

Wishmaker

Serving children in the 15 counties of the 518 and 838 area codes since 1987

Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington counties in upstate New York



**VOLUNTEERS
HONORED**

*Mark Your Calendars
for Gala 2018*

**HISTORY
HIGHLIGHTS**

30

YEARS OF WISHES

with gratitude from the Board Chairman and CEO



To Our Valued Donors and Volunteers,

Since our Spring/Summer issue of Wishmaker last May, we have enjoyed another remarkable season of wish granting and fundraising. Our Mission Delivery team ended our business year in August with 86 wishes granted and nearly 20 more ready to go for the “new year!” Highlights of our “Summer of Wishes” included Nicholas’ wish to tour Italy with his grandmother, Gianna’s wish for a therapy dog, Dawson’s wish for a two-story backyard playhouse, Dylan’s wish to visit the Atlantis resort in the Bahamas, Jackson’s wish to visit Seattle, WA, Mitchell’s wish to visit Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming with his family, and Ryan’s wish to attend an NBA Finals game in Cleveland.

While these and many more wishes were being granted over the summer, we were also busy planning our 4th annual Walk for Wishes that took place on August 12th. We welcomed a record crowd of nearly 550 walkers and raised a record \$94,500 to help grant wishes for every eligible child! With the support of many corporate sponsors, including the Upstate Chevy Dealers as Presenting Sponsor, more than 48 walk teams, and numerous Wish Families, we really hit our stride (yes, pun intended) with the 2017 Walk! Talk about an awesome display of teamwork. Add to this success ten charity golf tournaments, the biggest charity motorcycle ride in the region, Wish Jump 2017, and other community-based fundraisers, and what you have is a winning formula of dedication, commitment and generosity of volunteers, donors and staff who are broadening the impact of our great mission throughout the entire 518 and 838 area codes.

This past summer, we also welcomed three new staff members – Michele Brumsey, Director of Philanthropy; Lisa Duggan, Disney Wish Coordinator; and Robert Bullock, Director of Operations. Michele, Lisa and Bob bring significant talent, experience and professionalism to an already impressive team. In addition, the Board of Trustees has made a strategic commitment to talent and team development in the year ahead. This effort will strengthen the capabilities of the professional staff, volunteers, the Board, and donors together to fulfill our new three-year strategic goals, to achieve sustainable growth of the chapter, to expand our referral outreach to the medical community and to grant more amazing wishes!

We are proud to share this exciting progress, as well as the stories of wishes granted in the past six months and the ways we are engaging our donors and the community to partner with us **in granting the wish of every eligible child in our chapter.** We and our Wish Kids are immensely grateful for your support, as donors and as volunteers. **Thank you for helping us to transform lives, one wish at a time!** We wish you and your families a safe and relaxing holiday season!

Best wishes always,



Brian V. Hannafin
Chairman of the Board



William C. Trigg, III, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

this issue

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Adopt-A-Wish campaign



Our 30 year history



Walk for Wishes



Gala 2018 preview



Wish Jump 2017



Wishes



Volunteer Diane Roberts



Volunteers honored



Wack's Ride / New staff



Fundraising events



Gift giving / Matching gifts



Donor profile:
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ON THE COVER: Country music fan Lilly, 12, enjoys a concert brought right to her on Oct. 3! As a quadriplegic, Lilly depends upon a ventilator, and lives in a residential unit at St. Margaret's Center in Albany. She wanted to experience some of the things in life which she would have difficulty achieving on her own – like a country concert. Her volunteer wish granters came up with the solution: members of local group Skeeter Creek performed for Lilly, as well as a crowd of friends and staff.



Annual Adopt-A-Wish campaign marks 25th year at local malls, businesses - and online

The annual Adopt-A-Wish campaign is kicking off its 25th year this holiday season!

All through the season, volunteers at local malls and businesses sell paper star “ornaments” to raise funds to help make wishes come true for kids and teens facing life-threatening medical conditions. Local schools also participate in helping raise funds through to the month of February. Each star features the story of a local wish kid who had his/her one true wish granted by the Northeast New York chapter.

More than 200 volunteers, including wish kids and families, work in booths at area malls, helping to make the Adopt-A-Wish Campaign one of the most well-known and successful fundraising campaigns in the region. Nearly 100 wishes are granted by the chapter each year, which could not be done without the help of these volunteers and the funds raised.

The campaign will start on

Nov. 16 with a kick-off event at Crossgates Mall, and will run through the end of the year in Colonie Center, Viaport Rotterdam, Wilton Mall, Aviation Mall, and



Champlain Centre in Plattsburgh, as well as at branches of Trustco Bank, and many local businesses and schools. The cost of the stars will be \$3 each at malls and businesses, and just \$1 at local participating schools.

Stars can also be ordered, or donations made, online at the chapter website: www.neny.wish.org, or by phone at (518) 456-9474. This year’s campaign will feature eight Wish Ambassadors: From the Capital area are: Katelyn, 3, of Valley Falls; Arianna, 5, of Scotia; Jesse, 4, of Queensbury; Gianna, 8, of Esperance; Dawson, 11, of Amsterdam; and Ben, 6, of Voorheesville. From the North Country are: Ben, 15, of Jay; and Anthony, 7, of Lewis.

This year’s Presenting Sponsor is Trustco Bank, and stars are available at their area branches.

Upcoming Make-A-Wish events

NOVEMBER 2017

11/16 Adopt-A-Wish campaign kickoff
Crossgates Mall, Albany

DECEMBER 2017

12/3 Wish Family Christmas Party
12/8 National Believe Day

JANUARY 2018

1/14 Plattsburgh Bridal and Fashion Expo
1/14 2nd annual Zumba Fundraiser
Hudson High School

MARCH 2018

3/3-4 Softball on Snow tournament
Malone
3/24 Make-A-Wish Gala
Hall of Springs, Saratoga Springs

APRIL 2018

4/29 World Wish Day



Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Board member Andrew Weibrecht (center), chapter CEO Bill Trigg (right), and Director of Operations Bob Bullock display a certificate commemorating Andrew's induction into the Lake Placid Hall of Fame in ceremonies held recently at the Olympic Center in Lake Placid. Andrew was honored for the global attention that he has brought to Lake Placid as a member of the U.S. Ski Team and two-time Olympic medalist and his philanthropic efforts for charities like Make-A-Wish. Andrew has begun his World Cup season, which is scheduled to include his third Olympic appearance in the XXIII Olympic Winter Games in February in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Chapter Facts and Figures

HISTORY

Make-A-Wish® traces its beginning to one boy's wish. In 1980, 7-year-old Christopher James Greicius from Arizona was being treated for leukemia. Every day, he dreamed of becoming a police officer. Thanks to the generosity of some caring individuals, Chris was sworn in as the first honorary patrolman in the history of Arizona. Thus, the Chris Greicius Make-A-Wish Memorial – which later became the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America – was born.

WISH GRANTING

Volunteer Wish Granters are assigned to a child after medical eligibility has been determined. Wish Granters work in teams of two and visit the child and family to determine the child's heartfelt wish.

Once the wish is approved, the volunteers work with the chapter staff to make the wish come true. Our chapter grants 90-100 wishes each year and has granted nearly 1,800 wishes since 1987.

FUNDING

Make-A-Wish Northeast New York is a non-profit, tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code and does not receive any state or federal funding. All funding comes from individuals, corporations, grants and special events. The average cost of a wish is \$12,000.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

There are several different ways that individuals and companies can contribute to the Foundation. Individuals can become Wish



Granters, volunteer at fundraising events, help in the chapter office or serve on a committee. Both individuals and companies can organize a special event or make a financial contribution to the chapter.

For more information please visit our website at www.neny.wish.org, our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/makeawishnortheastnewyork, or follow us on Twitter @MakeAWish_NENY!



YEARS OF WISHES

Recognizing our 30th anniversary through the words of those who have lived it

Thirty years is a milestone measured and marked in lots of different ways. For Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, it represents thousands of people touched by the power of a wish since its incorporation in 1987. And an opportunity to change lives through nearly 1,800 wishes granted to local children and teens with life-threatening medical conditions. Best of all, the majority of those 1,800 wishes were part of the “medicine” that helped these kids and teens get through their challenges.

So perhaps the best way to mark these 30 years is through the comments of those who lived them -- the children, their families, the volunteers, staff, and leadership who know best what Make-A-Wish is all about. As you read what they had to say, consider how you can help make a difference for these kids in our next 30 years...

always remember my wish and will remember that people can be kind and caring.”

Channa, age 16, wished to visit Israel. She said that “It was a life-changing experience. It was even more than I ever imagined!”

For Jessica, age 5, her trip to Walt Disney World Resort was great. Her dad explained that the wish made a huge difference to the family on a “psychological level. It was like a celebration for the whole family” at the end of Jessica’s treatment.

Melanie, received her wish at age 14. Now, years later, she said “It’s something that I will never forget. A wish was just what my family and I needed—to get away together, and to focus on something other than my illness.” She added “I feel like I’m living proof of the healing power of a wish.”

Wish granter and volunteer

wish has fulfilled her in more ways than I can count! Her smiles and laughter have been priceless.”

The right wish for Joanna, age 11, was a Disney Cruise Line Land/Sea Vacation. Her mom said that Joanna “beamed with joy. Words can’t possibly express what we feel in our hearts. We are so grateful.”

For Sydney, Make-A-Wish was an opportunity to help. “I did two lemonade stands to help raise money for your foundation. I raised \$162 and I hope this will help a kid...”

For 17-year-old Heath, the perfect wish was his trip to San Francisco to visit Van’s Skate Park. But it went beyond that -- one of his friends saw the impact of the wish, and wrote: “You have inspired me to help around the community, to work hard and become a better person. Gifts like these are impossible to buy. A simple thank you cannot come close to the awe and gratitude I feel.”

Shania, age 7, wished to be zookeeper for a day. Her mom, Ellen, said that the wish gave Shania the strength to continue with her treatment. “We all have memories that will last a lifetime,” she added.

“It’s been more than 30 years since my son Chris received his wish, and I am still amazed and inspired how one little boy’s dream to be a policeman has touched the lives of so many thousands of people.” – Linda Pauling, mother of Chris Grecius, whose wish launched Make-A-Wish.

It was a Walt Disney World Resort trip for Jakob. His mom said that the 11-year-old “had the best



“I am holding back the tears. I love him. That’s all I can say. He is a great kid. It is rough sometimes but you get through it. Make-A-Wish is helping us get through it. I can’t tell you how much we really appreciate this.” – father of six-year-old Izzac.

Nick, 17, said his Disney wish was “more than I expected. I will

George looks back on wishes he has been involved with and is amazed by how people “step up and make it happen.” He added that, “There are lots of great people who are willing to help support a great cause like Make-A-Wish.”

Alyssa, age 17, wished for a puppy. That wish changed her world, and her mom said that “her

30 YEARS OF WISHES

Roughly **55%**

of our local wishes involve Disney Parks, Cruises, or entertainment

The local chapter grants about 90-100 wishes each year, meaning that we generally have

2 wishes active each week.

Some details on our nearly 1,800 wishes over 30 years



Wish visits in the US
(doesn't include celebrity wishes where location is incidental)

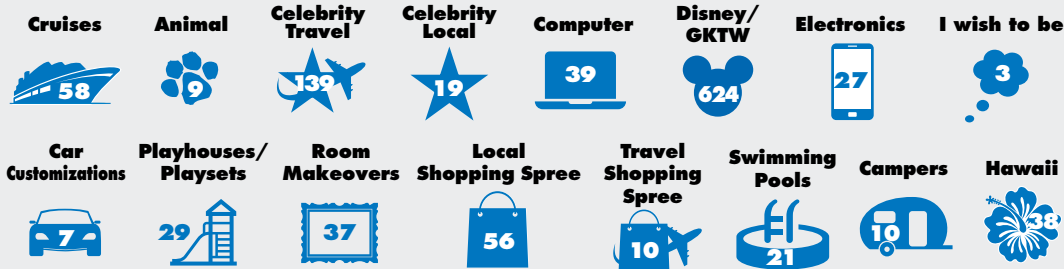


Milestone Wishes

- Wish #1**
Wish Child visited relatives in Costa Rica, 1988
- Wish 1,000**
Zachary got "slimed" at Nickelodeon Studios in Florida, 2009
- Wish 1,100**
Kaitlin received toys and a tricycle, 2010
- Wish 1,200**
Julia spent a week at the Jersey Shore, 2011
- Wish 1,300**
Megan and Melissa each enjoyed a shopping spree, 2012
- Wish 1,400**
Emily, Zackery, Austin, and Christopher went to Walt Disney World Resort, 2013
- Wish 1,500**
Hannah went to the People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles, 2015
- Wish 1,600**
Lucia went to Hawaii and swam with sharks, 2016
- Wish 1,700**
Cameron went on a school trip to Europe, 2017

NOTE: INCOMPLETE/ESTIMATE DUE TO LACK OF EARLY RECORDS.

Wish Types



time in the world" and that "he never stopped smiling."

Yankees fan Bryan, 13, wished to meet Derek Jeter and the team. In a letter, Bryan's mother described the trip as a "fairytale dream. When we left the player's locker room, I said to Bryan, 'So how was it?' He looked up at me with dazzled and twinkling eyes and exclaimed, 'This was the BEST day of my whole life!' That smile still hasn't left his face, now weeks later... You helped give Bryan something to look forward to and I am sure this accelerated his healing. You really do make wishes come true."

A former chapter board chair, Leslie, said that "We want to ensure that every season is a season of wishes, because whatever the time of year, we don't want kids to ever stop wishing."

Anthony's mom said that the four-year-old loved the chance to meet Mickey Mouse and enjoy Walt Disney World Resort. She said this is just one of "the precious memories we will hold forever."

Wish mom, Dawn, spoke in broad terms about wishes. "Words can simply not express our gratitude for all you have done for our family. Thank goodness for your magical organization. Children and their families are both lucky and deserving of an organization devoted like you are to them."

Tim was "totally delighted," said his mom of the 14-year-old's trip to Florida theme parks. "Our wish granters were wonderful. I cannot express enough our feelings for them and their caring and for being our guides on this huge adventure," she said.

Former Wish Child Kelly said that at the worst of times, Make-A-Wish "gave me and my family something wonderful to look forward to." She said that her entire family needed something hopeful after such a tough time. "It was wonderful to be overwhelmed with something good and happy... something to actually get excited about and look forward to!"

Support also came in group-

sized bundles, like the Guilderland High School class of 2005, who said "Thank you for allowing us to be a part of such an incredible organization..."

Brian, age 15, loved his wish to ride sport horses in Ireland. His mom, Paula, saw the impact even before the wish happened. "I quickly came to appreciate the power of a wish, as it crushed the power of the cancer. It gave control back to Brian through the process of wishing, and he quickly began to dissociate himself from the diagnosis. He began to emerge as Brian again and it was a relief to see his spirit come back." She added, "The wish lasted about seven days but the magic of Make-A-Wish has lasted over 10 years and resonates in our lives today."

Looking back at the long line of nearly 1,800 wishes, one can see lots of smiles, more than a few tears, and most of all, hope. And looking forward, and working to ensure that every eligible child receives a wish, it's an anniversary to celebrate – and a milestone for a future.

walk★ FOR wishes® 2017

A record was set on August 12th when more than 550 people attended the fourth annual Walk for Wishes event at the Joseph L. Bruno stadium in Troy.



Wish Kids and families, sponsors, supporters, teams, and donors gathered to walk in the event, hear speakers' wish experiences, and see a wish reveal. With \$94,537 raised, as many as eight future wishes will be granted, making this walk the most successful yet.

“It was great to see so many families and friends having a fun day, and knowing the impact that they will have on other families,” said Director of Annual

Giving Kirsten Broschinsky. “We sincerely appreciate the support of our walkers, teams, sponsors, and supporters who made this year’s event the best ever,” she said.

This family-friendly, handicap-accessible event covered a three mile route that began with a “Victory Lap” by the Wish Kids. A one mile optional route was also available. The walk through the neighborhood around Hudson Valley Community



“We hope this will become an annual tradition to celebrate coming together to make wishes come true!”



College ended back at the stadium where there were games, activities, and awards to keep the fun going! Participation was free, but walkers were encouraged to raise funds or make donations to help support local wishes.

The celebration for this record-breaking event didn't end when the walkers left the stadium on August 12th. A party was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy on October 12th to continue celebrating.

This 80's-themed night was a chance to thank all those that participated and raised money to make this walk the chapter's most successful yet! Sponsors, volunteers, and fundraisers were honored, as was the best Walk Team T-shirt. Chapter CEO Bill Trigg noted that “We hope this will become an annual tradition to celebrate coming together to make wishes come true!”

Mark your calendars for the 5th annual Walk for Wishes on August 11, 2018.

Hope. Dream. Wish. 20th annual Gala set for March 24



Mark your calendars and polish your dancing shoes for a night to remember on March 24th.

This year will mark the 20th annual edition of the Make-A-Wish Gala, which will take place at the historic Hall of Springs in Saratoga. The elegant structural design in combination with the event's décor makes this black-tie evening exquisite, captivating and entertaining. Guests will also enjoy delicious food, great music, and inspiring stories!

Last year's record breaking crowd heard from Wish Kid Landon, and Wish Mom and co-founder of Make-A-Wish, Linda Pauling. The 2018 event will focus on the mission of the organization, with Wish Kids and families in attendance to share their stories. Wish surprises will also be revealed, so it's a night you won't want to miss!

Both silent and live auctions will take place, featuring many items that will match any taste. Guests who are unable to attend can still bid on these items via their smartphones or online, to ensure

everyone is involved in the fun. These auctions help support Make-A-Wish Northeast New York. But the fun doesn't stop there, as live music tops off the night in style!

"We look forward to celebrating 20 successful years of the Make-A-Wish Gala with everyone," said chapter CEO Bill Trigg. He added, "Thank you for continuing to help make wishes come true!"



Wish Jump 2017: weather delays but great results

Windy weather caused a delay in this year's Wish Jump, but there's nothing a little rescheduling can't fix!

For the first time in 6 years, weather conditions caused skydiving at Skydive the Ranch in Gardiner to be postponed. Instead of an adrenaline-filled Saturday, Wish Jumpers spent the afternoon of July 29th rescheduling their skydiving experience to take place over the following few weeks.

Brave volunteers participated in the only continuous, annual skydiving fundraiser for Make-A-Wish in the country, to support local wishes. The skydiving lineup for 2017 included Make-A-Wish Northeast New York CEO William C. Trigg, III, Miss Upstate New York Baylee Simpson and Wish Alumni.

Although the event didn't go exactly as planned, one thing that did was the fundraising. This year was the 30th Anniversary of Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, so naturally, the Wish Jump 2017 fundraising goal for the local chapter was \$30,000!

Not only did the participants reach that goal, with the help of families, friends, every Wish Jumper, donor, and local businesses, they exceeded that goal! An incredible total of more than \$40,000 was raised to help local wish kids.

Event organizer Mary Kenney said, "This is just amazing! Sincere thanks to each and every donor, and to the Wish Jumpers for working so hard to secure the donations from friends, family, and local businesses. You are just incredible! Wishes come true because of you!"





◀ **Benjamin, 6, from Voorheesville**
 Wish Granters: Rozanne Summerson and Bonnie DiGirolamo
Wish sponsored by Wack's Ride

'I wish to go to Walt Disney World® Resort'

Ainsley, 4, from Palantine Bridge
 Wish Granters: Frank Valiante and Debbie Karius
Wish sponsored by American Legion Post 337 Golf Tournament

Sa'miyah, 4, from Troy
 Wish Granters: Patty Vartigian and Rachael Beaudry
Wish sponsored by Wish Jump

Jakob, 9, from Cohoes
 Wish Granters: Jerry Keenan and Sabra Venezia
Wish sponsored by Kingsway Golf Tournament 2016

Holley, 6, from Ballston Spa
 Wish Granter: Christopher Fain and Marlene Drobnicki
Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Campaign 2017

Sayde, 8, from Queensbury
 Wish Granters: Nancy Blair and Paula Hanchett
Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Campaign 2018

▶ **Damien, 4, from Elizabethtown**
 Wish Granters: Diane Duquette-Burl and Amy Patnaude
Wish sponsored by Naked Turtle Golf Tournament

Savannah, 9, from Ravena
 Wish Granters: Shannon Cantiello and Karen Pelland
Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Campaign 2017

Marquis, 7, from Gloversville
 Wish Granters: Nicole Heck and Lorraine Heck
Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Campaign 2018



Matthew, 4, from Albany
 Wish Granters: Caryn Anatriello and Kyle E. Wixted
Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Campaign 2018

Hunter, 9, from Niskayuna
 Wish Granters: Joleen Bruyette and Kelly Stang
Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Campaign 2017

Adonyse, 6, from Albany
 Wish Granters: Katie Krzys and Barbara Jariri
Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Campaign 2018

Skyler Rose, 9, from Waterford
 Wish Granters: Chrissy Shumate and Chris McCarthy
Wish sponsored by Louis and Lori Desorbo



'I wish to HAVE'

I wish to have a screened-in playhouse
Tayvion, 11, from Fort Johnson
 Wish Granters: Nicole Embt and Raymond Gawlak
Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Campaign 2017



◀ *I wish to have a backyard tree house*
Dawson, 11, from Amsterdam
 Wish Granter: Lori DeBrino and Bonnie DiGirolamo
Wish sponsored by Hustle for Hannah

I wish to have a therapy dog
Gianna, 8, from Esperance
 Wish Granters: Caryn Anatriello and Kyle E. Wixted
Wish sponsored by the Hannafin Family

I wish to have a new gaming laptop
Ryan, 13, from South Glens Falls
 Wish Granters: Steven Shaw and Jeffrey Avella
Wish sponsored by NYS Laborers' Golf Tournament 2016

I wish to have a Bull Mastiff Puppy to train as a Therapy Dog
Ella, 10, from Schenectady
 Wish Granters: Jeremy Rockmacher, Meg Emery and Christopher Fain
Wish sponsored by NYS Laborers Golf Tournament 2016

▲ *I wish to have an above-ground swimming pool*
Andrea, 10, from Stratford
 Wish Granters: Raymond Gawlak and Nicole Embt
Wish sponsored by US Ski Association and Standish Family

Celia, 15, from Troy
 Wish Granters: Erin Oliver and Sabra Venezia
Wish sponsored by Green Mountain Electrical Services

I wish to have a Camper
Star, 3, from Hudson Falls
 Wish Granters: Paula Hanchett and Nancy Blair
Wish sponsored by Wack's Ride

'I wish to GO'

I wish to go to Jamaica

Evan, 10, from Latham

Wish Granters: Leslie M. Baker and Lori Lubin

Wish sponsored by Wish Jump 2016

I wish to go to Comic Con in San Diego

Samuel, 12, from Wynantskill

Wish Granters: Michelle Arsenault and Karen Paquette

Wish sponsored by Adopt-A-Wish Campaign 2017

I wish to go to Jungle Friends Monkey Sanctuary in Florida

Emily, 9, from Latham

Wish Granters: Dena DeLude and Karen Kaufman-Wachs
Wish sponsored by Richard Prince Studio, LLC

I wish to go to an NBA Finals Game in Cleveland

Ryan, 18, from Elizaville

Wish Granters: Allison Smith and Kathy Ventura

Wish sponsored by the Make-A-Wish America Wish Trust

I wish to go to Europe on my Senior Class Trip

Cameron, 17, from Rensselaer

Wish Granters: Linda Doyle and Michael Doyle

Wish sponsored by Frank and Tamsen Poore

I wish to go to Tennessee to visit family

Matthew, 18, from East Nassau

Wish Granters: Pamela J. Moore and Felicity Cashman

Wish sponsored by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals

I wish to go to Salem, MA to learn about the Salem Witch Trials

Kassijo, 16, from Witherbee

Wish Granters: Jesse Matteson and Russell Matteson

Wish sponsored by Wack's Ride

I wish to go on a Disney Cruise

Haley, 9, from Altamont

Wish Granters: Gina Wright and Raymond Gawlak

Wish sponsored by the Baldwin Family

I wish to go to Nike Headquarters in Oregon and design my own sneaker

Cayden, 14, from Johnstown

Wish Granters: Sue Williamsen and Paul Williamsen

Wish sponsored by American Legion Post 337 Golf Tournament

I wish to visit Yellowstone National Park

Mitchell, 16, from Albany

Wish Granters: Christine Hyatt and Jared Kingsley

Wish sponsored by Play it Forward 518 Golf Tournament 2016

I wish to go to the movie premier of The Descendants 2 in Los Angeles

Katelyn, 10, from Gansevoort

Wish Granters: Linda Tepper and Mary Ellen Olenyk

Wish sponsored by the Kinowski Family



I wish to go to Atlantis in the Bahamas

Dylan, 13, from Schenectady

Wish Granters: Peter Cowie and Toni Cowie

Wish sponsored by GTM Payroll Services

Rhionah, 16, from Johnstown

Wish Granters: Sue Williamsen and Paul Williamsen

Wish sponsored by Tech Valley Charity Golf Tournament and the Donna E. Crandall Memorial Foundation

I wish to tour Italy with my Grandmother

Nicholas, 17, from Schenectady

Wish Granters: Toni Cowie and Peter Cowie

Wish sponsored by C2 Design Group and MVP Health Care



'I wish to MEET'

I wish to meet Dustin Pedroia at a Red Sox game in Boston

Daniel, 17, from Whitehall

Wish Granters: Kathy and Tim Riley

Wish sponsored by Wack's Ride

I wish to meet Metallica

Edward, 20, from Albany

Wish Granters: Caryn Anatriello and Kyle E. Wixted

Wish sponsored by Gala Fund-A-Wish Donors



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Diane Roberts: making a difference for 26 years – and counting

Even before Diane Roberts began her long involvement with Make-A-Wish, she had personally

experienced the *power of a wish*. Diane's nephew, Joshua, was granted the third-ever wish from the then-new Northeast New York chapter of Make-A-Wish. Joshua and his family experienced an amazing Disney wish in December of 1990. Joshua unfortunately passed away the following year, but Diane had seen the positive impact that a wish can have on a child and family.

For the past 26 years, the Northeast New York chapter has been fortunate to have Diane serving as a volunteer. Diane said she became involved because she wanted to help other kids and families to have a great wish experience. Diane and her husband, Wayne, became inspired to start fundraising for Make-A-Wish to help grant more heartfelt wishes for children, especially in the North Country. They founded the Joshua Roberts Snowmobile Ride, which took place in January for several years as a memorial to Joshua. Soon after, Diane became involved as a wish granting volunteer, and has continued in that key role since.

Over the years, Diane has been involved in granting about 30 wishes for area children and teens. These wishes ranged from room makeovers to shopping sprees to travel wishes. The first wish Diane granted was a computer wish, she recalled, and since then she has granted all sorts of wishes, including one for a full-sized backyard basketball court!

With so many wishes of many different varieties under her belt, she still remembers the details, but can't come up with a "favorite wish." Looking back, she said, "They all are favorites, because something happens at each wish that is special. They are all very special."

Diane works closely with two other volunteers, Jocelyn Recore and Kismet McCormick. Though three wish granters aren't typically assigned to a wish, this trio is an exception to the rule due to their combined enthusiasm and dedication to Make-A-Wish, said Erin Goodfellow,

Manager of Volunteer Engagement. "They work great as a team, more than once taking on several wishes at a time. They also take the time to develop that unique relationship with the wish child as well as the wish family," she said.

"I love it," Diane said. "What's nice working as a trio, if one of the wish granters can't make the family meeting (due to scheduling conflict), there's always another wish granter, you never have to reschedule. It's based on family schedule, not our schedule." Diane, Jocelyn and Kismet "divide and conquer" wish granting responsibilities to ensure each child gets the perfect wish.

Diane said that the families are what keeps her volunteering. "When I feel like it's time to pass the torch, I always run into a former wish mom and she thanks me for my involvement in her child's wish and it rejuvenates why we [I] do it. It's for the kids, it's all about the kids," she said.

For anyone considering becoming a volunteer wish granter, Diane said that they should go for it! "You get to meet extraordinary children and families. What they endure and what they go through is beyond words. It's a very rewarding experience and I look forward to continuing to do it as long as I can," she added.

"We hope that Diane will be helping make wishes come true for a long time to come," said Ms. Goodfellow. "We can always count on Diane to put her heart and soul into every wish, as she is whole-heartedly passionate about Make-A-Wish. We are lucky to have her as a volunteer and a wish granter, and wish kids and families are the ones who benefit," she said.





Volunteers honored for work that really matters

Where would we be without our dedicated volunteers? WE know the work they do is what makes wishes come true, so an opportunity to say thanks is always appropriate!

Over the summer, Capital area volunteers were celebrated with a dinner and reception at the Hilton Garden Inn of Troy. The night featured speeches from special guests such as volunteer board member and wish dad, Steve Kuring, as well as Child Life Specialist from Albany Medical Center, Emily Corwin.

Special congratulations were given to the following volunteers on their service milestones: Sabra Venezia, Maryann Riviello, Russell Matteson, Cary Hickey, Jennifer Kennedy, Joelle West, Jeff Avella, Joel Cantiello, Shannon Cantiello, Jeremy Rockmacher, Jared Kingsley, Paula Hanchett, 1 year of service. Melissa Murphy, Nathan

Pyne, Jerry Keenan, Bonnie DiGirolamo, Felicity Cashman, and Nancy Blair, 5 years of service. John Melby, Nicole Pickel, Shaina Reardon, Chrissy Shumate, and Patty Vartigian, 10 years of service. Stuart F. Klein, Leslie M. Baker, and Eileen Berlanti, 15 years of service. And with 20 years of service, Antonia Cowie, Maura Fox, and Brenda Fitting.

Later in the year, Plattsburgh volunteers attended a training session and recognition dinner at The Butcher Block (photo above). The event included a presentation by Wish Teen Ben Sprague, as well as awards for volunteer service. Among those being honored were Jessica Herzog, 1 year of service, Renee Elsinger, Joel Steele, and Amy LaDue, 10 years of service.

Diane Roberts was recognized with a framed preview of our fall newsletter detailing her beginnings as wish granter and her continued enthusiasm and compassion.



Foundation Trustees Steve Kuring (left) and James Considine congratulate veteran wish granter Toni Cowie for 20 years of service and the nearly 50 wishes she has granted.

2017 Wack's Ride marks 10th anniversary with great event

Hundreds of bikers gathered at the Full Moon Bar & Grill in Queensbury on July 29th for one of the largest charity rides in the North Country. At 11 am sharp, the riders began an enjoyable ride cruising through the North Country, ending at Adirondack Bar and Grill. The evening was filled with food, live music, a silent auction, raffles, and more!

This year marked the 10th Annual Wack's Ride for Wishes, raising nearly \$40,000 to support wishes for local kids with life-threatening medical conditions. Wish Kid Claire and her family attended as special guests to share their experience with the bikers, friends and supporters during this unique, fun-filled event.

In the 10 years of the event, riders, sponsors, and supporters have raised more than \$285,000!

That's enough to help grant more than two dozen wishes to local kids with life-threatening medical conditions, according to Make-A-Wish chapter CEO Bill Trigg. "This is a unique and fun event, and the support shown has made a difference to so many local families!"



New staff members join Make-A-Wish team

Lisa Duggan recently joined the chapter as Wish Coordinator for Disney Wishes. She holds a BS in biochemistry from Bucknell University, and had served as a Certified Child Life Specialist at the Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center. Lisa also served as an adjunct professor at the Sage Colleges where she helped to implement a new Child Life program curriculum.

Lisa helped develop support for complementary therapies and programs for children, including working with Make-A-Wish staff. She also worked as a Camp Counselor and Admissions Assistant at the Double H Ranch, working with children and adolescents facing critical illnesses.

Lisa, from Latham, is also a business owner and manages a popular local ice cream shop.

Michele Brumsey is now Director of Philanthropy, responsible for raising significant leadership-level gifts from individuals, corporations, and foundations. A resident of the Greater Capital Region since 1979, Michele earned a Bachelor of Science degree from The College of Saint Rose after attending The Sage Colleges for two years. She went on to complete a Master of Science degree at Saint Rose in 1989.

Michele has been involved in advancement work for nearly 30 years, at The College of Saint Rose in Albany, Siena College, Academy of the Holy Names, Albany Law School, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and most recently with The Salvation Army. Michele resides with her husband Terry, daughter Madeline, and son Sam, in Selkirk.

Robert Bullock has spent virtually all of his life in the Capital Region and the Adirondacks, and is the new Director of Operations. He holds degrees in management from SUNY Potsdam (B.A.) and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (MBA), and has lectured on related topics throughout the United States.

Prior to joining Make-A-Wish, he held positions at other regional not-for-profits, and is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel. Bob resides in Saratoga Springs with his wife, Ann, and has two grown daughters, Kate and Emma. He is an active cyclist, golfer, tennis player, and classical guitarist, and is the announcer at the Saratoga Polo Club. He is also a sub-deacon and verger at Bethesda Episcopal Church in Saratoga Springs.

Raising funds locally for local wishes

We thank the following individuals, groups and organizations for the wide range of fundraisers they conducted to benefit our wish program.



Nate Schwarzmer's Bar Mitzvah donation in memory of Sol Jochnowitz-Kahn

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

M+W Tech Valley Charity Golf Tournament	\$61,211
Wish Jump	\$40,507
Kingsway Community Charity Golf Tournament	\$38,500
Wack's Ride	\$37,646
State Police - Livingston Golf Tournament	\$24,243
C2 Design's Blueprint for a Dream	\$19,742
Naked Turtle Golf Tournament	\$18,150
Play it Forward 518 Golf Tournament	\$12,000
Set Sail for Wishes	\$9,693
American Legion Post 337 Golf Tournament	\$9,500
4th Annual Poker Run in memory of Devin McMahon	\$7,000
Team Dame Golf Tournament and BBQ	\$6,000
Caron's Woodside Tavern - Golf Tournament	\$2,900
Sarah McKinney's Party with a Purpose	\$2,770
Flying Tigers Model Airplane Club 9th Annual Charity Fun Fly Airshow	\$2,046
Ryan's Farmers Market Fishing Tournament	\$1,653
Pepsi Bottling Company - Latham	\$1,557
All American Classics Auction	\$1,135
Loyal Order of Moose Saranac Lodge #457- Poker Run	\$1,000
Adirondack Shelby Mustang Club Summer Events	\$765
New York Self Storage Association, Inc. - Luncheon	\$500



M+W Tech Valley Charity Golf Tournament on July 19 featured wish kids Gannon Wilson and Marissa Campbell.

KIDS FOR WISH KIDS® and WISHMAKERS ON CAMPUS EVENTS



Gordon Creek Elementary School	\$1,225
Tecler School - Pie the Teacher fundraiser	\$1,000
Malta Avenue Elementary School	\$800
Schuylerville Junior Senior High School - Student Council	\$500
Steven Hummel - Selkirk Fireman's Fair	\$304
Nate Schwarzmer's Bar Mitzvah in memory of Sol Jochnowitz-Kahn	\$200
Bethlehem Central Middle School - 8th Grade Mohawk Team Fundraiser	\$157
Caleb Mickle	\$56
Castleton Elementary School - "International Pay it Forward Day"	\$11



Thanks to the students and staff at William B. Tecler Arts in Education Magnet School in Amsterdam, who raised \$1,000 for Make-A-Wish Northeast New York! During their annual "pie a teacher" event, students placed money in the cans of teachers they felt most deserving of a face full of whipped cream. The four teachers with the most donations were chosen. A special thank you to Jason who raised over \$200 at his lemonade stand to add to the amount that the school donated!

Gifts Anyone Can Make

You can support Make-A-Wish Northeast New York in several simple and savvy ways—without reducing your income or diminishing your savings.

This is as simple as using assets that can be transferred to Make-A-Wish NENY such as bank accounts, retirement plans including IRA's, insurance, stock, or mutual-fund accounts. Expressing your charitable intent is as easy as completing a POD (Pay on Death) or TOD (Transfer on Death) form. Some companies also call these beneficiary designation forms. These completed forms tell the account custodian what to do with the account after your passing.

You can name Make-A-Wish NENY in your long-term plans today without a negative impact on cash flow or lifestyle. Designate and donate with any of these assets. It takes less than five minutes of your time.

Benefits of Naming Make-A-Wish Northeast New York In Your Long-Term Plans

- You can make a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime.
- You can make a gift and leave your cash flow and current financial planning unchanged.
- You can make a gift with appreciated assets and save taxes, for both you and your heirs.

Retirement Plans

All you need to do is request (and complete) a new beneficiary designation form from your plan administrator. A gift of retirement assets has the added advantage of being among the most tax-wise ways to make an estate gift. This is because your retirement assets, if left to individuals (other than a spouse), will be subject to income tax in addition to any applicable

estate tax. With a gift to a non-profit such as Make-A-Wish NENY, 100 percent of the funds are available for charitable purposes. If you want to remember us in your estate plan, it is often better to leave other types of assets – cash, securities, real estate – to your heirs and give the more heavily taxed retirement asset to charity.

Stocks and Investments Fund Accounts

Ask the brokerage or mutual fund custodian for a TOD form. Some companies also call these beneficiary designation forms.

Life Insurance

Ask the insurance company for a TOD form. You can name a single charity or multiple ones. Make-A-Wish NENY receives all or a portion of the death benefit associated with your life insurance policy. As an alternative to naming Make-A-Wish NENY as the beneficiary, you can transfer ownership of the policy while you are still living. Transferring ownership results in income tax savings in the year of the gift.

Bank Accounts

Ask the bank for a POD form. After your passing, funds remaining in the checking or savings accounts will be transferred to Make-A-Wish NENY.

**Always be sure to consult your personal accountant or tax advisor before making any estate planning decisions. Staff at Make-A-Wish Northeast New York is also available to help make this process a smooth and gratifying one.

WHAT DO THESE 20 COMPANIES HAVE IN COMMON?

They are the top firms which provide matching funds to increase your donation to charities – but only if you take the time to set the process in motion.

Here's an example of how it works: You or your spouse are employed (in some cases retirees are also eligible) by a company on this list, or one which has a similar program. Your employer may match 1 for 1, which means for every dollar you donate, they donate an additional dollar. Your personal donation is mailed to Make-A-Wish NENY, then you contact your employer and complete a matching gifts form, often online.

Your employer will work with us to verify your gift, ensuring it meets their matching gift guidelines. At the end of the calendar year, Make-A-Wish will receive a check from the company that includes their match of your donation. In short, your gift is more powerful, and it didn't cost you a thing!

For more information on Matching Gifts at Make-A-Wish Northeast New York, contact our office at 518-456-9474 or email Michele Brumsey at mbrumsey@neny.wish.org

MATCHING GIFT COMPANY	MATCH RATIO	MAX MATCH
General Electric	1:1	\$25,000
Soros Fund Management	Up to 3:1	\$300,000
BP (British Petroleum)	1:1	\$5,000
Gap Corporation	1:1	\$10,000
State Street Corporation	1:1	\$35,000
ExxonMobil	Up to 3:1	\$22,500
CarMax	1:1	\$10,000
Johnson & Johnson	Up to 2:1	\$20,000
Boeing	Up to 1:1	\$6,000
Microsoft	1:1	\$15,000
Pfizer	Up to 1:1	\$15,000
Capital Group	2:1	\$5,000
Bristol-Myers Squibb	1:1	\$30,000
Coca-Cola	2:1	\$20,000
IBM	1:1	\$5,000
Avon	Up to 2:1	\$15,000
Air Products and Chemicals	Up to 2:1	\$5,000
American Express	Up to 2:1	\$8,000
FM Global	Up to 2:1	\$8,000
MBIA	2:1	\$40,000

DONOR PROFILE

'Count Us In!' GTM Payroll Services' support makes a difference

That's the rallying cry of Guy and Diane Maddalone during the Fund-A-Wish Program paddle raise at the annual Spring Gala. Their unwavering personal support—and tremendous enthusiasm—have made it possible for more than 10 children to have their heartfelt wishes come true. And GTM Payroll Services, founded by Guy Maddalone, stands as one of the Northeast New York Chapter's best supporters through its support of the Gala and the Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign since 2002, as well as an annual Wish Sponsor since 2008.

"The Maddalone Family, as well as GTM Payroll Services, has embraced Make-A-Wish Northeast New York as one of their top charities, ensuring that a Wish Child and family are able to enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime wish experience every year. Their enthusiastic participation in our annual Adopt-A-Wish Holiday Campaign is also deeply appreciated. We are grateful for their continued leadership support, and honored to acknowledge them as dear friends," said CEO William Trigg, III.

GTM Payroll Services provides payroll processing, tax, insurance, and human resource services to businesses and household employers. In 1991, GTM Payroll Services created an industry, becoming the first firm ever to help families manage their household payroll and taxes. GTM



started offering payroll and human capital management solutions for businesses in 2002.

An award-winning business leader in the greater Capital Region, GTM Payroll Services has received the following accolades:

- 8 times named to the **Inc. 5000** list of fastest-growing private companies in America
- 10 times named to the Fastest-Growing Companies in the Capital Region by **The Business Review**
- 6 times named to the Times Union's Top Workplaces
- 9 times named to The Business Review's Best Places to Work

"There is no greater reward for success than to be able to share it with others," said Guy Maddalone. "It is tremendously rewarding to know that Diane and I, as well as all of our employees at GTM Payroll Services, are truly making a difference in the lives of seriously ill children and their families throughout the Capital Region. We take great pride in our partnership with Make-A-Wish Northeast New York."

DID YOU KNOW?

3 out of 4 wishes granted by Make-A-Wish NENY involve air travel.
Your donation of airline miles can mean more wishes for local kids. You can donate miles on our website at www.neny.wish.org or by calling us at (518)456-9474.

Wishes *in* FlightSM



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Holiday Lights 2017



The Kristy Pollak Memorial Christmas Lights will kick off the holidays for the 19th year this season! Opening ceremonies take place on Friday, December 1 on Lyons Street in Amsterdam. Events will start at 5:30 pm, with the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus at 6 pm. The holiday train is a highlight, along with horse and pony rides. These special celebrations will take place December 1 and 2 from 5:30 to 9 pm and Dec. 3 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

There is no charge for admission, but donations are appreciated and will benefit Make-A-Wish Northeast New York to help fulfill wishes for local children with life-threatening medical

conditions from Fulton and Montgomery Counties. The drive-thru display, located on Lyons Street, will be lit from 5-10 pm each evening through January 1.

These magical holiday displays consist of well over 200,000 lights, computerized configurations, and 70 displays, including a 25-foot LED tree with a simulated train around it, and a 35-foot electronic Christmas tree that broadcasts holiday music through vehicle radios, guaranteed to get everyone in a festive mood.

For more information on the holiday light display, call 518-843-1841, with information on Make-A-Wish available at neny.wish.org.