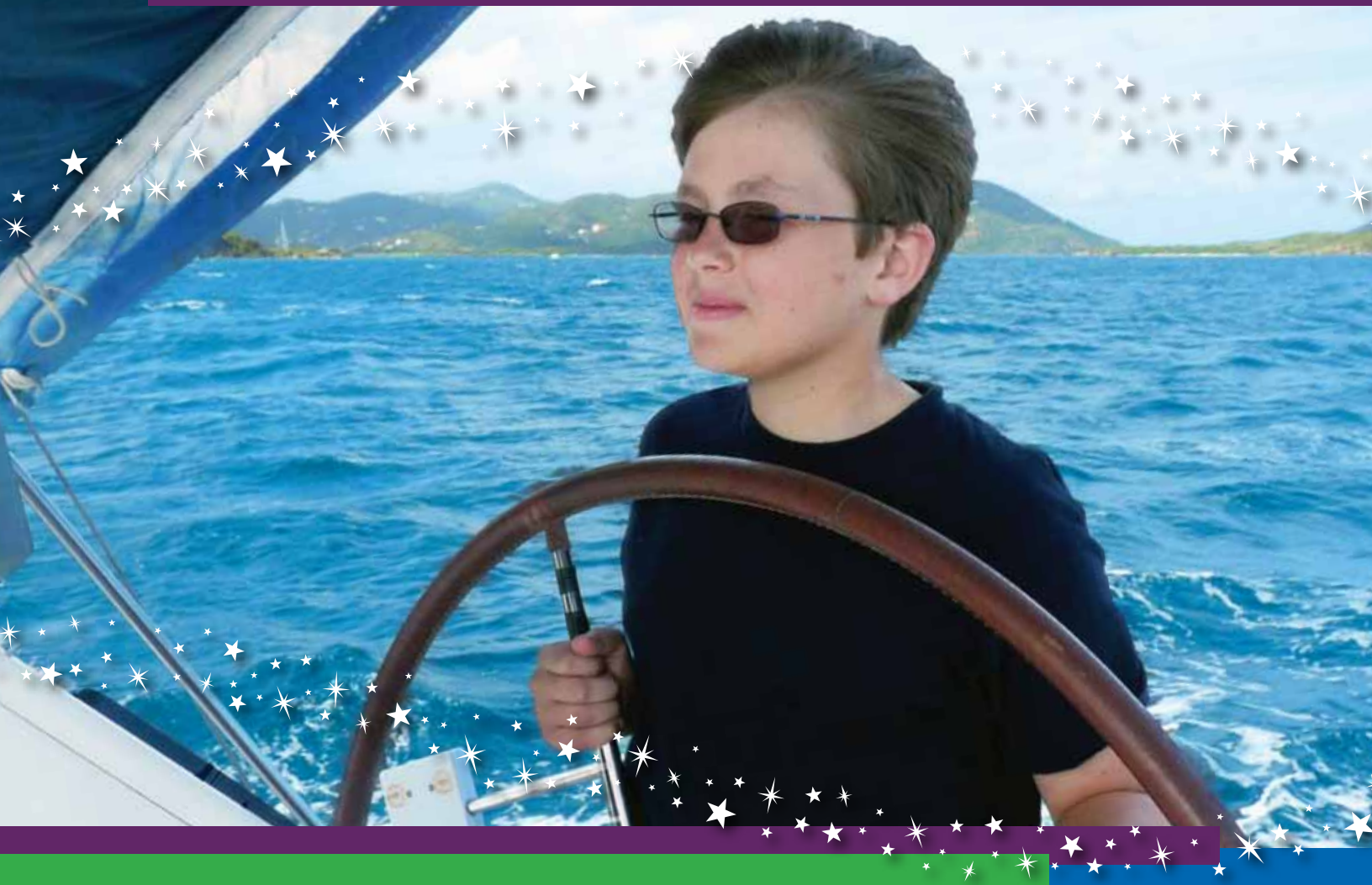


wishful THINKING

Summer 2009



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Yo-Ho! A pirate's life for me.

"Wherever we want to go, we go. That's what a ship is, you know. It's not just a keel and a hull and sails; that's what a ship needs. Not what a ship is. What the Black Pearl really is, is freedom."

– Captain Jack Sparrow, Pirates of the Caribbean

Eleven-year-old Joshua shares Captain Sparrow's sentiment and experienced the sea-faring life on his wish. Read his story inside on page 5.

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mission STATEMENT

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Alaska, Montana, Northern Idaho & Washington grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

recipe for casting a spell A LA MAKE-A-WISH®

Image courtesy of Mark Mitchke.



Mark Mitchke

I have the wonderful privilege of being the father of three small children. So as you can probably imagine, and perhaps some of you may personally understand, my home can be pretty chaotic at times. However, even on our most chaotic days, it pales in comparison to what many of our wish families experience daily.

I was most recently reminded of this at the 2009 Wish Night Gala & Auction (March 14) at The Westin Seattle when six-year-old Micah reenacted her heartfelt wish to be a ballerina for a day. Living with the life-threatening

condition Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Micah is confined to a wheelchair and relies on the assistance of others to perform daily tasks that many of us take for granted.

This delicate little girl who has faced more obstacles in her young life than many of us can imagine, cast a magical spell on every guest with her moving and courageous performance. Like all the wishes that we grant, this enchantment was the result of the recipe that the Make-A-Wish Foundation® has perfected.



I am so very grateful and humbled to be a part of this organization that will provide the most incredible gifts to 291 children this year while enriching all of our lives with gifts of hope, strength and joy.

Warmest wishes,

Mark Mitchke
Board Chair

growing a garden OF GOOD WISHES

Image courtesy of Anne Todd Photography.



Barry McConnell

Dear Friends and Supporters:

This summer, the Make-A-Wish Foundation's talented and dedicated staff members and volunteers are busier than ever planting seeds of hope, strength and joy throughout our four-state territory by granting spectacular wishes.

From puppies to horses, Hawaiian adventures to shopping sprees, computers to rubbing elbows with celebrities, the wishes we grant provide wish children and their families with a reprieve from the barrage of medical appointments, tests, procedures and stress

that result from their life-threatening medical conditions. We're honored to share some of these very special stories with you in this edition of *Wishful Thinking*.

Stories like Charlee's wish for a golden retriever puppy (see page 4) and Joshua's wish to live a pirate's life (cover story). These extraordinary wishes are possible because of the support of individuals like Evelyn Maurer (see page 5) who generously named the Make-A-Wish Foundation as a charitable beneficiary in her estate plan, and eight-year-old Felix (pictured below) who, for three years, has faithfully asked family and friends to make donations to Make-A-Wish in lieu of giving him birthday gifts.

It's this commitment to our mission that fuels my optimism as our chapter prepares to celebrate a milestone this summer: **the granting of our 4,000th wish!**

On behalf of the thousands of children and families we've served since 1986 and the thousands more to come, thank you for your continued kindness, compassion and enthusiasm providing a much-needed dose of hope, strength and joy to children and families at a time when it's needed most.

Best wishes,

Barry

Barry McConnell
President & CEO

P.S. Visit our website (www.northwestwishes.org) to view an inspiring video and read more wish stories.

Felix celebrates his eighth birthday with donations to the Make-A-Wish Foundation in lieu of gifts.



Image courtesy of the family.

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Seattle, WA 98104
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800.304.9474

www.northwestwishes.org

make wishes TAKE FLIGHT

This summer, nearly 50 wish kids and their families will fly to the destination of their dreams. You can help make their wishes take flight with your donation of frequent flyer miles.

Log on to www.nwwishes.org/donate/airmiles.asp to donate your unused airline miles or to learn more about this program.

i wish to have...

A GOLDEN RETRIEVER

On Valentine's Day 2009, 14-year-old Charlee of Anchorage had a case of puppy love – in the form of an eight-week-old golden retriever.

Living with Hodgkin's lymphoma and undergoing treatment at Seattle Children's, Charlee's spirits were repeatedly lifted by the pet therapy dogs that visit patients in the hospital. So Charlee's desire to be the leader of the pack (that is, her own pack!) took over and she began researching local breeders with a golden retriever at the top of the list.

She and her wish volunteers soon learned there was a litter of golden retriever puppies in Anchorage that would soon be ready for adoption, and one had her name on it. After an initial visit, it was love at first sight with Boomer! Charlee faithfully visited her pup each week and like a good puppy mom, thanks to a shopping spree donated by Anchorage Petco, she stocked up on all the necessary supplies in anticipation of bringing home her little bundle of joy on February 14th.

Charlee and Boomer continue to form a strong bond, but the power of this wish overflows into the lives of others, including her sister Brittany who recently completed wish granting volunteer training and will soon be a Make-A-Wish volunteer.

Thank you to volunteers:
Teresa Holt & Penelope Adams

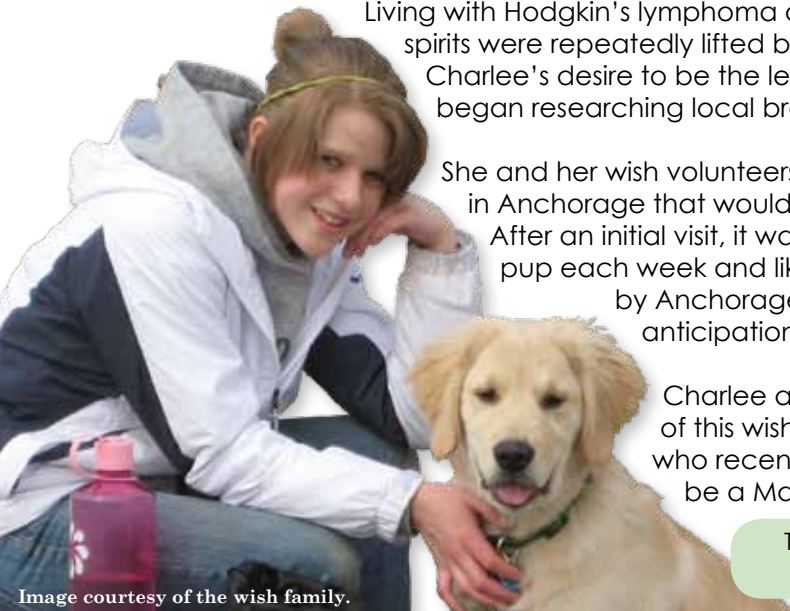


Image courtesy of the wish family.

i wish to meet...

MIKE ROWE OF *DIRTY JOBS*!

It's a dirty job, but someone's got to do it. And, four-year-old wish kid Samuel loves watching Mike Rowe, the host of Discovery Channel's hit TV series *Dirty Jobs* attempt a variety of grotesque occupations. So, it came as no surprise to his family when this boy, who lacks the means to fight infections due to his diagnosis of Kostman syndrome, wished to meet Rowe.

In true celebrity fashion, Samuel and his family were flown to California for a visit to the set. They arrived in VIP style – in a limousine, of course – and were personally greeted by none other than Rowe himself!

Samuel and his family enjoyed lunch with the TV personality and a behind-the-scenes tour of a mannequin factory where he was taping an episode. They learned how mannequins were made, but the dirtiest job was yet to come when Samuel got Rowe to smell his feet in the middle of lunch! Laughter filled the air and Samuel certainly put his mark on the meaning of *Dirty Jobs* for the TV crew and its famous host.

"Sam's Make-A-Wish experience helped to bring closure to his transplant," said Sam's mom, Dana. "It meant a very difficult experience will forever have a great memory attached to it."

Thank you to volunteers:
Sheila McLaren & Debbie Wells



Image courtesy of the wish family.

i wish to go... ON A FLOTILLA

At the age of seven Joshua was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). As part of his treatment he took sailing lessons and fell in love with the sea. In January of 2008, three years after their first sailing encounter, Joshua and his family approached the Foundation with his one-of-a-kind wish. Joshua wanted to sail as part of a flotilla, a small group of yachts sailing together.

On Thanksgiving day 2008 Joshua, his parents, Jose and Darice, and his six-year-old brother Justin set sail on the high seas and frequently uttered words such as 'arrgh!', 'yo-ho matey' and 'wow, this is amazing!'

As his mom said recently, "We were so thrilled. It was the most perfect Make-A-Wish gift ever! Joshua thought hard and was truly sincere in making this wish and it was everything he wanted it to be." As they sailed into the sunset Joshua was overheard saying, "Life's pretty good, and why wouldn't it be? I'm a pirate, after all."

Read a more in-depth story, Joshua's journal and preview more pictures at:
www.northwestwishes.org/news/continuedstories.asp

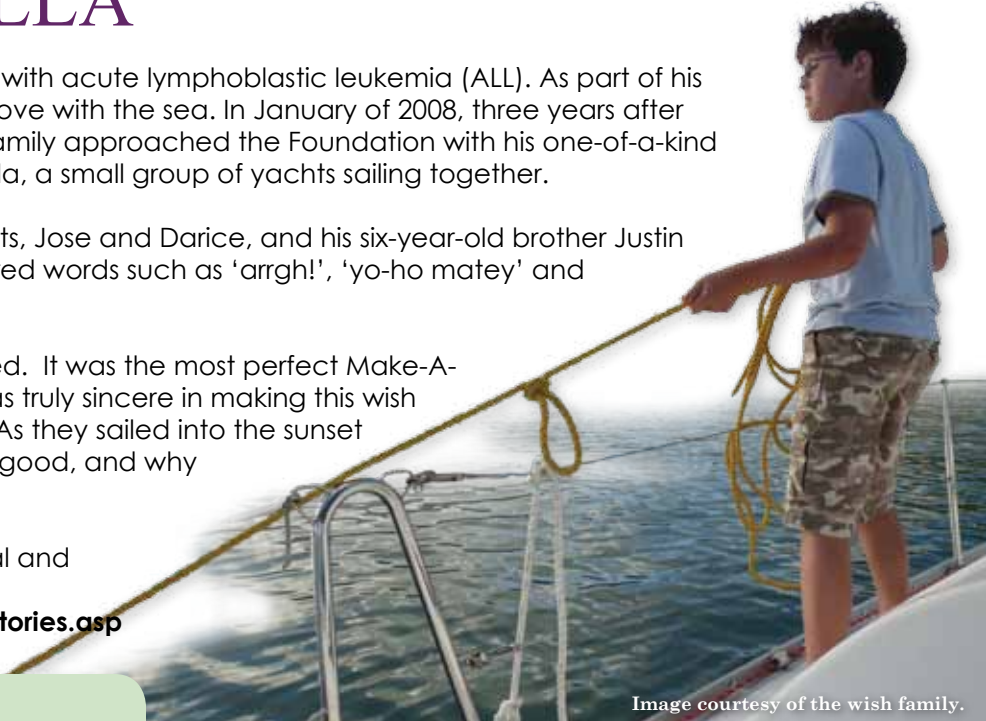


Image courtesy of the wish family.

Thank you to volunteers:
Linda Johnson & Annastina Sobole

wishes by THE NUMBERS

Number of Wishes Completed by Type (last year)

Animal.....	3
Celebrity Meet & Greet.....	25
Computers & Electronics.....	21
Disney World & Disneyland.....	97
Motor Vehicle Refurbishment.....	2
Playhouse/Playset.....	10
Room Redecorations.....	6
Spa/Hot Tub.....	3
Shopping Sprees.....	26
Travel.....	62
Other General.....	20



Image courtesy of the family.

Arjun wished to travel to Disney World®.

leaving a legacy of hope THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

Image courtesy of the family.



Evelyn Cree Maurer

Evelyn Cree Maurer lived a modest, quiet life. Born, raised and educated in Spokane, she and her husband were hardworking, middle-class Americans. She dedicated her life to teaching and, although she had no children of her own, her generous bequest to our chapter (leaving us half of her estate) will enrich the lives of many more children.

We honor all donors who have designated our organization as a charitable beneficiary in their estate plans via our *Legacy of Wishes Society*. If you have already taken that important step of creating estate plans that include the Foundation, please let us know so we may acknowledge your support.

If you haven't already made estate plans, please consider including our chapter in your will. The best way to provide for your loved ones, continue to support organizations you care about and reduce or eliminate estate taxes is to make an estate plan. For more information contact Debra Crespín, VP for Development & Communications, at 800.304.9474.



volunteer

SPOTLIGHT

“

No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another.

– Author Unknown

”

volunteers are THE STARS IN THE LIVES OF OUR WISH KIDS

*How beautiful a day can be
when kindness touches it!*

~George Elliston



Image courtesy of the volunteer.

Adrienne meets with wish kid Zachary.

Make-A-Wish volunteers are the face of the Foundation in our community. Without their support, we would be unable to fulfill our wish-granting mission. From special event volunteers to airport greeters to wish granters, the need is great.

Join us at a training session near you! **Fall trainings are scheduled for Eastern & Western Washington, and Alaska. Call 800.304.WISH or log on to www.northwestwishes.org to learn more.**

Wish granter extraordinaire Adrienne Dussault began volunteering for the Foundation in 1997. Since that time, she has brought joy into the lives of 30 very special children in Washington and Montana. We are very grateful to her for her continued support.

Q: What one word describes your Make-A-Wish experience?

A: Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

Q: How rewarding is it to be a wish volunteer?

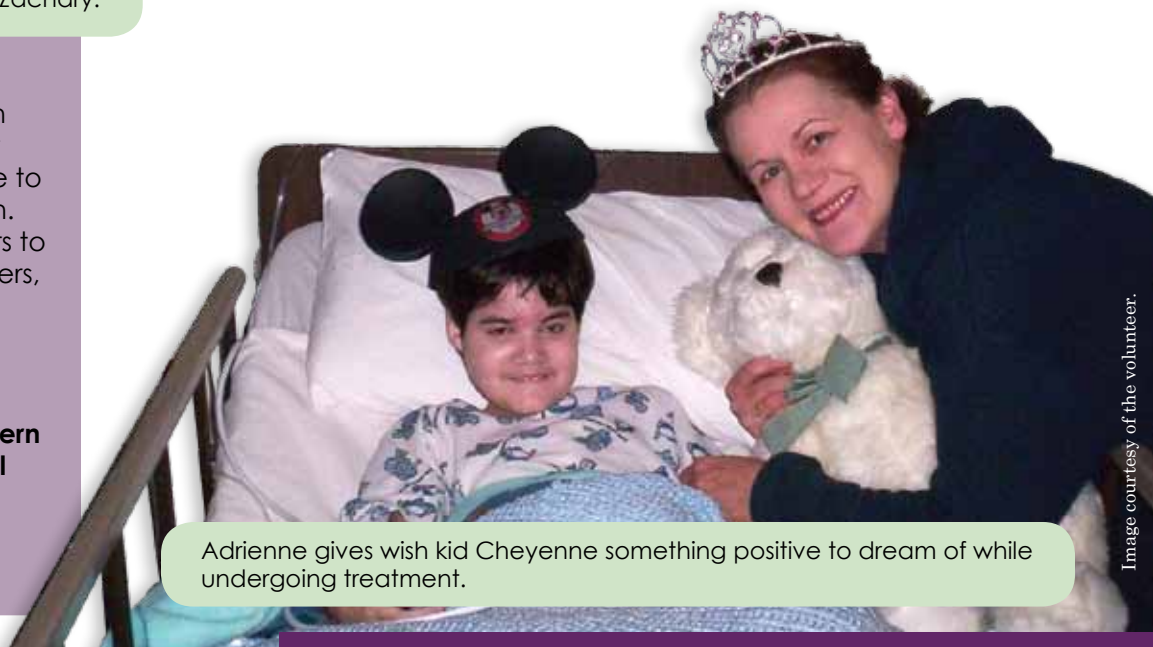
A: I can't begin to describe the heart-warming experiences I've had over the years. The kids and families I've come to know are pillars of strength and hope. A child's illness can devastate a family not only financially, but emotionally. I've often heard that an upcoming wish is "the light at the end of the tunnel." What could possibly be more rewarding than to be able to make a child's dream come true?

Q: If you can narrow it to just one wish that you've granted, what has been your favorite?

A: No way can I narrow it down to a favorite - but here are a few highlights: surprising Brian with his new horse (and a bonus, her foal) at a PCA Rodeo; the thrill of seeing Trevin drive his restored '54 Chevy pickup around the racetrack; hearing Jesse describe his awesome meeting with Dale Earnhardt, Jr. at a NASCAR Race; Adrian's encounter with The Rock in NYC (he was literally speechless); or Sara's wish to meet the Atlanta Braves..Perhaps my "favorite" wish is yet to come!

Q: Would you recommend being a wish volunteer to your friends and colleagues?

A: Without a doubt - absolutely positively! It is truly a gift to know these incredible kids and their families.



Adrienne gives wish kid Cheyenne something positive to dream of while undergoing treatment.

Image courtesy of the volunteer.

year at a glance

2008-2009 EVENT ROUND UP

Image courtesy of Josh Yim Photography.



All nonprofits and industries are working hard to meet goals during these extraordinary economic times. We are pleased to report that, thanks to the generous support from corporate sponsors and individuals, our events have achieved their goals allowing us to do what we do best: grant wishes! For a list of corporate sponsors, please see our website.

October 21

Bridging the Gap Benefit Breakfast raised \$180,000. Special thanks to co-chairs Dave & Marsha Ederer, emcee John Curley and keynote speaker Dan Evans, Sr.

November 4

2nd Annual South Sound Lunch raised \$21,000. Special thanks to our emcee Mike Ferrari of KOMO 4.

November 15

Black & White Gala was a slam dunk and raised \$80,000. Special thanks to event chair Kathy Wellman and our emcees, Mark Peterson and Kalae Chock of KXLY 4.

March 14

Wish Night Gala & Auction at Westin Seattle raised \$729,000. Special thanks to event co-chairs Paul & Susan Moulton, emcee Joyce Taylor of KING 5, and auction announcer Mary White of 100.7 The Wolf.

May 30

At the time that this newsletter went to print, the Wishes Take Flight Spring Luncheon at Northern Quest Casino in Spokane was on par to raise more than \$10,000. Visit www.northwestwishes.org for the updated total. Special thanks to emcee Leslie Lowe of KHQ.

Image courtesy of Vivian Hsu, Team Photogenic.



mark your CALENDAR

Save the Date for these 2009 "Fun"draisers

July & August

T.G.I. Friday's World Bartending Competition to benefit Make-A-Wish. Select locations in Washington and Alaska.

1st
Ever!

August 16

Walk for Wishes at Marymoor Park in Redmond
Online registration coming soon!

September

Wine Styles wine tasting in Anchorage. (Exact date TBD)

September 24

Cold Stone Creamery's "World's Largest Ice Cream Social" to benefit Make-A-Wish

October 28

Fall Fundraising Breakfast at the Grand Hyatt Seattle

Visit www.northwestwishes.org to learn more about how you can play a role in these exciting events.

merci, grazie, danke!

Many thanks to all of our corporate partners whose support allows us to grant wishes. Special thanks to:



\$4.5 million national contribution and their commitment to grant wishes locally every year.



JEWELERS FOR CHILDREN
A GIFT OF LOVE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

sponsors a wish in every state. Funded wishes for Kaeleigh (Billings), Kaylee (Wenatchee) and Kayla (Anchorage).

Special thanks to JFC members Greenleaf's Jewelry in Billings, Clark's Jewelry in Wenatchee and Ben Bridge in Anchorage.



goes above and beyond for our wish kids while traveling. Also wonderful when it comes to frequent flyer mile donations.

Recently, the airline generously doubled the miles acquired through a mileage drive at the Wish Night Gala. Now that's what we call "North of Expected!"

out of the mouth... OF BABES

Every day at the Make-A-Wish Foundation, we have the privilege of receiving appreciation and thanks from many wish children and their families. Here are a few "ohhhs" and "ahhhs" we'd like to share. Enjoy!

“ Rian's wish gave her hope! She doesn't feel quite so alone on her journey. Just knowing Rian was able to experience something she never thought possible was amazing! We will cherish those memories regardless of the outcome of her disease.
~ Rian's parents, Melinda and David ”



Image courtesy of the wish family.



Image courtesy of the wish family.

“ The impact of Rylee's Make-A-Wish experience allowed us to see how wonderful and caring people are when there is no reward in it for themselves.
~ Rylee's mom, Stacy ”

“ The wish was a breath of fresh air for our family. It was nice to go on a vacation and spend quality time together...after all we have been through with Madysen's transplant.
~ Madysen's mom, Mary ”



Image courtesy of the wish family.

“ It was important to have my wish granted because it gave me the biggest morale booster of my life. Thank you for helping kids like me because it is the ultimate awesomeness!
~ Gary, wish kid ”



Image courtesy of the wish family.



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