Dear Make-A-Wish Friends,

Wishes bring people together. From volunteers and corporate friends, to in-kind supporters and wish children giving back, thousands of community members come together each year, inspired and united by our mission.

This issue of The Well Wisher highlights just some of the many ways that you collectively help to strengthen the spirits of seriously ill children through your compassion, creativity, and generosity. We draw so much inspiration from your commitment as members of our Make-A-Wish family and we are reminded every day that your partnership is vital to our mission.

As we continue to face an unprecedented increase in the number of eligible children referred to our organization, we are on our way to granting more wishes than ever before! This growth means that through your support, we are gaining ground on our vision of granting the wish of every medically eligible child in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Thank you for your role in this progress!

With so many wishes on the horizon, we invite you to further engage with our organization to ensure that we can remain responsive to every child’s wish request. Whether you join us for one of our upcoming events, donate your frequent flier miles, become a volunteer, or decide to make a renewed gift, your support and involvement will continue to make a true impact.

Thank you for coming together to make children’s wishes come true!

With sincere appreciation,

Robert L. Paglia, Chairman, Board of Directors
Charlotte A. Beattie, Chief Executive Officer

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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.

Subscribe to email updates at massri.wish.org/subscribe

On our cover: Ethan wished for a pirate-themed treehouse. See page 5 for more about his wish. Cover photo courtesy of Fran Colonna.
Gala Grants Over 100 Wishes

More than 100 wishes will come true thanks to the generosity of Make-A-Wish Gala supporters, who collectively contributed over $1 million through our April 9 event at the InterContinental Boston. With the theme of “Where Wishes Empower” and emcee Liz Brunner at the helm, it was an engaging evening that treated nearly 500 guests to stories of the empowering impact of our mission — from Maleah’s wish to be a model to Sarah’s wish to help a family in need. We’re so grateful to everyone who came together to support wish children through the event!

For more on the 2106 Make-A-Wish Gala, visit massri.wish.org/gala

Nelson Family Receives Wish Hero Award

When Chris and Lori Nelson granted 15-year-old DJ’s wish live on stage during the Make-A-Wish Gala, it was a celebration of their family’s 20-year tradition of creating hope, strength, and joy for wish children. The Nelson Family was honored with the 2016 Wish Hero Award in recognition of their extraordinary leadership and profound commitment to our mission. Chris’ parents, John and Judy, initiated the family’s involvement with Make-A-Wish in 1997, reflecting Judy’s passion for enriching children’s lives. Steadfast supporters and advocates for our wish children, the Nelsons have helped to grant hundreds of life-changing wishes. A truly inspiring family, the Nelsons have empowered children like DJ — as well as our entire organization — beyond measure!

Thank you TO OUR 2016 MAKE-A-WISH GALA MAJOR SPONSORS

PRESENTING SPONSORS
Steve and Deborah Barnes BainCapital
The Nelson Family Foundation

PREMIER SPONSORS
Josh and Anita Bekenstein
Jonathan and Jeannie Lavine
Volunteer Captains Program Debuts

With recent growth in wish numbers comes the need not only to expand our resources, but also to ensure that we are leveraging existing resources to the fullest. To address both of these needs, we’ve added an exciting new component to our volunteer structure: the Volunteer Captains Program! This program will help us expand and enhance our volunteer base as volunteer captains work with team volunteers in their local regions to assist our staff with volunteer recruitment and onboarding. Captains will also focus on increasing awareness of and support for our organization in their communities. We look forward to tapping into the creativity, energy, and local expertise of our captains and their teams to deepen engagement across our entire volunteer base.

Congratulations to the following individuals who were recently welcomed aboard as volunteer captains and their team members:

RHODE ISLAND:
Edward Cameron*
Carroll-Anne Ciminello
David Tagliatela
Jo-Anne Passarelli
Tony Sampaio
Kendra Malizia

ESSEX COUNTY, MA:
Kristen Hunt*
Daniel Donovan
John Clifford
Lisa Lane
Hannah Commass

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MA:
Melissa Maslin*
Ann Wortman
Maureen Beaulac
Raychel Mahoney

SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA:
Scott Tria*
Fatima Al-Mutawakel
Mark Marcello

NORFOLK COUNTY, MA:
Amy S. Killeen*
Alison Jette
Kathleen Whalen
Kathleen Shannon
Tammy Rausch

WORCESTER COUNTY, MA:
Tony Spangenberg
Elizabeth Estabrooks
Sandra Backstrom
Kent Songer

PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MA:
Colleen Gallagher*
Annmarie Raymond
Phyllis Padula
Sarah Costello
Krista Thurstone
Jayne Kelleher

BRISTOL COUNTY, MA:
Ellen Fortin*
Steve Fortin

HAMPDEN AND HAMPSHIRE COUNTIES, MA:
Richard Geffin
Kate Lin Hamer
Erin Tassinari
Will Tassinari
Heather Bushey

* Denotes Volunteer Captains

As we expand, we need more hands!
Become a Make-A-Wish Volunteer
Wish Granting | Special Events | Office Support | Creative Services...and more

There’s a place for you on our volunteer team! Help us keep up with growth in wishes by giving your time and talent. With a range of focus areas and time commitments, you’re sure to find an opportunity that’s right for you.

Current priority needs include:
• Volunteers in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts
• Skilled volunteers in the areas of painting, design, and construction
• Bilingual volunteers (particularly Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic)
• Volunteers and interns for our Boston, West Springfield, and Providence offices

To learn more about volunteering or to share your ideas for volunteer recruitment: Krista Bishop, 617.367.9474 or kbishop@massri.wish.org

CHEERS TO VOLUNTEERS
Shout-outs to just a few of our outstanding volunteers on exciting recent accomplishments:

CHRIS SCARCELLA
Quincy, MA
Chris was honored by the Huntington’s Disease Society of America at its May gala for his work both as an advocate for people affected by Huntington’s Disease and for his outstanding volunteerism, including with Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Chris has volunteered with us since 2004 and currently spends two days a week in our Boston office.

MONIQUE VACON
Monson, MA
Monique was recently crowned Miss Bay State! In July, she will compete for the title of Miss Massachusetts and the chance to represent Massachusetts in the Miss America Pageant. A Make-A-Wish volunteer since 2014, Monique has worked on over a dozen wishes and has also volunteered at many of our events.
Surveying his forested sea, Ethan proudly captains The Wish Ship. His pirate treehouse is just how he pictured — the perfect melding of his creative drawings and the skilled work of Liberty Construction Services.

Ethan, seven, has complex congenital heart disease and a connective tissue disorder that leaves his organs susceptible to damage. He often feels severely fatigued and short of breath, and may need heart surgery in the future.

“His wish has done wonders for him, reducing the stress he carries with him from being sick. Ethan’s treehouse is a quiet place for him to escape into his own little world,” says his mom, Pamela.

Ethan was ecstatic to welcome the Liberty Construction crew into his yard for 10 days as his wish took shape before his eyes. An affiliate of Suffolk Construction Company, Liberty donated all labor and materials and made Ethan and his brother feel part of the team. “The crew was so caring. They really blended in like family,” Pamela recalls.

“Ethan’s treehouse is a meaningful example of our company values in action,” says Chris King, president of Liberty Construction. “We focus on innovation and collaboration to empower people and engage in the community. It was such an honor and incredibly rewarding to use our technical expertise and creativity to make a difference for Ethan and his family.”

Perched at the top of Ethan’s treehouse is a crow’s nest, from which Ethan loves to scout for pirates. A captain’s bunk serves as his clubhouse and home base for much-needed family time, as he invites his family in for cozy movie nights. Most of all, Ethan loves hosting playdates on his towering ship.

“Now, when faced with limits on his activities, Ethan says, ‘It’s okay, I have a special heart, so I got a special treehouse.’ My son really is brighter and happier since receiving his wish!”

Overjoyed to experience his treasured vision made real, this young buccaneer’s confidence soars as he embarks on the high “trees” for adventure!

Ethan’s wish volunteer team: Linda Merloni and Kristen Allain

During his ribbon-cutting ceremony, Ethan is joined by Chris King from Liberty Construction, tries out his slide, and poses with his family.
I wish...

to be a model
Maleah, 5

to have a pug puppy
Steven, 12

to have an iPad delivered by Barney
Andrese, 4

to have a computer
Ali, 12
Connor, 14
Sam, 17

to have medical equipment
Alexis, 9
Roger, 14
Ashish, 18

to have an adaptive bicycle
Yomiah, 5

to have a pair of Nike Air Mag Back to the Future sneakers
Donald, 15

to have my yard fenced in
Adriana, 6

to have a fifth birthday party
Majed, 5

to have a festa de 15 anos
Anni, 15

to have a celebration of life party
Anthony, 18

to have a Swiss Family Robinson-themed treehouse
Maxwell, 5

to have a room makeover
Jillian, 8
Danielle, 11

to have a Bruins-themed movie room
Timothy, 15

to have a shopping spree
Laura, 4
T'Andre, 4
Ashley, 6
Betty, 8
Lucy, 9
Eleannys, 11
Christina, 13
Adrian, 15
Andrew, 15
James, 15
Andy, 17
Benjamin, 17
Eddie, 17
Anthony, 18

to have a swim spa
Sydni, 10

to meet Zdeno Chara
Cameron, 17

to meet Patrice Bergeron
Gregory, 17

to meet David Ortiz
Obier, 8

to meet Tom Brady
Gabriel, 6
Brendan, 9
Bayrelisse, 10
Connor, 15

to meet San Antonio Spurs player
Tim Duncan
Emmett, 14

to meet Chris Brown
Alana, 11

to meet Taylor Swift
Cheyanna, 11

to meet Pentatonix
Zoe, 13

to meet Prince Royce
Gloria, 15

to meet Bayside Band
Daniel, 16

to meet Zendaya from KC Undercover
Eleanor, 9
Olivia, 11

to meet actress Lupita Nyong’o
Mira, 15

to meet Phillip Frankland Lee from Top Chef
Robin, 18

to meet YouTube personality Nathan Smith
Megan, 11

to meet YouTube personality Mark Fischbach
Daniel, 13

to meet Princesses Elsa and Anna from Frozen
Mary, 5

to visit the set of The Voice
Marie, 13

to go to a taping of The Big Bang Theory
Ken, 13

to go to Super Bowl 50
Ewan, 12
Andrew, 17

to go to Alaska to see the Northern Lights
Brianna, 16

to go to Great Wolf Lodge
Sean, 4
Samuel, 5

to go to Tradewinds Resort in Florida
Joshua, 4

to go to Legoland in Florida
Cameron, 9

to go to Puerto Rico
Matthew, 18
Kyle, 19

to go on a Disney cruise
Christian, 3
Luke, 6
Alexander, 10
Amelia, 10
Christopher, 15

to go on a cruise to the Bahamas
Alexandra, 19

to go to Walt Disney World Resort
Leyana, 2 ½
Retail, 2 ½
Abigail, 3
Aiden, 3
Alexander, 3
Analynah, 3
Angelle, 3
Audrey, 3
Walt Disney World® Resort (continued)
Cheyenne, 3
Connor, 3
Emmanuel, 3
Ethan, 3
Gabriela, 3
Jayda, 3
MacKenzie, 3
Maxim, 3
Oliver, 3
Todd, 3
Wilberto, 3
Alison, 4
Betty, 4
Brooklyn, 4
Cara, 4
David, 4
Daydan, 4
Hunter, 4
Jack, 4
Jackson, 4
Leidy, 4
Logan, 4
Noelle, 4
Obier, 8
brain tumor
I wish to meet David Ortiz

Mira, 15
liver transplant
I wish to meet Lupita Nyong’o

Nylah, 4
Stacey, 4
Tessa, 4
Antonio, 5
Arielle, 5
Briella, 5
Celia, 5
Jane, 5
Jenny, 5
Kalli, 5
Khaled, 5
Kiley, 5
Laura, 5
Mackenzie, 5
Mark, 5
Olivia, 5
Othman, 5
Sorella, 5
Victor, 5
Alison, 6
Amit, 6
Caden, 6
Christian, 6
Christina, 6
Cooper, 6
David, 6
Kathryn, 6
Kaylee, 6
Kileigh, 6
Matthew, 6
Tanner, 6
Yamely, 6
Aaden, 7
Alexander, 7
Allison, 7
Anna, 7
Daniel, 7
James, 7
Kaylin, 7
Lilyana, 7
Meredith, 7
Samuel, 7
Angel, 8
Emery, 8
Emily, 8
Ethan, 8
Kyle, 8
Saod, 8
Seneca, 8
Alyssa, 9
Athyn, 9
Demian, 9
Leah, 9
Leanne, 9
Noah, 9
Daniel, 10
Jennifer, 10
Kaitlyn, 10
Michael, 10
Samantha, 10
Bennett, 11
Hadia, 11
Julianna, 11
Molly, 11
Nicole, 11
Tyler, 11
Angela, 12
Dylan, 13
James, 13
Polina, 13
Alexis, 14
Andrew, 14
Haille, 14
Waleed, 14
Karen, 15
Kylie, 15
Sally, 15
Ann, 16
Marissa, 16
Austin, 17
Matthew, 17
Latifah, 18

Steven, 12
Diamond-Blackfan anemia
I wish to have a pug puppy

to go to Disneyland® Resort
Philip, 3
Fred, 4
Darla, 6
Stephanie, 12

to go to Hawaii
to see where Magnum P.I. was filmed
Letty, 6

to go to Hawaii
Amaya, 5
Benjamin, 7
Carley, 7
Avery, 8
Olivia, 8
Helen, 9
Emily, 11
Kya, 11
Bella, 12
Shane, 12
Eric, 13
Gisela, 13
Rosie, 13
Zendaya, 13
Andrea, 14
Julia, 14
Oriah, 14
Hannah, 15
Corey, 16
Michael, 16
Natasha, 18

to go to Aruba
Jared, 19

to go to Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas
Jesse, 5
Amaya, 7
Connor, 10
Leigha, 12

to go to Beaches Turks and Caicos
Julia, 7
Robert, 13
James, 16

to go to Jamaica
Michael, 18

to visit family in the Dominican Republic
Isaac, 9
Alexa, 18

to go to Cape Verde
Zaider, 11

to go on an African safari
Kaitlyn, 16
Sasha, 17

to go to Japan
Monet, 17

to go to the Galapagos Islands
Louis, 10

to go to Costa Rica
to see monkeys in their natural habitat
Addison, 3

to go to Costa Rica
Any, 15
Ashley, 17

to go to Ireland
Luke, 14

to go to Paris to take a French cooking class
Nylin, 9

to go to a Real Madrid soccer match
David, 18
A Snapshot of Recent Events

Thank you to all who supported our recent special events!
For details on the Make-A-Wish Gala, see page 3.

Hoops Fans Score Big for Wishes through Swish Night

Together, basketball fans scored a slam dunk as they raised over $135,000 at our April 2 Swish Night event. A crowd of close to 300 gathered at Longmeadow Country Club in Western Massachusetts to celebrate wishes while enjoying championship college basketball, and the evening was made possible by Premier Sponsors Dr. and Mrs. Philip T. Glynn and Ron and Brenna Sadowsky. Thank you to our sponsors, committee members, volunteers, and guests whose teamwork yielded tremendous success.

Swish Night Committee Chair Philip Glynn, MD (right) and committee member Arthur Grodd.

An Evening of Wishes and Inspiration

More than 250 supporters shared in an Evening of Wishes at the Omni Providence in Rhode Island on May 21, helping to generate $260,000 for Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island! We are grateful to our generous sponsors including Premier Sponsor Delta Dental of Rhode Island, our featured wish children and parents, emcee Michelle Muscatello from WPRI-TV, and our committee members and volunteers. Together, they helped to create a fabulous event!

Ed Cooley, Providence College men’s basketball coach (left), with wish parents Jan and Joseph Nagle, who also represent Evening of Wishes Premier Sponsor Delta Dental of Rhode Island.

Remembering Our Wish Children

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

Katherine A.  Isabella C.  Samuel F.  Luis M.
Mary A.      Nicholas C.  Serena G.  Analayah P.
Alana B.     Sally C.    Joseph H.  Bella P-S.
Alicia B.    Javier D.   Albert J.  Adrianna R.
Jocelyn B. L. Danny F.  Donovan L.  Eric R.
Damone C.    Nathan F.   Roshany L.  Melvin S-C.

Each child is a star that shines on forever.

JEANS FOR WISHES®
An easy way to show your support

This summer, organize a dress-down day or week at work to support our wish children during the busiest wish-granting season of the year. Whether jeans, sports jerseys, or Hawaiian shirts, you will feel good and do good, too!

For details and to get started: Alexandra Van Strien, 617.367.9474, avanstrien@massri.wish.org
2016 Brewski Park Wiffle Ball Tournament winners Greg Keene (left), also the tournament organizer and a past wish recipient; Armand Menegay; and Brad Adams. More than 50 players competed in this year’s tournament.

Wish Recipient Steps Up to the Plate
Wiffle ball tournament honors lasting joy of wishes

Watching the wiffle ball action in Greg Keene’s backyard in Westwood, MA, it’s hard to believe the idyllic scene grew out of a devastating health crisis. It’s been seven years since Greg’s wish for a ballfield was granted, and “Brewski Park,” named after his dog, continues to be a beloved place where friendships and community spirit are celebrated — and the lasting joy of his wish touches everyone.

Rewind to 2006, when Greg, then a seventh grader, organized a wiffle ball league to play on his homemade field. Two years later, the athletic high school freshman was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic lymphoma. For his wish, Greg envisioned a Fenway Park replica to replace his deteriorating ballfield and more importantly, to keep him connected to family and friends. He celebrated the opening of his new field in May of 2009.

Greg now supports wishes on this very field! In May, 14 teams competed morning to night in the fifth annual Brewski Park Wiffle Ball Tournament. Since Greg’s tournament began in 2012, this persevering and selfless team player has raised nearly $20,000 as his wish keeps on giving!

HOST AN EVENT TO HELP GRANT WISHES
Have a fundraising idea? Contact us and we’ll help you get started: 888.354.9474 or info@massri.wish.org

Donate your frequent flier miles!
You can defray airfare costs – our biggest wish-granting expense – by donating your frequent flier miles and encouraging your contacts to do the same.

To donate your miles or for details: massri.wish.org/miles 888.354.9474

Participating Airlines:
- Delta
- United Airlines
- American Airlines
- JetBlue
- NEW: Southwest Airlines Rapid Rewards Members can now donate their points!

Millions of Miles Needed

Donated miles do not expire. Low mileage donation minimums mean everyone can donate!

With over 150 wishes and counting to grant by August 31, our wish children need your support!

Three easy ways to make your summertime gift:
1. Give online: massri.wish.org/donate
2. Make your gift by phone: 888.354.9474
3. Donate by mail:
   1 Bulfinch Place, 2nd Floor
   Boston, MA 02114
In Good Company

Corporate support is essential for our wish-granting program and we’re grateful to each of our corporate partners for their incredible generosity and for sharing our mission.

Big Support from Big Y Foods

In honor of its 80th Anniversary, Big Y Foods, Inc., a locally-owned grocery store chain headquartered in Springfield, MA, sold “Wish Stars” at checkout at all Big Y World Class Markets. The March promotion raised $150,000 for Make-A-Wish® Massachusetts and Rhode Island and Make-A-Wish® Connecticut! “As a local and family owned and operated company, we strive to give back to the communities we serve. We are proud to partner with Make-A-Wish to bring joy to local children and their families through programs that involve both our employees and our customers,” says Donald D’Amour, CEO of Big Y World Class Markets. Thank you to our Big Y friends and customers for supporting wishes!

Left to right: Jim Wilson, Franklin Store Director; Elizabeth D’Amour and her husband, Charles D’Amour, who is President and COO of Big Y Foods; wish parents Kirsten and Mark Parisi; our board chair Bob Paglia; and (front row) Kirsten and Mark’s sons, Caeden and Devin, who are both wish children.

Macy’s Surpasses Giving Milestone

The Macy’s Thanks For Sharing and Believe campaigns raised over $10 million nationwide in 2015! Since 2003, Macy’s has donated more than $93 million to Make-A-Wish, helping over 11,000 children across the country to experience a wish come true, drawing strength and courage as they fight their illnesses. Thank you to Macy’s and to all of the local customers who participated in the 2015 campaigns, which raised a total of $283,000 in Massachusetts and Rhode Island!

Individual, twosome, and foursome spots still available!

One Day, Two Ways to Tee Up for Wishes
MONDAY, JUNE 27

The 24th Annual Make-A-Wish Golf Tournament
Salem Country Club, Peabody, MA
12:30 p.m. Shotgun start
Site of the 2017 U.S. Senior Open Championship

The 2016 Make-A-Wish Golf Classic
Springfield Country Club, West Springfield, MA
12:00 p.m. Shotgun start

Details and sponsorship opportunities for both events: massri.wish.org/golf

Attention Runners!

Run the scenic New Balance Falmouth Road Race on Cape Cod on August 21 as a Team Running for Wishes member.
For details and to apply: massri.wish.org/falmouth.
CORPORATE SUPPORT AND EVENTS

Subaru’s Love for Wishes Grows

A hearty salute goes out to Bertera Subaru of West Springfield, MA, for being a driving force and raising $55,000 for wishes in conjunction with the 2015 Subaru of America, Inc. Share the Love event! Bertera chose Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island as its “hometown charity,” making our organization eligible for donations above and beyond those generated through the national promotion. We also extend thanks to all of the Subaru dealerships and customers who participated in Share the Love, which raised more than $3 million for Make-A-Wish nationwide.

Dave & Buster’s is Game for Wishes

We’re grateful and proud that local Dave & Buster’s locations in Braintree and Woburn, MA, and Providence, RI, are tops in fundraising for wishes among the company’s restaurant and arcade locations nationwide! Donations are generated through “Wish Star” sales and special menu items, and the company generously provides in-kind support to enhance our children’s wishes. What’s more, Dave & Buster’s recently surpassed the $1 million fundraising mark on a national level.

For details, visit daveandbusters.com/make-a-wish.

Airline Mileage Campaigns Go the Distance

Recent corporate campaigns hosted by MFS Investment Management, Bain Capital, and other major local companies resulted in a combined total of over four million donated frequent flier miles! We’re very thankful for these miles, which helped to grant more than a dozen wishes including Carley’s wish to go to Hawaii and David’s wish to go to a Real Madrid game.

Host a mileage campaign at your company! Contact Jo-Anne Spillane at 617.367.9474 or jspillane@massri.wish.org.

Save The Dates
Details as available: massri.wish.org/events

Trailblaze Challenge
NEW!

30 miles. 1 day.
Saturday, October 1
The Berkshires

Join us for adventure, fun, and fitness during our first-ever Trailblaze Challenge! This 30-mile endurance hike on the Mahican-Mohawk Trail is open to all levels and every step will help blaze a trail to wishes come true.

Contact Peg Wheble at 413.733.9474 or pwheble@massri.wish.org to learn more about participating or sponsoring the hike.

Wine & Wishes 2016

Atop Beacon Hill in Boston
Friday, October 14
The University of Massachusetts Club

Don’t miss our fourth annual tasting event, featuring fine wine and whiskey, light food pairings, an auction and raffle, and more. Enjoy sweeping views of Boston while you sip and mingle!

To attend or sponsor the event, contact Katherine Layton at 617.367.9474 or klayton@massri.wish.org.

Bertera Subaru of West Springfield General Manager Shawn Sullivan and wish children Ella (left) and Olivia.
Planned Giving:
Joy for today,
strength for tomorrow.

Empower our next generation of wish children with a planned gift.

Maleah’s wish to be a model transformed the shy five-year-old into a confident girl brimming with hope. No longer focused on the limitations of her illness, she continues to draw strength from her unforgettable joyful wish experience.

Help our organization remain strong for tomorrow! It’s never too early to plan for the future by naming Make-A-Wish® Massachusetts and Rhode Island as a beneficiary of your estate.

To learn more about making a planned gift, or to notify us that you have included Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island in your estate, contact: Laura LeTourneau, 617.367.9474, lletourneau@massri.wish.org.