

WISHES

Make-A-Wish® Illinois ★ Summer 2016



LATAZIA'S VIP SHOPPING SPREE

17-year-old Latazia loves music, dancing and shopping, so a shopping wish was perfect for this South Holland teen. Diagnosed with a life-threatening hematologic disorder, Latazia's family found Make-A-Wish through a social worker at the hospital where she is treated.

The wish day did not disappoint! Traveling by limousine, Latazia and her family first stopped at Macy's where staff greeted them warmly with signs and flowers, making it known that it was all about Latazia that day. The store provided her own private dressing room and a mini-makeover. She proudly showed off her crown and boa all day.

"We really appreciated everything that Macy's did and they really gave her everything she wanted," Latazia's mother, Azure, shared.

Latazia's wish day continued with several more stops to her favorite stores and included many treats along the way. This was a day where the family was able to forget about their worries of Latazia's illness and revel in her being happy. The smile on Latazia's face was present the whole day.

"It took a huge load of stress off of all of us, and we didn't have to worry about anything else that day," Azure shared. *She went on to say the wish was something the whole family needed and it gave them hope throughout some very stressful times.* Latazia and her family were especially thankful to the wish granting team for being encouraging and going above and beyond to make Latazia's day one she will never forget.

Wish Granters: David and Denise Little

Referred by: Chrystal Roach, LSW

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

A Life-Changing Wish Experience Begins With You

Explore the possibility of Make-A-Wish

Find out if a child's medical condition qualifies for a life-changing wish experience today.

Call **800.978.9474** or visit **illinois.wish.org/refer** to get started.



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In Their Own Words: Wish Impact

After coming home from the trip, not only have we as a family seen noticeable changes in Kyleigh, but so has her school. She is more interactive and animated. She is much more motivated and has a desire to be involved with daily activities in the family. Although still nonverbal at this point she has found more efficient ways of communicating with us. The increased happiness we saw in the trip has carried over to the home. She seems to be able to express her emotions more clearly, especially happiness and joy. We have been able to do more activities as a family that prior to the trip we would not have known Kyleigh would enjoy, even things as simple as a splash park.



Kyleigh, 3
genetic disorder
I wish to visit Walt Disney World® Resort



KIDS FOR WISH KIDS: As kids head back to school many students will begin planning Wish Week fund raisers to support Make-A-Wish. Kids for Wish Kids enables students to practice many of their academic skills while learning how great it feels to help others. Learn more at illinois.wish.org or call 312.602.9474 (800.978.9474, toll-free).

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MAKE-A-WISH
Illinois

We grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

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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.

Musical Medicine for Oliver

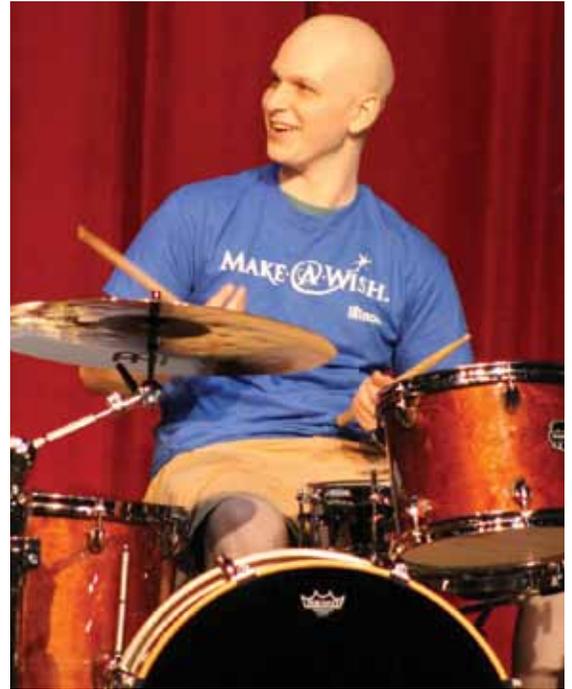
Oliver is a 17-year old drummer from Edwardsville who always seems to have a big smile on his face. Diagnosed with Osteosarcoma, Oliver chose a wish that he would enjoy over and over again – his own drum set with carrying cases and accessories. Being able to share his wish day with family and friends made the day extra special.

“The wish has impacted my mental health in a good way in that it makes me happy and hopeful, and helps me release stress,” Oliver said. **“When I’m playing the drums, I have nothing to worry about and my problems just slip away for a while. It’s just me and the music, feeling great. To have that kind of escape is the greatest gift I could ask for, and to have a reminder of the people looking out for me helps me appreciate my life more.”**

Rock on, Oliver!

Wish Granters: Brita and Victor Dorsey

Referred by: Parents



Ava’s Furry Friend



Ava, 8, loves dancing, socializing and playing with her dolls. Even though she has had many hardships, this Downers Grove girl continues to radiate happiness that is contagious to everyone around her.

Diagnosed with a life-threatening seizure condition, Ava was treated at Cadence Health where she was referred to Make-A-Wish by a nurse. She was excited to tell Make-A-Wish that she would like to have a furry friend.

Her wish was granted when she was recently partnered with a service dog through the Committed Canine program. Ava’s furry friend was chosen specifically for her and her family’s needs and wishes.

Once Committed Canine had identified a perfect dog for Ava, the fun began when she and her family were able to travel downstate to learn about and pick up the newest member of their family, Daisy. This adorable gray and white dog immediately became a great companion for Ava. Meeting Daisy was a very special experience according to Ava’s family. It was a weekend the entire family will remember.

“Daisy goes with Ava wherever she goes,” Ava’s mom Jill said. “She helps guide Ava and will hopefully be able to alert us if Ava has a seizure.”

“Daisy is such a joy and present of happiness for all of us!”

Wish Granters: Mital Shah, Wendy Mehis-Sadler

Referred by: Kathryn Atkins, RN / Cadence Health

30 YEARS OF WISHES: Imagination Made Possible

As 30 Wish Ambassadors filed onto the stage, representing each year that Make-A-Wish has been granting wishes in Illinois, every one of the more than 1,000 Wish Ball attendees felt the full effect of the life-changing impact of a wish. This was just one of many moving moments during our record-breaking fundraiser held on May 21, 2016 at Navy Pier and presented by CDW.

Guided through the evening by ABC 7 Chicago's **Cheryl Scott**, guests heard from Nick DiBrizzi, a wish alum whose wish to meet Joe Pesci was granted in 2000. Nick talked about the life-long impact of his wish experience. View Nick's full remarks and see other highlights at www.illinois.wish.org/wishball.

Guests enjoyed a performance by comedian **Paul Reiser**, and the formal program closed with an a capella performance of "The Impossible Dream" by Jake Gadomski, a 2005 wish alum. Wish Ball 2016 was presented by **CDW**, and supported by many other generous sponsors including Platinum Sponsors: Advocate Health Care, DLA Piper, Ergotron, GATX Corporation, MARC USA, UGN, Inc., and Unum.

PHOTOS Left: 30 Wish Ambassadors representing 30 Years of Wishes. Right: Laura Brown, Chair, Make-A-Wish Illinois Board of Directors; Maya Gray, Wish Alum; Cheryl Scott, ABC 7 Chicago; Christina Rother, Immediate Past Chair, Make-A-Wish Illinois Board of Directors and representing Presenting Sponsor CDW.



walk
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WALK & RUN EVENT

You can help grant wishes for children with life-threatening medical conditions in Illinois. Join us!

www.walkrunwish.org

Wish families walk free. \$30/adults, \$10/kids 12 & under.

CHICAGOLAND



Emcee
ANA BELAVAL
WGN Morning News

September 11, 2016
New Location!
Busse Woods - Elk Grove Village
(formerly held at Montrose Harbor)

CHAMPAIGN



Honorary Chairs
JOHN & ALLISON GROCE
Illini Men's Basketball Coach

September 17, 2016
Hessel Park
Champaign

