



# A Special Wish CHRONICLE



A publication of A Special Wish Foundation, Dayton Chapter

VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 1 • AUTUMN 2009



## Our Mission

To grant the Special Wish of a child/ adolescent, birth through 20 years, who has been diagnosed by a physician as having a life-threatening disorder.

## Did you know?

The Dayton Chapter of A Special Wish Foundation is the **ONLY** local wish granting organization and over 90 cents of every dollar is used to grant the wishes of our local children.

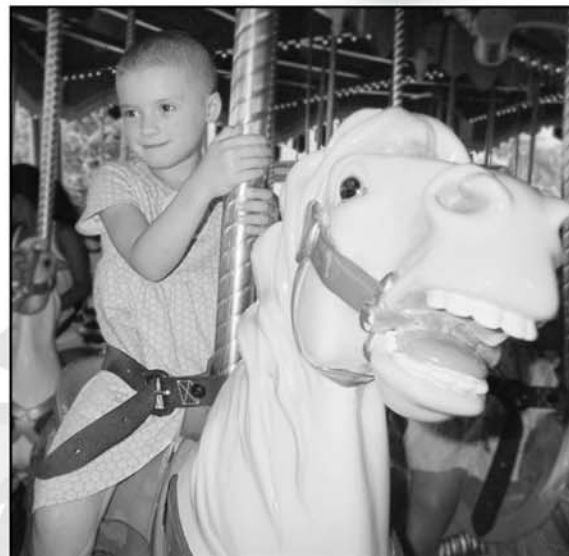


Thanks to the generosity of the Dayton community, the Dayton Chapter of A Special Wish Foundation has been able to grant over 1300 special wishes to local children for over 25 years.



## Disney Dreams

Imagine riding a carousel, eating ice cream, and meeting princesses every day. For Six-year-old Julia, her wish to visit such a place came true this past year. Julia and her family traveled to Central Florida for a Disney World vacation and stayed at Give Kids the World Village; a magical, non-profit resort dedicated to serving children with life-threatening illnesses. It was Julia's time to be a princess and take a break from the hospitals and doctors, enjoying a village presided over by Mayor Clayton, a cuddly rabbit. Throughout her stay, Julia and her family visited Disney World, Sea World and Universal Studios Orlando.



## Trains, Planes and Boats... oh my!

Eight-year-old Hayden loves learning about all different types of transportation, especially trains. When asked what he wanted as his wish, there was no hesitation in wanting to have the

chance to get up close and personal with trains of all types. Hayden had the opportunity to do just this with a week-long vacation to Baltimore, Maryland to visit the B&O Railroad Museum.



Hayden and his family spent time visiting everything the B&O Railroad Museum had to offer. During the family's stay in Baltimore, Hayden also enjoyed an Orioles Game, the Baltimore Aquarium and Inner Harbor making memories wherever he went.

"We felt like celebrities. Even complete strangers were kind and helpful to us. It is the best vacation we have ever had," stated Hayden's father, Scott.

"Thank you for a magnificent trip. We will cherish these memories for all of our days."



## From a Heap to Hope

Some wishes look to meet someone special, to attend a special event or go somewhere special. Seventeen-year-old Darryl's wish was simply to be able to travel back and forth to school. Darryl, who is battling B-cell lymphoma, had nothing but a broken-down heap, a 1983 Chevrolet diesel truck to transport him to and from classes. With the help from Sinclair Community College's Automotive technology faculty, staff and students, A Special Wish was able to unveil a transformed showpiece to Darryl's delight.

"They did a lot more than I was expecting," said Darryl. "I told them to paint it and put my exhaust stacks on."

Darryl received much more than a simple paint job on his newly remodeled truck when the truck pulled into view. The restoration was used as a service learning project for approximately 40 students from Sinclair's automotive program who volunteered their time to grant the wish.

"This is definitely an act of love," said Steve Ash, department chairman. "Everybody, they had their heart in it, and we were just happy to be able to do this for this young man."

In over 400 hours in a total of 42 days, volunteers completely transformed Darryl's truck into

something he can drive to and from school, as well as be proud of.

"It's really nice to know that many people want to help," Darryl said in expression of thanks.

A Special Wish could not have accomplished such a feat without the dedicated time and talent from Sinclair Community College Automotive technology.



A Special Wish Foundation never uses phone solicitation or professional fundraising organizations!

## Hugs with Mickey Mouse

As four-year-old Jesse was spending most of his days at Children's Medical Center recovering from surgery to remove a cancerous kidney, he had only one thing on his mind: Mickey Mouse. As Jesse was recuperating, he was asked what he wanted most in the world when he left the hospital. "I want to play on the beach and to see Mickey Mouse," he said.

With the help of a local UPS driver, Tom Peters—a Special Wish volunteer who raised enough funds to send Jesse's family to Walt Disney World—Jesse's Special Wish was granted. Jesse and his family traveled to Orlando, Florida for a Disney World vacation where they enjoyed a week-long stay at Give Kids

the World Village; a magical, non-profit resort dedicated to serving children with life-threatening illnesses.

"Jesse had the time of his life down there. I can't even express how much I appreciate it," said Jesse's father Chris.

Jesse received tickets to all the parks including Walt Disney World, Sea World and Universal Studios, stopping to give Mickey hugs every chance he got. In addition to the attractions in Orlando, Jesse's family was able to fulfill his other wish: to visit the beach.

"I think Jesse enjoyed just playing on the sand at Clearwater Beach and looking for little shells. The vacation was very restful and calm and the world of hospitals and doctors and nurses was far from his mind for a while," states Jesse's mom, Rachel.

### Did You Know?

**Special Wishes can only be limited by the imagination of the wish child.** Most special wishes are included in the following categories:

- **Special Trips:** Special Trips include theme parks, natural wonders, beach vacations, city destinations, or special experiences.
- **Special People:** These people might be the child's favorite television or movie star, recording artist, or sports figure.
- **Special Events:** Special Events include sporting events, concerts, awards shows or television/movie tapings.
- **Special Gifts:** Often a child requests a particular item. Special gifts can include a day shopping spree, a bedroom redecorating, a playground set, a computer, television, or video game system, or even a puppy.

# Special Celebrations

## A Special Wish Takes Flight with the Dayton Air Show

All eyes were to the skies this July, as the Vectren Dayton Air Show teamed up with A Special Wish Foundation for an extra-special celebration.

With the generous support from the Vectren Dayton Air Show and Dayton Power & Light, over 700 Special Wish children and families were able to view an exclusive practice run of the World Famous USAF Thunderbirds. Pushing their F-16 Fighting Falcons to the limit in their world famous show of speed, power and precision, the Thunderbirds preformed to a captive

audience the Friday before the Dayton Air Show opened. For a few hours, special kids and their families were able to forget their troubles and let their hopes soar with the pilots that filled the Dayton sky. After the Thunderbirds' performance, the pilots and crew spent time with the wish children signing autographs, taking pictures and answering questions.



Katie Deam, whose son Evan is a wish child, expressed their gratitude for the chance to attend the event. "I literally was choking back tears and Evan was asking some of the pilots and co-pilots for their autographs after the Thunderbird show," stated Katie. "We never thought we'd have 9 days with him, let alone 9 years. It was great to see him in such a good mood with so much more energy and more confidence just months after his latest open-heart surgery."



# Special Volunteers

Many people contribute their time, energy, dedication and heart to A Special Wish Foundation. There have been a few who have stood out in 2009 who have gone above and beyond what we could ever ask for.

The **Greenville American Legion Post #140** was awarded the 2009 Lowell E. Baker Outstanding Organization Award for their continued support of A Special Wish Foundation. Over the last eight years, The Greenville American Legion raised over \$60,000.00 and sponsored eight wishes.

The Greenville American Legion holds Saturday breakfasts as well as an Annual Golf Outing to sponsor these wishes. Their dedication is truly appreciated.

**Sharon Wilhelm** received the 2009 Thomas D. Dovel Volunteer Award in recognition of her continuous help as A Special Wish volunteer. As well as volunteering at events, Sharon has raised over \$2,000.00 with her personal fundraising. Sharon is a wonderful asset to the foundation and never ceases to amaze us with her caring heart and generosity of spirit.

The prestigious 2009 David M. Lantz Service Award was presented to past board member

**Esther Judson.** Acting as board treasurer, Esther has been instrumental in maintaining our low administrative cost with her watchful eye and commitment to making A Special Wish – Dayton Chapter a focused and financially sound organization. We truly appreciate all of Esther's dedication and knowledge she has bestowed on A Special Wish.

*Thank you all for your help in putting millions of smiles on the faces of our Special Wish children.*

Ways You Can Help

**A Special Wish Foundation is making a difference in the Miami Valley**— granting wishes to children in Montgomery, Greene, Darke, Shelby, Mercer, and Miami counties. Together, we can grant the wishes of every eligible child in the Miami Valley. Ways you can help:

**Refer a Child** – Anyone can refer a child for consideration by A Special Wish. Call 937.223.WISH

**Make a donation\*** – your gift is tax deductible. Please help us by sending your donation to: **A Special Wish Foundation, Inc.**  
436 Valley Street  
Dayton, OH 45404

**Volunteer** – We invite you to join us as we continue to grant special wishes.

**Enroll** in Dorothy Lane Market's Good Neighbor Program and choose *A Special Wish Foundation* as your charity of choice.

**Host** a fundraising event.

**Connect** with A Special Wish Foundation on Facebook and LinkedIn.

## Thanks to our All-Volunteer Boards

### ADVISORY BOARD:

- John Bloom, M.D.
- Bryan J. Bucklew
- Vincent M. Corrado
- Judge Jeffery Froelich
- Steven Lee Johnson
- Helen Jones-Kelly
- David Kinsal
- Deepak Kumar, M.D.
- Judge Henry N. Kuntz
- Anna J. Magnusson
- Dianne F. Marx
- Jerrie B. McGill
- Edward J. Mechenbier
- Thomas F. Murphy, M.D.
- Philip L. Parker

- Maureen Patterson
- Kevin Riley
- Natasha Williams

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Shirley Haeuptle
- James Haubrock
- Jim Heikes
- Susan Hoying
- Charles Manker
- Judi Newell
- Tom O'Neill
- Wanda Priester
- Rick Smith, M.D.
- Ruth Wiles

\*Donations can be anonymous. Please contact the Special Wish office at 937.223.WISH



436 Valley Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45404

[www.aspecialwish.org](http://www.aspecialwish.org)

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Dayton, Ohio  
Permit No. 1058

## Interested in Referring a Child, Volunteering or Donating?

For more information call 937-223-9474 or 1-866-414-9474 or e-mail us at [aspecialwish@childrensdayton.org](mailto:aspecialwish@childrensdayton.org)

We can't even begin to express how overwhelmed we were by your generosity. When our daughter was diagnosed with a life-threatening disorder, we didn't know how we would make it through this ordeal, but time and time again we have found ourselves blessed and supported with love and compassion from family, friends and organizations like yours.

— *Dave & Stephanie*, wish parents

A Special Wish Foundation deserves thanks and recognition for making such beautiful memories possible for families throughout our region. We will always be grateful for the gift of a few precious days in a magical place with our child—and we know that, in years to come, other families enduring the stresses of caring for seriously ill children will also appreciate the same opportunity we were afforded. We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the people of A Special Wish Foundation for kindness, for generosity and—most of all—for precious memories of our very special days with a wonderful, little girl who left us much too soon.

— *Lauren's Family*

I think life, not just my life, but everyone's life, is MIND OVER MATTER! Kicking cancer's butt is a big job and someone's got to do it. And the most important tool I have is believing, and that's what Special Wish did for me; they helped me believe. They showed me dreams do come true and I want them to help other kids feel the way they made me feel like I can do anything!

— *Casey*, wish child

