

Stories of Light

Fall/Winter 2009



Hope, Strength and Joy

MAKE
A WISH®

Dominic, Age 3
Wish - Shopping Spree

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Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends:

We are proud to share with you that in the last fiscal year, we granted a record number of wishes – 88 special children dealing with life-threatening illnesses in Central California experienced the power of a wish.

We are also excited to announce that we have opened a satellite office in Bakersfield. This physical presence reflects the growing number of wishes being granted in Kern County. With this office, we will have the opportunity to develop a stronger volunteer and donor base in order to meet the increasing wish referrals from the area.

Since our chapter began in 1986, we have granted over 1,200 wishes. Our quest has been to make dreams come true and to create magic and memories for our wish children and their families. Our goal is to be a unique part of the treatment process. With doctors providing the medicine, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation supplying the magic, we strive to create miracles in the lives of some very special children.

Wishes are limited only by a child's imagination and can be as simple as wanting a computer or as dramatic as flying off to Montana to dig for dinosaur bones. No wish is too big or too small for a child who needs hope, strength, and joy, while fighting a very grown up battle.

It is not lost on us that we are in a rapidly changing world and facing some challenging economic times. Unfortunately, during these times, one thing remains a constant: children face life-threatening medical conditions and need the magic of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Rest assured that our organization will never, ever decline a medically qualified referral. However, we can not do this without your help – so, whether it's through volunteering, donating airline miles or making us part of your holiday giving plans, please know that your support is the crucial element to our success.

Thank you for caring about these precious children and their special dreams.

Diana Rambo

Executive Director
Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Central California

Ways To Give



Many of our wishes involve travel. Donating airline miles and hotel points is a great way to help.



Campus Fundraising:
Kids Helping Kids.

Donating your car is an easy way for you to support the Foundation. Please call 866-470-WISH to make arrangements.



For more information, please call the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central California at 559.221.WISH (9474) or visit www.centralca.wish.org

Remembrances

We are deeply saddened to learn of the loss of the following wish children. We are grateful to have come into their lives for a short time, and together with their families, we honor their memory.

Ben

Jennifer

Mariah

Natalia

Daniel

Ashley

Joseph

Brittany

Foundation Facts

- ★ **Our Mission:** We grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.
- ★ **Our Beginnings:** What began as a single wish from an office in Hanford in 1986 has evolved into 23 years of magical wish experiences for over 1,200 amazing children. The devotion and generosity of our wish granters and financial partners has afforded us the opportunity to provide these seriously ill children with a joyous and hopeful break from the constant hospital visits and treatments. The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central California serves eight counties including Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced and Tulare.
- ★ **Our Goal:** The children we serve are all too familiar with doctors and hospitals. But caring for these children involves much more than medical treatment. Our goal is to be a unique part of the treatment process. With doctors providing the medicine, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation® supplying the joy and magic, we strive to create miracles in the lives of some very special children.
- ★ **Our Funding:** The Foundation relies on in-kind gifts and services, financial contributions from individuals, corporations, clubs and other groups, special events, and vehicle donations. The average cash cost of one wish is approximately \$5,000. Every donation, whether large or small, contributes to making children's dreams come true. While the Foundation follows the policies and guidelines of the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of America, it operates as a separate 501(c)(3) organization. All funds raised by the Foundation are used to fulfill our mission in the eight counties we serve.
- ★ **Our Wish:** Our wish is that each year we will be able to grant a heartfelt wish to every child in Central California diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition. Your continued support is the only way to ensure we can create future smiles on the faces of all our wish children.

Season of Wishes

2nd Annual Stories Of Light "Holiday Light Extravaganza"

BE A PART OF SOMETHING MAGICAL. This holiday season Peak Broadcasting will fill the air waves with inspirational stories from wish children. We invite you to join this campaign by making a donation that will enable us to grant 25 wishes. Your gift will also help us light up the Palm Bluffs water tower.

Beginning November 24th, a holiday light show on the top of the tower will kick-off the Stories of Light campaign. Thanks to generous gifts from presenting sponsor Eye-Q and Christianna Charitable Enterprises, the stars on the first two levels of the tower will also be lit at the start of the campaign. Your help is needed to light up the remaining stars all the way to the top. To make a donation to help grant wishes or to see your company's name and logo in lights, contact the Make-A-Wish office and become a sponsor of this joyous event.

CELEBRATION OF LIGHT

Join us on December 10th for a ceremony at the base of the tower. This event will be a fun-filled winter wonderland complete with a visit from Santa and his reindeer, carriage rides, carolers, magic show and holiday refreshments.

Please R.S.V.P. to 559.221.WISH (9474)



The Mehmet Noyan Company
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PRESENTS



Holiday To-Do List

- Spend time with family and friends
- Put a smile on a child's face
- Send Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central California a holiday donation and help make a wish come true
- Spread the holiday spirit in your own special way
- Do an act of kindness
- Feel thanked by the people and organizations that you have supported
- Close your eyes and imagine the biggest smile you can and know that this is the smile you have created on a wish child's face

macy's
thanks
for sharing

Beginning September 19, 2009 the Make-A-Wish Foundation® will benefit from the generous Macy's card holders electing to enroll their card in this program. To learn more, call 1-888-933-6229 or visit macys.com/thanks.

Latisse™
(bimatoprost ophthalmic solution) 0.03%

Between now and December 31st Allergan, as part of their LATISSE® Wishes campaign, will contribute \$5 (up to \$500,000) for each person who registers at: <http://www.latisse.com>

macy's
a million reasons to Believe.

This holiday season, Macy's Believe campaign will invite children of all ages to write letters to Santa and bring the letters to Macy's. For each letter collected, Macy's will donate \$1 to Make-A-Wish Foundation, up to \$1 million. For more information visit macys.com/believe

Evenings of Wishes

MERCED

Saturday, October 3, 2009 ★ Wishes and Dreams

This special night of cocktails, gourmet cuisine, silent and live auctions and live music by Joe Cardenas took place at Saint Patrick's Hall in Merced and raised over \$55,000. To be involved next year, call Pam Duarte at 209.358.2505.

BAKERSFIELD

Saturday, January 30, 2010 ★ Evening of Wishes

This exciting evening at the Petroleum Club will include cocktails, dinner, live and silent auctions and a performance by the unforgettable Wayne Foster Entertainment. For more information, call Angene Grigg at 661.834.7929.

FRESNO

Friday, February 5, 2010 ★ 8th Annual Gala of Wishes ★ Rainforest Soirée

Guests will be transported to the forest floor of the Amazon, greeted by tropical birds, reptiles and other exotic animals. The evening will include dinner, dancing and auctions. For more information, tickets or sponsorship opportunities call 559.221.WISH (9474).

A Child's Wish

Make-A-Wish A Different Kind of Medicine

"As we boarded the Disney Wonder ship, in Port Canaveral, we had no idea how it would change our lives and bring us together as a family. I would describe it as driving a car on empty. Day after day, you get in your car knowing that you are driving on empty, crossing your fingers that you will make it to the next stop.

When we were on the cruise doing things together as a family, with no worries, it was a huge relief. My husband and I didn't have to trade places so that one of us could step away and cry or try to find strength to hold it together or make it seem like everything was going to be okay for the kids.

Kassandra had the time of her life and she was given VIP treatment the whole time. She had special "meet and greets" with the Disney characters and front row seats to the theaters. I have never seen her so happy. Her smile was bright, her eyes twinkled and she told me, "Mom, I feel like a pop star!" And once she said that, I knew she wasn't thinking of herself as a sick, disabled child that won't experience life the way other children do. She felt special and beautiful and proud to be who she is.

Her wish had come true, my wish had come true and my precious little girl was able to forget about the pain, suffering, surgeries and over-nights in the hospital. She experienced the feeling of pure joy.

And though our fairytale adventure came to an end - when we went back home, we all had a full tank of gas. Ready to go and ready to fight whatever battle might come across our path next." - **Kassie's Mom**



Kassie, Age 6
Wish - Disney Cruise



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



Johana, 15
Purple Laptop

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Chapter Headquarters

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