The Well Wisher

Haley’s Life-Changing Wish Comes True!
One Powerful Community

Dear Make-A-Wish Friends,

Here at Make-A-Wish® Massachusetts and Rhode Island, we draw inspiration daily from the thousands of children whose lives we’ve touched, and from you – our dedicated supporters!

As we identify newly eligible children and plan high-quality experiences for them, we know that granting a wish takes more than hard work. Our mission delivery truly depends on the strength and breadth of our network. In fact, Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island was recently honored for the exceptional contributions of our donors, board members, volunteers, and staff. We were selected from among the 61 Make-A-Wish organizations across the country to receive the Power of One award, presented by Make-A-Wish® America. This award recognizes our excellence in wish granting, fundraising, and organizational effectiveness. More so, it is a testament to the deep commitment of the individuals, organizations, and corporations who stand behind us.

This year, we’re broadening this network through enhanced outreach. We’re carefully targeting medical professionals, support groups, and other organizations to raise awareness, and expanding our resources to increase accessibility for non-English speaking families. All of this is with the ultimate goal of ensuring that every eligible child in Massachusetts and Rhode Island receives the transformative experience of a wish.

Our success lies within the strength of our community. Thank you for joining together to enable us to be here for our wish children. We hope that through this newsletter, you will explore new ways to shape your own role as a valued supporter. Whether through a donation, a gift of airline miles, or volunteering, your generosity will help us continue to fulfill the wishes of our courageous wish children.

With gratitude,

Charlotte A. Beattie
Chief Executive Officer

Gregory J. Gailius, Chairman
Board of Directors

OUR MISSION: Make-A-Wish® Massachusetts and Rhode Island grants wishes for children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy.

On our cover: Haley, 6, with her seizure response dog, Sofie. Read more about Haley’s wish on page 5. Photo courtesy of Georgetown Record/Wicked Local Georgetown; photo by David Sokol.
Evening of Wishes Shines

Through the second annual Evening of Wishes, our generous community of supporters in Rhode Island raised $249,000 to help grant wishes in the Ocean State! The event was made possible by sponsors including Star Sponsor Euro-Pro Operating LLC; Wish Sponsors Embrace Home Loans and Bill and Doris Loehnning; and Hope Sponsors A.T. Cross, Arlen Corporation, Fidelity Investments, Gilbane Building Company, MassMutual Southern New England, Salem Foundation, Swarovski, Textron, and UnitedHealth Group. Thank you to these sponsors and to 2013 event chairs Scott and Deanna Donnelly, event committee members, emcee Michelle Muscatello (pictured above with wish child Nick) and auctioneer Tony Petrarca from WPRI Channel 12, our wish family participants, event volunteers, and the over 300 guests who joined us to celebrate the Make-A-Wish mission.

A Star Partner for Macy’s

Macy’s recently honored Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island with the 2013 Macy’s Star Award for collaboration and innovation in the spirit of the retailer’s national Believe campaign. Since 2003, Macy’s has raised more than $73 million nationally for wishes through the Believe and Thanks for Sharing campaigns, including over $2.2 million in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. We thank all who contributed to another successful year by participating in the Macy’s campaigns this past holiday season. In particular, we extend our sincere appreciation to the friends and family (pictured above with Macy’s staff) of wish child Hailey Olson, who honored her memory by collecting and delivering an incredible 4,600 letters to Santa for the Believe campaign!
Volunteers make it happen!

The compassionate work of volunteers like Geraldo, Kim, and Rich enables us to carry out our mission. Become a part of our team of over 600 incredible individuals throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island who brighten children’s lives.

Bilingual Volunteers in High Demand

We continue to need bilingual wish-granting volunteers to work with children and families who speak the following languages: Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin Chinese, and Haitian Creole.

Volunteer Your Professional Skills

Photographers, videographers, architects, general contractors, carpenters, painters... We’re seeking skilled professionals in these specialties and many more. Lend your talent in a meaningful way to help enhance a child’s wish experience!

Summer Internships Available

From wish granting to special events and communications, interns can earn academic credit for their work in one of our three offices: Boston or West Springfield, MA, or East Providence, RI.

For details on these and other volunteer roles, contact Krista Bishop at 617.367.9474 or kbishop@massri.wish.org.

Inspiration from Our Volunteers

GERALDO PAGAN

“I serve as a bridge between two cultures. Having people who understand their language, culture, and needs makes wish children and their families feel more secure and willing to share their dreams.”

Geraldo is a mental health counselor certified in grief and is a native of Puerto Rico. A bilingual wish-granting volunteer in Eastern Massachusetts, he works with Spanish-speaking wish children and their families, ensuring that they understand the wish-granting process and making them feel comfortable every step of the way. Geraldo strongly believes that the hope and happiness that a wish brings to a child are very important for the healing process.

KIM SHERWOOD

“With every new volunteer, Make-A-Wish has one more voice and set of helping hands to be able to grant wishes in our community.”

While working in a coffee shop, Kim was intrigued by a customer wearing a Make-A-Wish button. The woman was a Make-A-Wish volunteer who was returning from seeing a wish family off at the airport. “When I mentioned I’d been considering volunteering, she was so enthusiastic about her own experiences that I was sold!” Kim is a wish-granting and office volunteer in Rhode Island, and also supports special events, including serving on the Walk for Wishes committee.

RICH GEFFIN

“I’ve been volunteering since I was a teen and my work with Make-A-Wish is by far the most fulfilling volunteer experience of my life. It’s the greatest gift to reach out and touch a family in such a positive and direct way.”

Rich works for the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families and learned about our organization through the media. Along with being a wish grantor, he volunteers at special events and also represents the organization as a speaker. Motivated by his insatiable enthusiasm and passion for our mission, several of Rich’s friends and co-workers have become Make-A-Wish volunteers.

Remembering Our Children

With heartfelt sympathy, we express our deepest condolences to the families of the following children who recently passed away:

- Bernadette
- David
- Jill
- Joseph
- Lynn
- Mohamed
- Nathan
- Rayquan
- Thomas

Each child is a star that shines on forever.
Haley’s Life-Changing Wish

Six-year-old Haley loves to play dress up with her dog, Sofie. The scene looks like that of any adoring child and dog, but Sofie is much more than a beloved pet — she is also a service dog for Haley, who experiences up to 50 seizures daily due to Landau-Kleffner syndrome.

More than half of Haley’s seizures occur while she sleeps and this, combined with the fact that her seizures don’t respond to medication, puts Haley at elevated risk for sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP). During hospital stays, Haley was intrigued to meet patients with service dogs. Her epileptologist suggested that her family contact Make-A-Wish and soon after learning she could have a wish granted, Haley shared her request: “I wish for a doggie to keep me safe when I have a seizure.”

Prior to being placed with Haley, Sofie underwent over a year of specialized training to learn over 100 commands. Haley and her family then spent 10 days at a training camp in Nebraska to learn how to speak “Sofie’s language.”

Now, under Sofie’s watchful eyes, Haley can play safely throughout her home and relishes her new independence. From turning on lights to opening the refrigerator, the dog is always ready to help Haley, who has some muscle weakness as a result of her illness. Of course, Sofie’s most important job is to keep Haley safe during seizures. Trained to ring a bell when one occurs, she lies across Haley’s legs to prevent her from injury. And, when Haley requires medical care, Sofie is by her side at the hospital.

“Aside from the tasks she performs, Sofie brings immeasurable comfort to Haley. She is her best friend,” says Haley’s mom, Jill. Through her wish, Haley continues to gain confidence and a sense of normalcy and now dreams of becoming a service dog trainer when she grows up!

Wish Volunteer Team: Lorraine Lewis and Jane Nolan

Haley and Sofie enjoy sledding, a Petco shopping spree as part of Haley’s wish granting, working together on household tasks, and plenty of snuggles.
Wishes Granted ... Thanks to You!

I wish...

to have a playset
Colten, 2

to have a clubhouse
Rachel, 7

Eoin, 16

to have a treehouse
Maeve, 7

to have an above-ground swimming pool
Chase, 4

Destiny, 11

to have a backyard wheelchair swing
Molly, 14

to have a Duet Electro wheelchair tandem bicycle
Lars, 9

to have a dirt bike
Kevin, 16

to have a new wheelchair
Jayden, 3

Erico, 13

to have a seizure response dog
Haley, 6

to have a Maltese puppy
Christina, 7

to have a laptop computer
Nancy, 8

Gavin, 12

Emmett, 18

to have a Microsoft Surface tablet
Kylexia, 14

to have DJ equipment
Leon, 14

to have school tuition support
Julianne, 17

Shea, 18

to have a sweet 16 party
Jaidyn, 16

to have a 17th birthday party
Deanna, 16

to have a room makeover
Daryl, 3

David, 3

Diego, 5

Ayub, 8

Mary, 10

John, 13

Arianna, 14

Kyron, 14

to have a shopping spree
Makai, 3

Kylie, 7

Axel, 10

Matthew, 10

Nolan, 14

Faizah, 16

to make a Christmas music CD
Jasmin, 16

to meet Tom Brady
Richard, 10

Benjamin, 14

to meet Golden State Warrior Stephen Curry
Anthony, 14

to meet reality TV stars Kendall and Kylie Jenner
Alexia, 12

to meet actor Daniel Radcliffe from the Harry Potter movies
Nicholas, 12

to meet Taylor Swift
Erin, 13

Allison, 19

to meet Justin Bieber
Jacob, 12

Julia, 13

to meet rapper T.I.
Rayquann, 18

to attend the New England Patriots’ training camp
Joseph, 15

to meet Magic Tree House author Mary Pope Osborne
Shannon, 17

to be a photographer in Hawaii
Samantha, 18

to go on a Caribbean cruise
Mark, 14

Izadora, 15

James, 16

Matthew, 16

Ato, 18

to go on a Disney cruise
Nia, 4

Oscar, 5

Jackson, 6

Jeihel, 6

Ryan, 10

John, 13

Emma, 14

Robert, 14

to go on a Nickelodeon cruise
Haven, 4

to go to Walt Disney World® Resort
Amy, 2

Alexandra, 3

Angeles, 3

Kavan, 3

Kayden, 3

Kendra, 3

Molly, 3

Natalie, 3

Nathan, 3

Abigail, 4

Camryn, 4

Carmelo, 4

Derick, 4

Isaiah, 4

James, 4

Joseph, 4

Matthew, 4

Sarah, 4

Abullah, 5

Bailey, 5

Camila, 5

Colin, 5

Desiree, 5

Donnivin, 5

Subscribe to our e-newsletter at massri.wish.org/subscribe to receive wish stories, Make-A-Wish news,
to go to Disneyland®
Robert, 3
Vivienne, 4
Jayleen, 8

to go to New Hampshire
Emily, 3
Brian, 7

to go to the Von Trapp Family Lodge in Vermont
Anthony, 6

to go to Cape Cod
Renee, 4

to go to Sanibel Island, Florida
Mary, 16

to go to the Home Ranch in Colorado
to ride horses
Celia, 9

to go to Las Vegas for the Floyd Mayweather boxing match
William, 15

to go to Big Sur, California
John, 16

to go to Legoland in California
Logan, 6
Nathan, 6

to go to San Francisco
to visit Big Sur and Muir Woods
Elizabeth, 15

to go to the San Diego Zoo and SeaWorld
Anataly, 3

to go to Los Angeles for a shopping spree
Miranda, 19

to go to Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas
Maryam, 7
Cameron, 13
Colin, 13
Olivia, 16
Linda, 17
Allison, 18

to go to Hawaii
Natalie, 4
Eleanor, 7
Hannah, 9
Jayson, 10
Kyla, 10
Seth, 12
Derek, 13
Aislinn, 15
Alex, 15
Kailene, 15
Madeline, 16
Allison, 17
Charlotte, 17
Asany, 18

to go to Turks and Caicos
David, 19

to go to Sesame Street at Beaches Turks and Caicos
Oliver, 3

to go to Isla de Roatán, Honduras
Tara, 9

to go to Brazil
Elise, 4

to go to Guatemala
Irbin, 14

to go to Mo’orea
Ned, 12

to go to Japan
Richard, 14

to go to Australia
Sarah, 18

to go to Greece
Blake, 16

to go to Spain
Kevin, 9

to go to Portugal
Brad, 16

to go to France
Jared, 9

to go to Italy
Emily, 15
Julian, 17

Thank you, Carol and Jeanne, for your partnership in helping make wishes come true!
Wine and Spirits Tasting Brings Young Professionals Together

Our inaugural Wine and Spirits Tasting in November welcomed Boston-area young professionals to network and enjoy an evening at Morton’s The Steakhouse | Seaport. Guests were invited to sample wines from around the world and local spirits hand-selected by our Premier Tasting Partner Panther Distributing and additional Tasting Partners Bully Boy Distillers, The Edrington Group, Front Street Gourmet, GrandTen Distilling, KEEL Vodka, and Richer Pour. The event is part of our focus on engaging young professionals in our mission and showcasing the many ways they can support our wish-granting program.

Thank you to Presenting Sponsor Trusted Choice and the Young Agents Committee of the Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents (MAIA) for leading the way to ensure a successful evening; Friend Sponsors John Hancock Financial Services and Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP; Wish Supporter Sponsor John Hancock Investments, and our fantastic event committee for their generous support of the event.

Golfers: Tee up for wish children!

IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

PLAY THE PREMIER COURSE AT SALEM COUNTRY CLUB

22nd Annual Make-A-Wish Golf Tournament | Monday, June 30
Salem Country Club | Peabody, MA | 12:30 PM Shotgun start

Here’s your opportunity to play the renowned Donald Ross-designed course at Salem Country Club, considered one of his finest, which offers challenges for players at every level in a beautiful setting. Gather your colleagues, clients, or friends for a spectacular day of golf (play your own ball) and become a part of this annual tournament, which has helped to grant more than 400 wishes since its inaugural year.

For sponsorship and player opportunities, or to donate an auction item: Katherine Layton, klayton@massri.wish.org, 617.367.9474, or visit massri.wish.org

IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Make-A-Wish Golf Classic | Monday, June 9
Springfield Country Club | West Springfield, MA | 12:00 PM Shotgun start

For sponsorship and player opportunities, or to donate an auction item: Peg Wheble, pwheble@massri.wish.org, 413.733.9474, or visit massri.wish.org

18 HOLES OF GOLF | LUNCH | COCKTAIL RECEPTION | AUCTION | DINNER AND AWARDS

Wine and Spirits Tasting Brings Young Professionals Together

Saturday, April 5
7:00-11:00 PM
Longmeadow Country Club
Longmeadow, MA
Food Stations
Auction
Large Screen TV’s

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, contact Peg Wheble at 413.733.9474 or pwheble@massri.wish.org
A Wish Come True Begins With You

Childhood is a time to embrace carefree happiness and possibility, yet for a wish child, life holds worry and uncertainty. As we work to grant 400 wishes this year, your support will move us closer to this goal. More importantly, you have the opportunity to lead a seriously ill child to joy!

Sponsor a Child’s Wish… and transform a life forever

With a gift of $7,500 or more, you can sponsor the wish of a child like Eleanor (pictured at right), who wished to go to Hawaii. As a Wish Sponsor, you will receive the story of the wish you granted. Sponsoring a wish is a meaningful opportunity for families, organizations, businesses, and community groups to support our mission and transform a child’s life forever.

Become a Wishmaker Club Member

Help grant wishes all year long by joining our monthly Wishmaker® Club through a monthly pledge of $15 or more. Last year, our Wishmakers collectively granted six-year-old Anna’s wish to visit her favorite theme park in Florida, providing her with an enchanted respite from cancer treatment. As a Wishmaker Club member, you will enable us to grant more wishes like Anna’s in the months ahead. With convenient payment options, it’s simple to lend your loyal support!

**Leadership Giving**

Major gifts play a critical role in ensuring that no child ever has to wait to experience the joy of a wish come true. Your one-time or multi-year gift through our Leadership Giving program will build our wish-granting capacity now and into the future. As a major donor, you will help us reach our ultimate goal of granting the wish of every medically-eligible child in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

**Planned Giving**

Hope. Strength. Joy. This can be your legacy when you name Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island as a beneficiary of your estate. Please contact us for specific bequest language to include in your will and to explore additional planned giving options. Your enduring generosity will bring joy to tomorrow’s wish children!

For further details on these giving opportunities and to explore additional ways you can support wishes, contact Laura LeTourneau at 617.367.9474 or lletourneau@massri.wish.org or visit massri.wish.org.

**YOU HOLD THE TICKET TO A CHILD’S WISH™**

Your frequent flier miles from Delta, United, US Airways, and JetBlue will help children travel to their wish destinations. Once donated, miles never expire. Call 888.354.9474 or visit massri.wish.org/miles to donate.

**DONATE YOUR USED VEHICLE**

For details and to arrange a free pickup: 877.431.9474 or massri.wheelsforwishes.org
Wishmakers On Campus®

Over the past year, the NCAA Division II schools in our territory raised a collective $16,565 to grant two wishes! Thank you to the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee leadership at the following colleges for their terrific fundraising: American International College, Assumption College, Bentley University, Merrimack College, Stonehill College, and UMass Lowell.

Northeastern University Rowing Club members rallied around their teammate Riordan (pictured below in sweatshirt), recently diagnosed with cancer, to raise money to grant a wish in his honor. Quickly surpassing their original goal of $7,500, the team raised over $10,000!

Inside the Traynor Winter Classic

From coaching their sons’ teams to building a rink every winter, Greg and Gwen Traynor (left) of Hingham, MA, love hockey. A few years ago, the couple hosted a casual backyard hockey tournament with friends. Now, it’s grown into an annual gathering coupled with a cocktail party at the South Shore Country Club to benefit Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Greg and Gwen pour their energy into organizing the Traynor Winter Classic and friends support them in many aspects of the fundraiser. “We didn’t fully comprehend what a wish means until we met wish families through the event,” Greg observes. “Not only are these extremely courageous kids, but hearing from their parents, you understand the impact a wish has on the entire family.”

Through the 2012 and 2013 Traynor Winter Classic, nearly $75,000 was raised. “We’ve helped grant eight wishes so far, and this inspires and motivates us to do more,” says Gwen. And, proceeds from the Traynors’ recent 2014 event will mean even more wishes granted!

Host an event to make wishes come true! From the traditional to the creative, your fundraiser will help us grant every wish request we receive in 2014. In Massachusetts: Contact Alexandra Van Strien, 617.367.9474, avanstrien@massri.wish.org. In Rhode Island: Contact Meredith Cleasby, 401.781.9474, mcleasby@massri.wish.org.

Recent Community Events

Thank you to the event organizers and participants who have supported wishes through community fundraisers in recent months, including those highlighted here.

1 TMC Environmental’s Laura Gaspa, Director of Human Resources and Compliance (left), and Matthew Clark, President and CEO, celebrate proceeds from the company’s golf tournament with wish mom Joanne O’Connell. The Northborough, MA, event raised nearly $30,000 in its fifth year of supporting wishes.

2 Event Chair Dan Lundy and Co-Chair Maureen Lundy presented a check for $20,000 at the Fourth Annual Foundation Day and Evening Gala, hosted by the Hopkinton Country Club Charitable Foundation in Hopkinton, MA.

3 Bella Sera Bridal hosted Wishing on a Starry Night in Danvers, MA, a fashion show that raised over $17,000 and included wish recipients Ashley (pictured) and Vanessa among its models.

4 Over the past four years, the Rhode Island Physical Therapy Campaign, led by Kevin Silvia of Performance Physical Therapy (pictured second from right with staff) has raised $19,000 through a fundraising competition among 30+ physical therapy clinics in Rhode Island.

Visit massri.wish.org/calendar for upcoming community events.
Corporate Partner Salute: Columbia Management

Columbia Management is a loyal corporate sponsor of Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island through nearly two decades of generous support. The company is one of the longest-standing participants in our holiday tribute program, honoring its clients annually through a holiday card featuring artwork drawn by a wish child.

“We are incredibly pleased to support Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island and its beautiful and inspiring mission to bring hope, strength, and joy to critically-ill children,” says William F. “Ted” Truscott, CEO Global Asset Management.

Columbia Management has helped to grant 50 children’s wishes since 1997 through its strong and exemplary partnership, and we thank the company for sharing the joy of our mission with its clients and transforming children’s lives through its ongoing generosity.

Columbia Management is a leading investment manager. Learn more at columbiamanagement.com.

Joy Blossoms with Winston Flowers

This year marks three years of partnership with Winston Flowers through its Charity in Bloom program. By donating 20% of sales of the January 2014 Charity in Bloom Make-A-Wish arrangement, the florist contributed $13,325, for a three-year total of $36,000 raised for wishes. We’re grateful to our friends at Winston Flowers for their ongoing support and to everyone who participated in this fresh promotion!

Swing for Wishes this May

Swing for Wishes is among the most successful annual community events in Central Massachusetts and the golf tournament returns on May 12 for a fourteenth year. Enjoy a day on the course at Hopkinton Country Club in Hopkinton, MA, along with contests, auctions, meals, and camaraderie. Visit swingforwishes.org for details and registration. Thank you to our Swing for Wishes friends who have raised over $700,000 for wishes since the event’s inception! Pictured are (back row, left to right) Swing for Wishes committee members Dave Degon and Mike Stowe with wish child Ryan and his family.

Helping Wishes Soar

The Boston Consulting Group held a contest in its Boston office with three floors competing to donate the most miles. Thanks to our friends at The Boston Consulting Group for going the extra mile to help transport children to their cherished wish destinations! Contact Jo-Anne Spillane at 617.367.9474 or jspillane@massri.wish.org to host a corporate miles-raising campaign at your company.

Runners: Join Our Falmouth Road Race Team

Fifteen spots are available on the Make-A-Wish team for the 2014 New Balance Falmouth Road Race on August 17, 2014. Run this scenic seven-mile race on Cape Cod in support of our wish children! Runners pay a $150 registration fee, commit to a $750 fundraising minimum, and will receive fundraising tips and support. Pictured (from left) Sally Fassler, Tom Dorsi, and Suzanne Viens. Contact Alexandra Van Strien at 617.367.9474 or avanstrien@massri.wish.org to register.

To learn about the many ways your business or organization can help grant wishes, contact Jo-Anne Spillane at 617.367.9474 or jspillane@massri.wish.org.
Your class or youth group can help wishes come true

Kids For Wish Kids® enables students in grades K-12 to discover philanthropy while helping to grant wishes!

Students brainstorm creative fundraising ideas and develop plans of action, then watch their ideas come to life. They develop leadership skills, build teamwork and self-esteem, and learn the joy of giving while making a difference in the life of a wish child.

To learn more, visit massri.wish.org or contact Alexandra Van Strien at 617.367.9474 or avanstrien@massri.wish.org.

Left: Students at Old Post Road School in Walpole, MA, host an annual spelling bee that has raised over $18,000 for wishes in three years.