

# WISHES

Make-A-Wish® Illinois | Winter 2013

## CELEBRATING HER FUTURE

Family and tradition are very important to wish child Zareli. In late 2010, Zareli was diagnosed with a malignant glioma of the brain. After surgery, her treatments continued for almost two years.

Referred to Make-A-Wish by a hospital social worker, she knew immediately that she wanted a Quinceanera celebration, the traditional fifteenth birthday party that many girls of Hispanic decent celebrate. Make-A-Wish volunteers, along with help from national corporate sponsor Wells Enterprises, parent company of Blue Bunny Ice Cream, created a spectacular day for Zareli to celebrate with her extended family.

Beginning with the traditional Catholic Mass of thanksgiving attended by her family at the chapel of St. Alexius Medical Center, Zareli then traveled by limousine to a local banquet hall for a celebratory dinner, dancing and an ice cream bar created by Blue Bunny Ice Cream for the occasion.

Her mother Alma expressed her feelings about the wish to the *The Daily Herald* by saying:

*"I feel so proud of my daughter. She was so brave through her entire treatment, like a warrior."*

Wish Granters: Nancy Cortes, Rick Gutierrez  
Referred by: Ronald McDonald Children's Hospital  
at Loyola University Medical Center



Zareli receives a kiss from sister Almagissel.

season  
of **wishes**®

This holiday season, you can change lives through our Season of Wishes® campaign and make life better for wish kids, families and communities. Visit [illinois.wish.org](http://illinois.wish.org) to find out more about promotions that give back, gift ideas that benefit Make-A-Wish and other ways to help.

**YOU HOLD THE TICKET TO A CHILD'S WISH** Many major airlines based in the United States allow members of their frequent flier programs to donate airline miles to Make-A-Wish. If you have air miles with Delta, US Airways, or United, you hold the ticket to a child's wish<sup>SM</sup>. Frequent fliers can learn more about donating their air miles today at <http://illinois.wish.org/ways-to-help/giving/airline-miles>.



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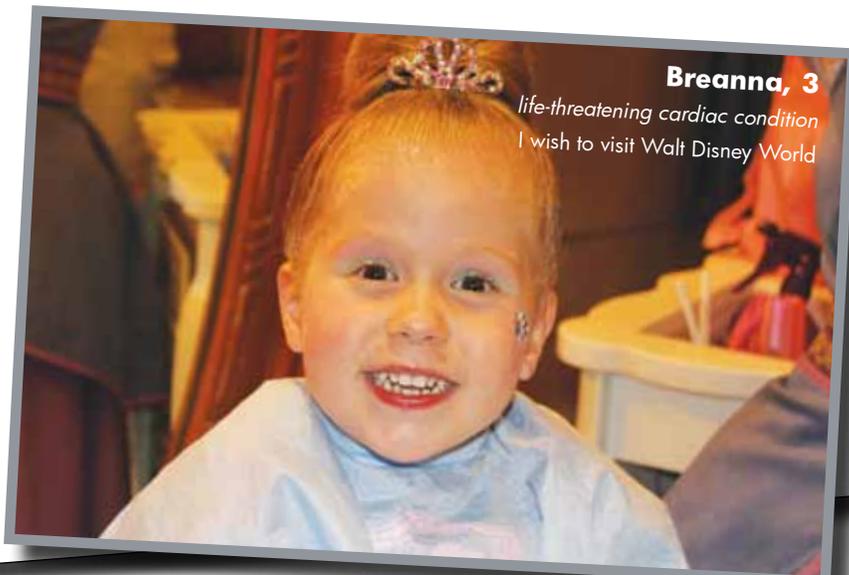
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## Letter from Wish Family

*Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to make memories as a family on this incredible trip! The pure joy we saw on our children's faces will never be forgotten! It was a week of just being a kid and no doctors. Every last detail was amazing. We can't thank you enough.*

*The Ruud Family  
Jason, Ashley, Caleb & Breanna*

Breanna's wish included a makeover at the Bippity Boppity Boutique and meeting her very favorite princess, Rapunzel. Her family was thrilled to concentrate on just having fun for a while, putting aside her many medical concerns to enjoy a typical family vacation.



**Breanna, 3**  
life-threatening cardiac condition  
I wish to visit Walt Disney World



Disney is proud to be a long-time supporter of Make-A-Wish® and uses its magic to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. Over the past 30 years, Disney has supported the Make-A-Wish mission, contributing more than \$9 million in cash and in-kind donations each year. With more than 7,000 wishes granted every year – including visits to the Disney Parks, Disney Cruises, meeting Disney Characters, attending sporting events and visiting TV and movie sets – Disney-themed wishes continue to be the most popular requests by Make-A-Wish children.

# WISH BALL

**May 3, 2014 | SOLDIER FIELD**

Save the date for our annual black-tie gala with celebrity entertainment, dinner, live music, and live and silent auctions. Incredible sponsorship opportunities are available. For information contact Deb Purcell at [purcell@illinois.wish.org](mailto:purcell@illinois.wish.org) or 312.602.9424.

**Make-A-Wish® Illinois**

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# WISHES GRANTED

These and hundreds of other wishes were recently granted by Make-A-Wish Illinois.

For more wish stories, visit [illinois.wish.org](http://illinois.wish.org)



## Luscion Meets Elmo in Jamaica

Luscion, 4, is a fun-loving kid who likes bright colors and playing outside. Diagnosed with a brain tumor, Luscion spent lots of time watching Sesame Street throughout his treatment and recovery.

After hearing about Make-A-Wish from his doctor, Luscion's mom referred him to the organization in hopes of bringing something uplifting into his life during a difficult time. Luscion wished to meet Elmo, his favorite of the Sesame Street characters. Make-A-Wish granted his wish by sending the preschooler and his mom for a Caribbean adventure to a Jamaican resort where Elmo also vacations. Luscion enjoyed a special meet and greet breakfast with his fuzzy pal. In addition to the meeting, Luscion enjoyed exploring the beaches and spending quality time with his mom.

*"This trip taught him [that] all is possible,"* said Luscion's mom.

Wish Granters: Tara Shawel, Renee Cox

Referred by: Parent

## Aidan Ponders Pandas

Aidan likes animals, especially pandas. Diagnosed last year with a life-threatening metabolic disorder, Aidan is an otherwise adventurous and outgoing kid.

When a child life specialist referred him to Make-A-Wish, he considered all of his options, ultimately choosing to visit the San Diego Zoo. His goal was to have a behind-the-scenes tour of the panda exhibit. His wish was granted when he enjoyed that and much more. His family says it was an incredible experience that far exceeded his expectations. In addition to visiting the world famous zoo, Aidan enjoyed riding a jet ski, visiting with his cousins and taking a short trip to Disneyland.

The wish was an opportunity to *"give him something positive from a negative in his life,"* his parents wrote after the trip.

Wish Granters: Tammy Milligan, Melinda Kintz

Referred by: Cadence Health® - Central DuPage Hospital



## REFER A CHILD

A wish can help a child feel stronger, more energetic and more willing and able to battle their life-threatening medical condition. If you are a medical professional or social worker who works with children or the family member of a child diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition, visit [illinois.wish.org](http://illinois.wish.org) or call our Medical Outreach Team at 800.978.9474 for information. Illinois children between the ages of 2½ and 18 (before their 18th birthday) can be referred.

## JEANS FOR WISHES

MARCH 17 TO 21, 2014

Go casual for Make-A-Wish and help us grant the wishes of Illinois children with life-threatening medical conditions. Enroll your workplace or school in our annual Jeans for Wishes campaign, set to run the week of March 17th across Illinois.

In exchange for a donation to Make-A-Wish, employees, students or teachers wear jeans for a day or a week. Already have a casual environment? Use the same concept and wear favorite sports jerseys, have a dress up day or even a pajama day! The timing can also be flexible.

Register at [jeansforwishes.org](http://jeansforwishes.org) to get a starter kit including flyers, stickers for participants and a banner to show your support of Make-A-Wish Illinois.



During September and October, Make-A-Wish hosted events in Chicago, Moline and Champaign. We were thrilled to welcome more than 1,300 participants and raise more than \$220,000!

In **Chicago**, it was a rainy September morning, but that didn't keep several hundred people from turning out in costume to support Make-A-Wish. Led by wish child and event grand marshal Ashanti, participants came together along Chicago's lakefront to celebrate the mission of Make-A-Wish while raising funds for the organization. Former Chicago Bear **Desmond Clark** spoke to the crowd and ran the 5K with his team.

The 2nd Annual Walk & Run for Wishes in **Moline** attracted dozens of local supporters and wish families. Wish

child Logan and his mother Holly spoke about his wish, followed by Dr. Jim and Kellie Lindley who spoke about the lasting impact of a wish for their daughter Kaylee. Emcee Ben Rosehart, from KWQC-TV6 was on hand for the event. Guests enjoyed the scenic run/walk path and the opportunity to meet many area wish families.

The inaugural Walk & Run for Wishes in **Champaign** was a great success thanks to wonderful support from local volunteers and the University of Illinois community. Ellen Mathias, mother of wish child Joshua, spoke to the attendees about her son's condition and wish to visit the store where his favorite show *Pawn Stars* is set. Desmond Clark also spoke and ran at the Champaign event.

Thank you to the title sponsors for these events including Sprouts Academy Preschool, Tennant Truck Lines, and UnityPoint Health - Trinity.

Join us at the next Walk & Run for Wishes in **Edwardsville on May 17, 2014.**

Find information and register at [walkrunwish.org](http://walkrunwish.org).

