More Than a Wish Puppy

How you brought a community together

When you helped grant 14-year-old Marvin’s wish for a puppy, you gave him so much more than a bundle of cuteness. You gave him a joyful companion to take his mind off his battle with Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

Marvin’s story starts in Alaska, and stretches all the way to southern Washington state. He was adamant that only a Rottweiler puppy would do, and it had to have a tail that would wag. So, Make-A-Wish found a reputable breeder who had just the right pup for Marvin.

As the puppy grew, Marvin and his family prepared for their addition. Each week, Marvin saw photos of his new friend, and decided to name him Buddy.

What Marvin didn’t realize was how many members of the community were working behind-the-scenes to bring this wish puppy to Alaska.

Buddy had a long trip ahead of him to find his forever home in Marvin’s arms in Alaska, and he made it with the wonderful support of our community. The Harnish Foundation adopted Marvin’s wish, a wish-granting volunteer from Seattle personally escorted Buddy on his flight, and Alaska Airlines made sure Buddy arrived safe and sound. His wish-granting volunteers in Alaska planned logistics and a surprise reveal.

The day of Marvin’s wish came and he arrived at a local mini golf course, thinking this was just a meeting to talk to his volunteers. He didn’t know that his new friend was just around the corner.

There he was: Buddy. A wiggly puppy, ready to spend his life with Marvin.

When people like you get involved with wishes like Marvin’s, real magic happens, and we’re so grateful.

Special thanks to Adopt-A-Wish® sponsor the Harnish Foundation, Windy River Ranch Rottweilers, Petland Inc., Animal House Veterinary Hospital, Alaska Airlines, Pike’s Waterfront Lodge, Glow Putt Alaska and wish-granting volunteers Deb Then, Barbara Gilson and Dorothy Laiti.
Six-year-old Jonathan got a little bit of his childhood back when his wish to go to New York City came true. Hear his family’s story at this year’s Walk.

You can be a star for wish kids

Help us reach every eligible child

We grant a wish every 23 hours, but it’s not enough. 1 in 4 local children who would qualify for a wish are not receiving one.

You can make a difference through Wishes Can’t Wait, a $4 million, four-year initiative to reach and serve every eligible child. Donate $1,000 or more—payable over five years—and your name or honoree of your choice will be engraved on an ornamental star prominently displayed at our Seattle headquarters.

Every seriously-ill child in our community needs and deserves the strength present in a wish. You can help give every child hope and provide a bright, shining light during their darkest days.

Make your pledge online at akwa.wish.org/BeAStar, or contact Jan Jacobs, VP Mission Advancement at 206.623.5314 or jan@akwa.wish.org.
Wishes are waiting
You give kids like Lucy the chance to be a kid again

Six-year-old Lucy navigates the world from the seat of her wheelchair. She’s living with spinal muscular atrophy, a life-threatening medical condition that affects her muscles.

“At times, it’s really difficult,” said Lucy’s mom, Alyssa. “As she gets older...it’s a challenge for her to figure out life in a wheelchair and how she fits in with friends and family.”

But Lucy hasn’t let her medical condition hold her back from what she loves most: writing and performing songs. Her favorites are the songs she writes about friendship and the fun things she can do with her friends.

Now, Lucy has something terrific to look forward to and prepare for: her wish. She’s working with children’s music artist Chris Ballew, AKA Caspar Babypants—who is also widely known as the singer of The Presidents of the United States of America—to bring her lyrics to life, and it’s all because of you.

“Often, kids [with life-threatening medical conditions] judge their situation and what they can’t do. Make-A-Wish encourages them to imagine their lives and their experiences by focusing on the things they can do.”

~Alyssa, wish mom

“Spinal muscular atrophy holds her back from doing things other kids get to do,” said Alyssa. “Make-A-Wish means she can do something special to her that she wouldn’t necessarily get to do any other time.”

Lucy and Caspar Babypants are working together to record her songs and release her very own CD. You can follow along as Lucy’s wish comes true at akwa.wish.org/lucy.

Thank you for helping to make wishes come true for kids like Lucy!
You are part of the Make-A-Wish community

“We refocus childhood that has been interrupted by medical challenges.” That’s how long-time supporter Audrey Seale describes her role at Make-A-Wish.

As a wish-granting volunteer, she meets with families when they are at their most vulnerable and fearful. “I have the privilege of saying we can plan for a wish and dream again,” she said.

Now retired, Audrey finds that her involvement with Make-A-Wish continues to give her purpose. Being part of this community of support has kept her giving her time and talents for 29 years. Audrey and her husband have pledged their financial support for multiple years and are Legacy of Wishes™ members, ensuring the organization has the resources to grant wishes today and in the future by designating an estate gift.

For Audrey, and so many others like her, Make-A-Wish is the conduit that brings together families in need with people who want to help.

Long-time wish-granting volunteer Audrey Seale has granted wishes to more than 140 local kids, like wish kid Audrey (pictured here with her sister), who wished to go to her favorite theme park.

Every June, Audrey eagerly keeps an eye on her mailbox. She’s waiting for graduation announcements from her wish kids. At the completion of each wish, she asks the family to send her an announcement when their child graduates from high school. So far, she’s received dozens of them.

“If hope is the reasonable expectation of a good life that’s safe and free from fear, then sharing hope is a huge gift,” she said. “That’s what Make-A-Wish means to me.”

Did you know you there are ways to support Make-A-Wish that don’t affect your current lifestyle or financial security? You can join Audrey and many other supporters whose commitment ensures wishes for local children for years to come. You can:

• Include Make-A-Wish in your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance or other account.

• Make a tax-free gift from your retirement plan.

• Leave your unused frequent flier miles to Make-A-Wish.

To get started, contact Christina Lui, Director of Trusts, Estates & Gift Planning at 206.623.5341 or christina@akwa.wish.org.

LEGACY of WISHES™