airport Director Brian Dranzik and Green Bay Packers Director of Community Outreach & Player/Alumni Relations Cathy Dworak. The event also featured wish alum Delilah and her family who shared the impact of their wish experience.

You can donate your airline miles easily today by visiting wish.org/wisconsin/miles. Airline miles can be one of the highest wish costs, and donating airline miles can make a significant difference.



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.

Kelly Kauffman brought her human resources expertise from her role with the Milwaukee Bucks to enrich our staff and guide our HR efforts to build a best-in-class team. We are grateful for all of her time coaching our staff and providing additional resources.



Lynda Bouchard Patterson served on our Board for the past six years, bringing her expertise in nonprofit management along with a large number of connections in the Madison and Minocqua areas. Lynda played a significant role in our Birthday reception in Minocqua and in helping form and grow our Wishes by the Bay event.



Tony Sikorski served as our Board Chair this past year, and previously as Vice Chair, offering his leadership skills and more. Tony understands the impact of our mission at a deep level as he is also a wish dad to two wish alum – Anthony who wished to have a game room and William who wished to go to Atlantis Bahamas. We are grateful for Tony's insights and leadership.



As System Vice President, Pediatric Services & President at American Family Children's Hospital, **Nikki Stafford** enhanced our relationship with this important partner, strengthening referrals and engaging more staff and the community with our mission.



Rich Thompson has served on the Make-A-Wish Wisconsin board for the past six years, bringing his marketing expertise and deep insights of staff growth as well as a continued national partnership with ABC Supply. Rich also introduced Make-A-Wish to the Beloit Sky Carp, creating a long-term relationship that is enriching wish kids and our community.



FEATURED FUNDRAISERS

The annual **Yacht Blast for Kids** takes place on Sunday, September 13, from 11am-6pm at the Milwaukee Yacht Club!

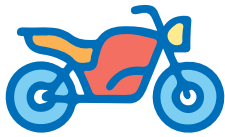
This incredible day supports Make-A-Wish Wisconsin and offers fun ways to get involved: host a wish family on your boat, sponsor the event, join us for the on-shore picnic or help plan by joining the event team.

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



On August 22 the 10th annual **Nate Dax Memorial Bass Open** will take place at Huckleberry Harbor in Shawano, for an inspiring day of fishing, storytelling & raffles!

For more details visit facebook.com/NateDaxMemorialBassOpen.



Join **Wisconsin Motorcycle Guide** on August 29, at Matty's Bar & Grille in New Berlin for a rain-or-shine charity ride supporting Make-A-Wish Wisconsin.

Enjoy scenic stops, live music, raffles and prizes. Open to the public, all benefiting wish kids.



The Grand Chute Lions Club will host their annual **Pancake Breakfast**.

Eat up on September 13, 9am to 1pm, and help grant life-changing local wishes.



Tee off for a great cause at the **RTD Golf Outing** on September 26 at Blackstone Creek in Germantown. Enjoy a round of golf, lunch, drinks, raffles and prizes while supporting Make-A-Wish Wisconsin.

Every dollar raised helps grant a local child's life-changing wish!



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!

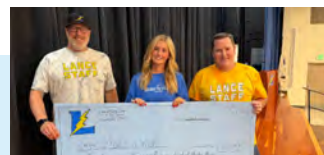


The Bergstrom Automotive team hosted a special **Wash for Wishes** event to help make life-changing wishes come true for children with critical illnesses!

The community was invited to get their car washed at any participating Bergstrom Automotive location, while helping make life-changing wishes come true! With a \$15 (or more) donation to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin, the incredible Bergstrom Automotive team provided an old-fashioned sparkling clean car wash! More than 1,000 cars were hand washed!

Plus, guests enjoyed food trucks, dunk tanks & more at each dealership.

Thank you, Bergstrom Automotive team, for continuing to join in the magic of making of making life-changing wishes come true.



Lance Middle School students, staff, families and community members raised over \$46,000 through their Walk-a-Thon to help grant life-changing wishes for local children battling critical illnesses.



Fox Bros. Piggly Wiggly's Charity of the Month campaign raised more than \$25,000 to help make wishes come true, thanks to the generosity of their customers, staff and the community.



Fox Cities Wish Kids, a group compiled of Northeast WI wish alum, hosted their annual **Lemonade for Wishes** stand at Sandy Slope Elementary. They raised over \$6,000 to help grant wishes like theirs!



The 18th annual Rock for Wishes, featuring numerous local bands, an auction, raffles & more, took place at Tanner's Bar and Grill in Kimberly. They raised over \$23,000 to help make wishes come true!



WISHES ON PAR

148 golfers joined us at Golf for Wishes, presented by CoVantage Credit Union and Tri-Presenting sponsors Werner Electric Supply, Faith Technologies, Inc. & Rockwell Automation at Butte des Morts Country Club in Appleton.

It was an inspiring day of golf with fun hole events and incredible treats throughout the course, lunch sponsored by The Honey Baked Ham Co., an impressive auction and dinner where our guests were inspired by wish kid Enzo and his 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 are available at [flickr.com/makeawishwisconsin/albums/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/makeawishwisconsin/albums/).

HEARTFELT HOPE

Over 250 Madison area business and community leaders gathered at Wishes by the Bay, presented by Exact Sciences is now Abbott, American Family Insurance and Crownstone Wealth Management on the beautiful shores of Lake Mendota.

Emcees Joe Thomas and Steve Stark and other wish families shared their inspiring and heartfelt stories while helping to raise enough funds to grant more than 23 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 these life-changing wishes come true for children battling critical illnesses.

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



Longtime Make-A-Wish Wisconsin friends and champions, Mason & Molly Crosby and Jordy Nelson joined a number of other notable athletes and media celebrities for the 2nd annual **Border Brouhaha Softball Slam**, benefiting Make-A-Wish Wisconsin. It was a fantastic day with a lot of great fans and some fun moments on the field. Special thanks to Team Lammi and their sponsors for a great day!



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



This year's **Round Up for Wishes** campaign was held at four StoneRidge Piggly Wiggly stores and raised over \$44,000 in vital funds for kids wishes.



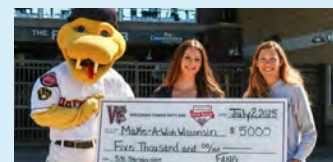
The 2nd annual Make-A-Wish Wisconsin Madison **Country Club Challenge** golf tournament at Nakoma Golf Club was a big success! Pete Uselman and Eric Hatchell, Maple Bluff Country Club, took 1st place.



The 3rd annual **Harrigan for Wishes**, presented by Harrigan Solutions, Master Printwear & BREAKTHRU, raised over \$96,000 at The Bull at Pinehurst Farms to grant life-changing wishes.



The first annual **Waupun Poker Run** raised \$2,813 to help make wishes come true!



The **Wisconsin Timber Rattlers** annual Star Wars Night jersey auction benefited local wish kids.



Culver's in Sheboygan, Oostburg & Shawano hosted star sales and a Share Day on World Wish Day. Together, they raised over \$13,000 for wishes.



Keith's Marina Race for a Cause at Slinger Speedway brought the community together and raised \$7,000 to help grant life-changing wishes for children.

Donor Spotlight **RENEWAL BY ANDERSEN**

For the team at Renewal by Andersen, giving back is more than a commitment. It is part of who they are.

Windows for a Cause is an annual fundraiser that brings together a passionate community and talented artists from across Wisconsin to support Make-A-Wish Wisconsin.

Since launching in 2016, this free event has transformed old windows that are salvaged after professional installations into stunning works of art, helping to reduce landfill waste, while raising funds to grant life-changing wishes for local children battling critical illnesses.



After window replacements, Renewal by Andersen partners with local artists to transform old windows into one-of-a-kind pieces. These creations are auctioned during the event with 100% of proceeds benefiting Make-A-Wish Wisconsin. The evening also features live music, local art, exciting raffles and food and drinks!

Save the date for the 2026 Windows for a Cause events! Join us on Thursday, September 17 at Gather at Deer District in Milwaukee or Wednesday, October 21 at Poplar Hall in Appleton.

We are grateful for the Renewal by Andersen team, talented artists, and everyone who supports Windows for a Cause. Together, they are turning recycled windows into unforgettable wishes and creating hope for children and families across Wisconsin.

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, 2026. 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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to Diggerland in
New Jersey*

Noah, 11
nervous system
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to Yellowstone
National Park*

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*I wish to
go Hawaii*

Luna, 7
nervous system
disorder

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\$10,000 to \$19,999

American Airlines
BLP Wealth Mgmt
Boutique Travel Advisors

Kesslers Diamonds
Pfefferle Management
Size43 Films

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Crossmark Graphics
Disneyland Resort
Verizon Wireless

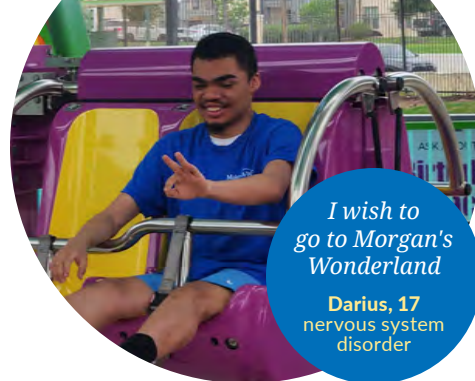
\$1,000 to \$4,999

Avis Rental Car
Capital Flight
Custom Limousine Service
CZ Travel
Greg Davis
Enterprise Holdings
Escort Limousine Services, Inc.
Generac Power Systems, Inc.
Hilton Waikoloa Village
Hyatt Place Atlanta/Centennial Park

Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa
Orlando Medical Rentals
Sea Life Park Hawaii
Sheraton Universal Hotel
Sheraton Waikiki
Stark Family
Steve and Randi Vicenzi
Surroundings Events & Floral
The Twin Fin
UW Health American Family Childrens Hospital

\$500 to \$999

Amy Beth Design Studio
Bishops Bay Country Club
Chalmer's Jewelers
Dollywood
Encore Limousine
Fantasy Limousine Inc.
Kalahari, Wisconsin Dells



I wish to go to Morgan's Wonderland

Darius, 17
nervous system disorder

Lake Wisconsin Country Club
Maggiano's Little Italy
Michael Best
Molson Coors
Off the Hook
On Location Tours
Pepsi - Windsor
Ray's True Value
Richard Kessler
Sartori Cheese
Shelburne By Sonesta

Swing Lab Indoor Golf
John Szymczak
The Royal Group
Tito's Vodka
Travis Wise
University Ridge Golf Course
Waterford Wine
We Ko Pas Casino Resort
Wilderness Resort



SUMMER AT THE BALLPARK

We were so excited to bring back our Summer at the Ballpark series back for its second year!

Throughout the summer, wish families from across Wisconsin gathered at ballparks around the state to connect with one another, meet Make-A-Wish Wisconsin staff and create unforgettable memories together while cheering on their favorite teams!

A very special thank you to the Beloit Sky Carp, Lakeshore Chinooks, Green Bay Rockers, Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, Wisconsin Rapids Rafters and La Crosse Loggers for making our wish families feel so welcome.

Their generosity and partnership gave families the opportunity to enjoy an incredible day at the ballpark, build new friendships, and celebrate the power of a wish. We are so grateful for your support and for helping make this series such a memorable success!



GOLF FOR WISHES

There are only a few foursomes left for Golf for Wishes, coming up Wednesday, September 16 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, 2026

I wish to go to
the Walt Disney
World® Resort

Annali, 7
leukemia



...to go to Alaska Rifle, 3

Wish Granters: Kelly Flattum & Julie Irwin

...to have an Astronaut Experience

Ezra, 20

Wish Granter: Laurie Wetterau

...to go to Atlantis, Bahamas

Skylee, 14

Wish Granters: Joseph Bollinger & Michael Beye

...to go on a Beach Vacation in Clearwater Beach, Florida

Lily, 3

Wish Granter: Sharon Miller

...to have a Camper

Benjamin, 4

Wish Granters: Ericka Banish & Nancy Balestreri

Osiel, 4

Wish Granters: Hailey Van Boxtel & Teresa McDowell

Margaret, 5

Wish Granters: Maria Mengotti & Sharon Miller

Allen, 10

Wish Granter: Jessica Galaz

Emmett, 13

Wish Granters: Maria Mengotti & Vanesa Cefalo

Mavrick, 16

Wish Granters: Carly Parker & Traci Steinbach

...to go to Yellowstone National Park

Martin, 18

Wish Granters: Angie Taugher & Natalie Binder

Sammy, 6

Wish Granters: Linda Ryfinski & Tamara Fox

...to go to Chicago

Jackson, 6

Wish Granters: Megan Salinas & Maria Keizer

...to go on Disney Cruise Line®

Deklan, 11

Wish Granter: Anissa Johnsen

Caleb, 12

Wish Granters: Holly De Long & Judy Wong

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

Everlee, 3

Wish Granters: Patti Dickert, Terry Johnson & Kelly Wagner

Iris, 3

Wish Granters: Karen Kaempffe & Sandy Strack

Jack, 3

Wish Granters: Megan Salinas, Bailey Jedrzejewski & Angela Perez

Kensleigh, 3

Wish Granters: Holly De Long & Peggy Van Grinsven

Leona, 3

Wish Granters: Dawn Marcott & Colleen Leahy

Otto, 3

Wish Granters: Amy Reineking & Debra Mikulski

Aleigha, 4

Wish Granters: Kelly Flattum & Dawn Marcott

Colt, 4

Wish Granters: Larissa LoBello & Ashley Hofmann

Jack, 4

Wish Granters: Jennifer & Terry Hoepfner

Jalan, 4

Wish Granters: Carolyn Wesley & Amanda Sarazen

Lucas, 4

Wish Granters: Karissa Kayla Krimmel & Candace Johnson

Luciana, 4

Wish Granters: Patty Hanson & Meredith Niesen

Charli, 5

Wish Granters: Danielle Swoboda & Dana Grace

Kasen, 5

Wish Granters: Cheryl Muller & Julie Irwin

Maia, 5

Wish Granters: Laurie Wetterau, Claire Gloss & Tracy Bantz

Daniel, 6

Wish Granter: Lynn Wagner

Darrius, 6

Wish Granters: Larry Levy & Daniel Rogan

Easton, 6

Wish Granters: Abbi Walters & Karen Briers

Lucas, 6

Wish Granters: Jeremy & Megan Kox

Annali, 7

Wish Granters: Debbie Wolf & Jordan Wolf

Brileigh, 7

Wish Granters: Hnub Vue, Sandra Nissen & Ryann Mattison

Lola, 7

Wish Granters: Jim Corona & Corinna Bongiovanni

Lucas, 7

Wish Granters: Megan Kox & Jeremy Kox

Nairobi, 7

Wish Granters: Daniel Rogan & Larry Levy

Noel, 7

Wish Granters: Kristi Pulvermacher, Tacy DeRouin & Kristen Wetzel

William, 7

Wish Granters: Teresa McDowell & Maggie Reeve

Harper, 8

Wish Granters: Kathy Woolford & Ronna Monahan

Tucker, 8

Wish Granters: Marie Waddell & Laura Kuehl

Ahliah, 9

Wish Granters: Patricia Stoll & Devin Schiesser

Hailynn, 9

Wish Granters: Katie Jakubowski, Jennifer & Corey Kuchta

Ashton, 10

Wish Granters: Steven Hesselberg & Joy Lancour

Sol, 10

Wish Granters: Patricia Bemowski & Sandy Strack

Luke, 11

Wish Granters: Daniel Rogan & Jennifer Flamboe

Ka Jai, 13

Wish Granters: Kayla Tillisch & Joe Newman

Esamaya, 14

Wish Granters: Sara Zibert & Carolyn Wesley

Ashton, 15

Wish Granters: Jodi Harris, Carrie Cookson, Margaret Walters & James Williams

Alexander, 16

Wish Granters: Patty Hanson & Daniel Altman

Joshua, 19

Wish Granters: Carolyn & Mike Conley

...to go to Disneyland® Resort

Gabriel, 6

Wish Granters: Kristy Howerton & Alexis Lowe

Sophia, 6

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Zaniah, 16

Wish Granters: Relie Bacho & Susan Tionsgon

...to go to Dollywood

Lily, 7

Wish Granters: Laura Vacek & Daniel Rogan

...to go to Epic & Universal Studios

Alexander, 20

Wish Granter: Peggy Van Grinsven

...to go to a FIFA World Cup 2026 Match

Jovan, 16

Wish Granter: Kristin Paul

...to go to the Florida Keys

Lanie, 4

Wish Granters: Jeffrey & Margaret Connor

Callan, 14

Wish Granters: Heather Loughney & Cassie Seeley

Addisyn, 19

Wish Granters: Tracy Miller, Bailey Henson & Lauren Baus

...to have a Game Room Makeover

Trevion, 17

Wish Granters: Jody & Ricardo Lopez

...to go to Gulf Shores, AL

Karter, 7

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

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

Alex, 6

Wish Granter: Linda Ryfinski

Brielle, 6

Wish Granters: Jenny Peabody & Rebecca Paulson



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

GIVING THE FUTURE

When Kennedy was diagnosed with a genetic condition that affects the heart's electrical system, his family's life changed completely.

Kennedy's heart takes longer than usual to recover between beats, which can lead to dangerous heart rhythms and potentially sudden cardiac arrest.

"He was the first person in our family to be diagnosed, and we had never even heard of it before," his mother, Christa shared. After genetic testing, the family learned Kennedy's older brother also has the condition. **"Finding out that two of our children have a heart condition was terrifying,"** she said. "It is something that is always in the back of our minds."

Daily life became filled with medications, precautions and worry. But it also brought a new perspective. "It has taught us not to take anything for granted. We try to enjoy the little moments, make memories whenever we can and be thankful for every day we have together."

When it came time to choose a wish, Kennedy had no hesitation: he wanted to go to Japan. **"This part always makes me emotional," Christa said. "Kennedy believed Japan lived in the future, and he wanted to see what the future looked like, just in case."**

Drawn by its technology, culture, food and endless possibilities, Kennedy dreamed of experiencing Japan for himself. Thanks to generous supporters like you, that wish became a reality.

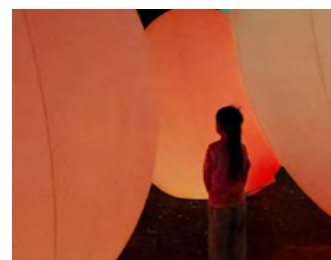
Watching Kennedy feed the deer in Nara, visit ancient temples, explore Universal Studios Japan and immerse himself in a place he had imagined for so long was unforgettable. **"It was more than just a trip," Christa said. "It was a dream coming true right in front of us."**

The wish gave his family something they had been missing for a long time, time together. "For a week, our focus shifted from appointments, medications and everyday stress to adventure, laughter and connection," Christa shared. "We explored new places, experienced a different culture, and created memories that will stay with us forever."

Seeing Japan through Kennedy's eyes became one of the family's favorite parts of the journey. His excitement and confidence grew each day, and his siblings shared in the adventure, creating memories they will cherish for years to come.

Most importantly, the wish reminded Kennedy that anything is possible. To those who support Make-A-Wish, Christa offers a heartfelt message: "Your donation gives families so much more than a trip. It gives a child something to look forward to. It gives families a chance to step away from the fear, stress, appointments and constant worry, even if it is only for a little while."

"Make-A-Wish gave Kennedy the chance to see his future, and they gave our family memories that we will hold onto forever."



THE WISH LIST

Wishes Granted
April 1 - June 30, 2026

*I wish to go
to Hawaii*

Raelyn, 10
brain tumor



...to go to Hawaii

Enrique, 5

Wish Granters: Linda Ryfinski,
Mia Hedahl & Robert Crusier

Zayden, 6

Wish Granters: Larry Levy &
Teresa McDowell

Harper, 7

Wish Granter: Ella Frank

Luna, 7

Wish Granters: Tamara Fox &
Jaime Ostrow

RaeLynn, 7

Wish Granters: Colleen Leahy &
Michelle Friemoth

Kaiden, 8

Wish Granters: Michele Schaetz
& Linda Ryfinski

Gracelyn, 11

Wish Granters: Emi Toguchi &
Gretchen Baker

Raelyn, 10

Wish Granters: Ruby Lee,
Jennifer Wenzlaff & Lisa Rice

Sawyer, 11

Wish Granters: Traci Steinbach &
Peggy Van Grinsven

Liam, 12

Wish Granters: Steven
Hesselberg & Joy Lancour

Trinity, 12

Wish Granters: Kalena Kimura,
Michele Schaetz & Savitha Sithartha

Davis, 13

Wish Granters: Kim Christensen,
Raquel Lasconia, Stephanie
Martell & Traci Steinbach

Jonathan, 16

Wish Granters: Debra Mikulski,
Arielle Serrano & Karen Satenberg

Matteo, 16

Wish Granters: Shelby Robbins,
Kayla Gendron & Sage Smith

Kaley, 17

Wish Granters: Karen Satenberg,
Daniel Rogan & Jorian Greenwood

Jordan, 18

Wish Granters: Michele Schaetz,
Christopher Fong, Julie Grim &
Jaime Corral

Kiet, 18

Wish Granters: Chau Tong &
Jenny Llave

Kourtney, 19

Wish Granters: Holly Young, Yasari
Wolschlag & Michelle Kadow

Teah, 19

Wish Granter: Danielle Matysik

...to have a Jet Ski

Grant, 17

Wish Granters: Holly De Long &
Marie Waddell

...to go to LEGOLAND, Orlando

Mason, 9

Wish Granters: Cheryl Anderson
& Holly Young

...to go to LEGOLAND, New York

Angel, 18

Wish Granters: Rosie Miliacca &
Shari Karasek

...to go on a Shopping Spree

Estefani, 5

Wish Granters: Diana Moreno,
Tacy DeRouin, Elizabeth Reynolds,
Barbara Bongard & Thomas Bauer

Zendrayah, 11

Wish Granters: Bailey
Jedrzejewski & Larry Levy

Zola, 13

Wish Granters: Carol McChesney
Johnson, Janice Holling & Beth
Schuster

...to go to London, England

Isabel, 13

Wish Granters: Kylee Wunschel
& Amanda Borleske

Ryleigh, 19

Wish Granter: Kyra Willats

... to go to Los Angeles, California

Kainen, 11

Wish Granters: Linette Britt &
Athena Borca

Marjorie, 15

Wish Granter: Patty Hanson

...to have a Mall of America Shopping Spree

Vera, 17

Wish Granters: Thomas Bauer &
Barbara Pahlow

...to have a Monkey Experience

Luke, 12

Wish Granters: Joy Lancour &
Steven Hesselberg

...to go to Morgan's Wonderland

Darius, 17

Wish Granters: Laurie Wetterau
& Julie Carr

...to go to Munich, Germany

Aaron, 11

Wish Granters: Cheryl Anderson
& Melissa Reina

...to go to Diggerland in New Jersey

Noah, 11

Wish Granters: Julie Vanlaanen &
Michel Klein

...to go to New York City

Trevon, 14

Wish Granters: Kelsey Zwick &
Michelle Walsh

Elier, 20

Wish Granter: Melissa Reina

...to go to Nickelodeon Resort Riviera Maya

Kaylee, 9

Wish Granters: Carolyn &
Mike Conley

...to have an Online Shopping Spree

Maximiliano, 17

Wish Granter: Adena Ruckoldt

Amy, 18

Wish Granters: Angela Perez &
Leah Zirbel

...to go to Japan

Kennedy, 9

Wish Granters: Kristin Paul &
Kathy Finley

Peyton, 14

Wish Granters: Mary Streveler &
Mark Lacke

Zane, 17

Wish Granters: Larinda Becker &
Ashley TeBeest

Fernanda, 18

Wish Granters: Megan Salinas,
Shari Karasek & Dana Mejic

Camryn, 20

Wish Granter: Carly Parker

Makana, 20

Wish Granter: Jennifer Yetter

Sachin, 20

Wish Granter: Jennifer Yetter

...to go to Puerto Rico

Angel, 8

Wish Granters: Kristin Paul &
Michele Schaetz

Azahlea, 16

Wish Granters: Amanda Mutchler
& Lauren Hannes

...to have a Purple Princess party

Amaya, 9

Wish Granters: Carol McChesney
Johnson, Janice Holling & Kelli Susee

...to go to Rome, Italy

Paige, 18

Wish Granters: Danielle Matysik
& Melissa Reina

...to go on a Royal Caribbean Cruise

Brianna, 12

Wish Granters: Karen Kaempffe
& Natalie Binder

Benjamin, 18

Wish Granters: Lisa Yursis & Julie
Vanlaanen

...to go on an Alaskan Royal Caribbean Cruise

Arody, 19

Wish Granters: Sara Zibert &
Maurine Braun

...to go to the San Diego Zoo

Aubrey, 5

Wish Granters: Michele Schaetz
& Tammy Kregor

...to have a Sensory Room

Malaki, 13

Wish Granters: Patty Adams &
Meredith Niesen

...to go to Smithsonian's National Zoo

Bridget, 12

Wish Granters: Amanda Kozik &
Carley Hintz

...to go on a Tennessee Road Trip

Emily, 19

Wish Granter: Patrick Kilker

...to go to Universal Studios

Jaxson, 10

Wish Granters: Jill Patty &
Brianna Hansen

... to go on a Utah Road Trip

Rochelle, 17

Wish Granters: Rachel
Geittmann, Jordyn Dutkiewicz &
Lisa Rice

...to go to Wisconsin Dells

Anthony, 9

Wish Granters: Kathy Woolford
& Ronna Monahan

*I wish to go
on a Tennessee
Road Trip*

Emily, 19
cancer





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 2026

Ella Frank



Inspired by Make-A-Wish through her college service work, Ella now volunteers as a wish granter. She sees firsthand how a simple conversation can spark joy, excitement and possibility. For Ella, the impact comes from helping children explore their dreams and creating moments that give families "something positive to look forward to during difficult times."

MAY 2026

Kathy Finley



After retiring from 29 years of teaching, Kathy wasn't ready to stop making a difference. As a wish granter, she continues to impact young lives by helping wish kids experience moments of joy and excitement. She volunteers because every smile reminds her that even small acts of kindness can mean everything to a family.

JUNE 2026

Megan & Jeremy Kox



For Megan and Jeremy, volunteering is about bringing hope to families facing unimaginable challenges. Megan's lifelong passion for service and Jeremy's personal connection to Make-A-Wish inspired them to give back together. After seven years of granting wishes, they've learned that simple acts of kindness can create life-changing joy for children and families.

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

VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

30 YEARS: Larry Levy

15 YEARS: Patrick Walsh

10 YEARS: Mary Pitzen, Jack Kile, Karen Van Drisse, Cheryl Muller, Lisa Rice, Dana Smith, Carley Hilt, Danielle Starke

5 YEARS: Doris Mertens, Jodi Halpin, Rosie Miliacca, Athena Borca

¿CONOCE A ALGUIEN BILINGÜE?

¡Siempre estamos buscando más intérpretes! 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 Kennedy's wish (page 10) come true!

Medical professionals at **Children's Wisconsin** have played a vital role in Kennedy's health. Liz Reid, one of Kennedy's RNs, shared, "Kennedy has a medical condition that limits his ability to participate in athletics and be as active as other kids. He also has to take medication every day. Kennedy's wish trip was a unique opportunity for him to choose what he wanted to do instead of being told he can't do certain activities."



Pictured left to right: Dr. Singh, Dr. Kovach, Dr. Beacher, Liz Reid RN, Hillary Giorgi APNP, and Nicole Hunker APNP



Kristin Walsh, CZ Travel

Creating unforgettable journeys is at the heart of **CZ Travel**. Owned by Kristin Walsh, the business specializes in group, family and luxury vacations throughout Europe, Alaska and the Caribbean. Kristin has also dedicated 25 years as a Make-A-Wish Wisconsin volunteer and wish granter. After founding CZ Travel, helping arrange international travel wishes became a natural extension of her commitment to the mission.

"I have been a wish granter and Make-A-Wish Wisconsin volunteer for 25 years," Kristin said. "Shortly after founding my business, it felt natural to expand my support by helping grant travel wishes."

For Kristin, the impact of a wish reaches far beyond the destination. "I've seen families become more hopeful and positive," she said. "I've seen wish journeys bring families closer together. In a word, it's remarkable."

Inspired by the families she meets and the lasting difference a wish makes, Kristin believes giving back is essential to business success. "Companies thrive when they balance customer care, community support and profitability," she said. "Supporting Make-A-Wish is a way to show your community you care and want to make a positive difference."

MAKE-A-WISH® REFERRAL SOURCES

Our thanks to those who referred and treated children with wishes granted between April 1 and June 30, 2026:

Children's Hospitals & Clinics of Minnesota - Minneapolis

Dr. Chelsea Self, MD; Jessi Storms, SW; Dr. Melanie Chihak, MD

Children's Wisconsin

Sheila M Dodds, LCSW; Carly Bolli, MSW; Dr. Bethany Auble, MD; Dr. Amanda Brandow, MD; Dr. Larisa Broglie, MD; Dr. Alexis Gumm, MD; Michelle Honeck, MSW; Juliana Jeffers, NP; Dr. Angela Steineck, MD; Sara K. Quates, APNP; Dr. Virginia Kaperick, MD; Dr. Kerri Becktell, MD; Dr. Stephanie Handler, MD; Anna Corrao, LCSW; Dr. Amanada Jimenez Barquero, MD; Stacey Lerret, APNP; Dr. Pradeep Javarayee, MD; Dr. Edward Kirkpatrick, MD; Christine Luckman, SW; Dr. Nathan Schloemer, MD; Dr. Zachary Graff, MD; Hillary McCown, APNP; Cira Verhage, LCSW; Shelley Chapman, NP; Apryl Weed, NP; Dr. Michael Burke, MD; Maura Brophey, NP; Dr. Anoop K. Singh, MD; Dr. Paul D Harker-Murray, MD; Dr. Paola Palma Sisto, MD; Dr. Elham

Abushanab, MD; Katy Gallaher, RN; Dr. Sarah Rumler, MD; Dr. Richard Tower, MD; Nicole Barnes, LCSW; Sara Petre, APNP; Liz Reid, RN; Dr. Joshua Kovach, MD; Gina Lewis, NP; Dr. Dan Beacher, MD; Dr. Michele Frommelt, MD; Lisa Neidhold, RN; Dr. Sara Sabbagh, MD; Corynne Meiser, MSW; Dr. Megan Hilgers, MD; Dr. Ellen Cody, MD; Dr. Kaitlin Kirkpatrick, MD; Dr. Steven Kindel, MD; Robin Kostroski, MSW; Dr. Victoria Besser, MD

Gundersen Health System

Cheri Hill, CTRS; Dr. Jennifer Orozco, MD; Jessica Bumgarner, Child Life Professional

HSHS St. Vincent's Children's Hospital

Kailee Hanson, Child Life Professional; Dr. Cathy Long, MD

M Health Fairview Masonic Children's Hospital

Dr. Robert Galvin, MD

Mayo Clinic

Meghan Wodill, LGSW; Dr. Madeleine O'Keefe, MD; Dr. Mira Kohorst, MD

Prevea Health

Dr. Terence Edgar, MD

UW Health American Family Children's Hospital

Dr. Madhulika Mathur, MD; Dr. Heidi Kloster, MD; Dr. Cathy Lee-Miller, MD; Kim Sue Lamster, LCSW; Brittany Storhoff, APNP; Dr. Nicholas Pytel, DO; Jessica DuBois, SW; Dr. Christina Barreda, MD; Craig Becker, MSW; Solomy Ntabmi, MSW; Dr. Michael Eckrich, MD; Dr. Daniel O'Connell, MD; Paige Powell, SW; Dr. Bermans Iskandar, MD; Dr. Carrie Barker, MD; Hope Imaizumi, SW; Dr. Margo Hoover-Regan, MD; Bethany Doherty, MSW; Alison Rockwell, LCSW; Jill Bowdish, CAPSW



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: 6-year-old Lucas' wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort came true in May.



Kaley's wish to go to Hawaii came true this past June.



WRITE A LOVE LETTER THAT LASTS

August is National Make-A-Will Month, and we encourage you to participate because it's a loving step for yourself, those in your life, and even kids battling critical illnesses.

By creating your will, you can safeguard the people, pets, and possessions closest to your heart.

We also invite you to include a gift in your plans to join us in granting wishes for generations to come.

Our partner, FreeWill's free and secure online platform, guides you through completing this task in just 20 minutes. Write your lasting expression of love today.

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



SCAN QR CODE FOR INFO



CHANGE LIVES. BUILD COMMUNITY. LEAD WITH PURPOSE.

Wishmakers of Wisconsin connects young professionals who want to make a meaningful impact while growing their leadership skills.

Members help plan fundraising events that support children with critical illnesses, build valuable professional experience, expand their networks and connect with others who share a passion for service. Along the way, they discover new opportunities to engage with their community and witness the life-changing power of a wish.

Join a group that turns purpose into action and helps create hope for Wisconsin families.

Learn more at wish.org/wisconsin/wow.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY

Our sincere thanks to everyone who gave gifts between April 1 and June 30, 2026 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

8th grade graduation:
KK Art, Skye Davis, Ella Joseph, Abby Hammes
Brad Christenson
Marriage of Jamie and Michael Cohn
JD Dorrance
Alice Endres' Birthday
Susie Gidan,
Congratulations on your W.I.S.H. Award
Dr. Michael Gordon's Birthday

Mary Green's Retirement
Sean Gunville
Mike Haddad
Matthew Francis Johnson
Dee Ann Keip
Logan McQuade
Judith Owen
Patti Gorsky Pollack
Elise Rowe
Xander Sell
Cole Steffen
Cookie Topp
"One Tough Cookie"

World Wish Month
Alan Zweibel

IN MEMORY OF

Mary Anderson
Ted Bauer
Ann Becker
Judy Blochowicz
Kian Bloczynski
Dr. Robert "Bob" Blue
Debbie Dallet
Albert and Minnie Eckstein

Patricia Emslie
Barbara Ferrol Fabris
Brezz Golsteyn
Austin Greenberg
Paul Healy
Mark Huber
Debbie Jones
Michael Kovnar
Elaine Kraus
Pat Malensek
Allison McKenna
Robert "Buck" McKillop
Ron Monfils
Harold Mueller
Mary Nelson
Roger Nelson
Elaine Orcholski
Patricia O'Sullivan
Malensek
Cliff Otte

Keith and Pamela Plambeck
Hilkka Raja
Robert "Bob" Krucky
Robert Russell
Don and Judy Sartell
Catherine Schroeder
Raymond Schweiger
Germaine Semler
In Loving Memory of Ajaya K. Sharma's 47th Birthday
Joe Shear
Morton Soifer
Zachary Sprader
Don Stindt
June Villareale
Joyce Vorpahl
Dennis Waisman
Peter Welnick

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, 2026.

ABC Supply Co., Inc.	Dennis & Janice Klumb Family Foundation Disney Wish Endowment Fund	J.P. Cullen & Sons, Inc. James and Leigh Peterson Family Foundation	Michael Pregont Milwaukee Admirals Milwaukee Brewers Mukwonago for Wishes	Snap-on Incorporated Sunshine Box - Pioneer Resources
Archive's Bar & Grill	Design Air	Jaxson Markee	Nan Gardetto	Szymczak Racers
Ashley Charitable Foundation	Godfrey & Kahn	Jean Clack	Neumann	Tedi Foundation
Baird	Dr. David Margolis	Jessica Nast	Developments & Sunvest Solar	The Capital Group
Balyasny Asset Management	Dr. Rainer Gedeit	Joey Clauer	Northwestern Mutual	The Deitch Family
Beale Family Foundation	Eric & Tammi Stahre	John & Nancy Lee	O'Donohue's	The Jendusa Family
Beloit SkyCarp	Estate of Dorothy Trump Fizzano	John Schlifske	Orbis Corporation	The Kohl & Stoop Families
BMO Commercial Bank	Estate of Gary Matveychik	Johnson Controls	Patti Gorsky Pollack	Thomas Jones
Brand Family Foundation	Estate of Roberta Dinkin	Kaden's Wish Tailgate	Pete & Katy Spohn	TightSeal
Breakthru	Fox Bros Piggly Wiggly	Karen J. Glanert Charitable Trust	Quad	Timothy Anderson
Buca's Bartender Battle	Fusion Recruiters	Kessler's Diamonds Employee Owners	Ray Steffen	Tony Staniak
Burns McDonnell	Gavin & Terry Hattersley	Kristine & Brian Finell	Realtors Association of NEWI - Timber Rattlers Game	Uline
Carmex	Greg Quinn	Lance Middle School	Reich Tool & Design	Wayne & Barbara Stellmacher
Carolyn Scherer	Gruber Law Offices	Lashbook	Richard Kessler	We Energies
Cheers for Wishes	Harrigan for Wishes	Love Always Corp.	Ruth Ann Ahnen	William Mullins
Children's Wisconsin	Helen Blenker Endowment Fund	Maria Sartori	Sargento Foods Inc.	Windows for a Cause
Chuck & Toni Palmer	iNet Web PC	Mars Family Foundation	Sartori Cheese	Wishmakers of Wisconsin
Crownstone Wealth Management	Inpro Corporation	Matthew Colvin	Sartori Family Foundation	WUCA
David Lee Scrima		Merkel Foundation	SC Johnson	Yacht Blast for Kids
		Michael Fassett		

I wish to go to LEGOLAND New York

Angel, 18
heart condition

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

★ Kamari	★ Levi	★ Leila	★ Ian	★ Dixie	★ Charles
★ Deven	★ Adrian	★ Ariana	★ Amaya	★ Amelia	★ Erick
★ Aaron'James	★ Alexander	★ Cassandra	★ Sicilia	★ Isaiah	

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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.

Write a Love Letter that Lasts – Your legacy can support wish kids not just today but for years to come.

Giving the Future – Facing uncertainty, Kennedy found hope and wonder in Japan.



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Make-A-Wish®
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Join in the magic of making wishes come true, while experiencing our spectacular signature gala on October 14th at the Resch Expo overlooking Lambeau Field.

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

More than 45 of the area's finest establishments participate and serve their best, including: Republic Chophouse, Mangiare, Iron Duck, Chives, Hotel Northland, Legacy Hotel, Primal Eats and Cheese Cake 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!

