

The Wish Connection

Quarterly Newsletter Issue 44

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Joshua's Wish



Joshua has always been interested in theater and drama. During high school, he joined a theater troupe which performed at Renaissance Fairs all over the northwest United States. During one performance, Jack and Denise, his parents, noticed it was difficult for Joshua to speak his lines. It was as if he was straining, in a whispered voice, in order to deliver the lines. This began the lengthy search for what would be causing this condition. Joshua underwent eight surgeries, countless tests and many procedures to increase the size of Joshua's trachea. Jack and Denise did

countless hours of research on the internet, connected with doctors, families and anyone who could possibly lend insight to what may be causing Joshua's difficulties with breathing and speaking. It took many doctor's visits, specialist and referrals but finally there was the diagnosis of Wegener's Granulomatosis. This diagnosis was made by specialist at the Mayo Clinic. The family began treatment right away.

Two years into the process of dealing with Joshua's illness, he was referred to Wishing Star. In the initial paperwork Jack wrote, "The past two years have been a challenging time for my family. Our son was always healthy and active and involved in all sorts of activities. When he was admitted into Virginia Mason the diameter of the opening in his trachea was the size of a straw." (The healthy trachea size is about the diameter of a quarter.)

Initially, Joshua wavered at being granted a wish because he just wanted to be a normal kid. But, after careful deliberation and work with one of the Tri-Cities chapter volunteers, he made his wish. His wish was to see the Tony award winning musical Avenue Q. Naturally, the best place to see a show such as this is on Broadway. Jack, Denise and younger brother, Curtis had never heard of this production but they were excited for Joshua's wish to come true.

The family and Wish Director emailed and called to make all the plans for this wish trip. During one of the telephone calls, Jack mentioned that another favorite show of the family's was The Lion King. The generosity of Disney came out

once again, as the Disney producers donated tickets for the family to see this show also. For Joshua, being able to see two Broadway shows, was even more than he had wished. Each show was so unique, extraordinary and different that there was no way to say which one was better.

Recently, Jack shared, "Joshua loved the musical and bought tee shirts to bring home to friends.

Now he is a junior at Central Washington University where he is majoring in math intending to be a high school math teacher."

Joshua went to the Mayo Clinic last fall and got the word that he could attend school away from home and the safety of his parents who watch over his medication and daily treatment routine.

Joshua's parents are both teachers in their local schools. Jack spent last school year as a counselor and mentor in the school system. This required him to spend time in more schools in the district. One day last spring he was at the high school where his son Joshua attended and Curtis was currently attending.

Jack heard the commotion of students in the hall. They were going to the gym. Jack decided to tag along. As he stood by the doorway, watching silently, he saw colored paper everywhere.

The students had assembled to present the Tri-Cities chapter of Wishing Star with a check for \$5000. The classes had competed with one another to make the longest paper chain. This paper chain was created by students purchasing a link for \$.25 each. The total number of links in this chain was 20,000. It was in that moment that Jack realized what was truly happening with the work of these kids. This simple effort of a paper chain, by the kids he worked with on a daily basis, was truly an effort to help his son's wish come true.



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Starlight Volunteer

Highlighting Linda Schroeder

Quilts for a Cause, is a fundraiser created by Linda Schroeder. Linda is an avid and prolific quilter who has been a Wishing Star volunteer for over 10 years. Recently, Linda agreed to lend her sewing expertise to Wishing Star for a third year. In the past she has been named our Person of the Year and our Volunteer of the



Linda Schroeder

Year. She has received various other service awards, contributed regularly to the Blankie Program and worked as an office volunteer weekly until the quilting bug took her away. This year Linda created over 70 items ranging from children's quilts to full size quilts. Her husband, Bob, helps with the quilting process.

The Farm Chicks have gracefully accepted us as a vendor at no charge in their fall show in Fairfield, Washington. Last year, sales were swift as volunteers from the Spokane Chapter displayed the gorgeous items. Remaining items were distributed to auctions throughout our service area that benefit Wishing Star.

For fall 2006 Linda is planning to ask other quilters to join her. She also plans to make smaller items, as the table runners and small wall hangings sold quickly.

If you would like to make an item for this event, please contact Patt Walker at 744-3411.

Appreciation Dinner



It was "A Night of Stars" as guests arrived at the Coeur d'Alene Resort, walked on the red carpet, had their pictures snapped by the paparazzi, and feasted in front of giant Oscars. On October 1st we celebrated the completion of 22 years of wish granting by thanking our chapter volunteers, donors and sponsors.

The program included Trisha Miles, a wish mom, who presented a slide show about Alyssa's Disney Cruise wish. Paula, our Executive Director

provided a slide show depicting the 43 wishes completed this year and thanking all from the littlest star, Wyatt Harrington to the biggest star George Schillinger. She encouraged all present to continue to give of their time, talent and treasure to further the mission of Wishing Star.

At the conclusion of the evening a white envelope was presented to each guest. *And the envelope please...* inside was a silver Wishing Star bookmark!

Welcome New Board Members

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Staff, I would like to welcome the following new board members to Wishing Star:



Troy Nelson is an attorney and joins us from Paine, Hamblen, Coffin, Brooke and Miller, LLP.



Brad Poe is the Promotions Director for the Spokane Indians Baseball Organization.



Marty Orchard is the Marketing Director for Lydig Construction, Inc.

We look forward to having these three outstanding individuals serve on the board for the next three years and welcome each of them into the Wishing Star Family.

Danelle Reagan,
Chair, Board of Trustees

A New location

Wishing Star has new office space! Thanks to the many community partners and Wishing Star friends who donated time, talents, materials and professional services to make it happen. We moved to our new location in what is known as Spokane's U-District just before Christmas. Long time Spokane businessman Loulou Kneubuhler owns the building at 139 S. Sherman. The new space is wonderful and inviting. We have more room. Are costs will be less, which means Wishing Star will be able to grant more wishes.

Wishing Star made this move because of the collaborative efforts of many friends. We received a tremendous amount of support from the community with our new location including: Lydig Construction, Great Floors, Prudential Builders, Ferguson Enterprises, Inc., B & C Telephone, Devries, Fred's Appliance, The Tin Roof, ATM Solutions, L & L Architectural Sign, Inc., Marlin Windows, John Ferinni, Matheus Lumber, The Design Source, Sherwin Williams, John O'Brien, Karlan Construction, K & M Body Shop and Diane Maehl Photography.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this move possible. Wishing Star could not have done this without you. Come see us at the new location.

Wish Kids



Naomi meets her favorite singer, Randy Travis
~ July 2005



Baudelia enjoying her newly redecorated bedroom
~ September 2005



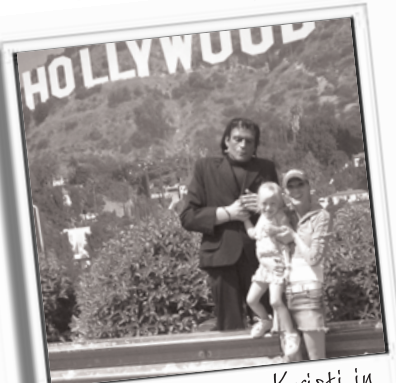
On Brittany's 16th Birthday, she was surprised with her wish. She met Clay Aiken, shared birthday cake and had the best seats in the house for his concert ~ August 2005



Eddie and Marilyn Monroe at Universal Studios
~ October 2005



Christina's back-to-school shopping spree with her mom, Amy
~ August 2005



Justyn and mom Kristi in front of the Hollywood sign
~ September 2005



Johnny and his family met with the Spokane Chapter to talk about adventures at Disneyland
~ August 2005



Erika swimming with the dolphins at Seaworld
~ October 2005



MaryElizabeth and Larry
- Road to Wishes
~ June 2005

Contact Info:

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Sign up to receive e-bulletins by emailing us at: info@wishingstar.org

Visit us at: www.wishingstar.org

Wishes Come True

Summer is a very busy time when it comes to fulfilling wishes. Kids are out of school and families like to travel. Joshua and Abraham both choose Disneyworld to fulfill their wish. Jeanne', Ashlynn, Johnny, Justyn, Tyler, Devvin, Dominick, Laura, Meagan, Isen and Joshua all went to Disneyland, Universal Studios, Knott's Berry Farm and Seaworld. This summer Alyssa and her family went on Disney cruise. They were able to travel down the Mexican Rivera on Disney Magic to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Disney. Andrew went by train to visit Seaworld to fulfill his wish.

Cameron went to Hawaii to swim with the dolphins and explore the zoos of Honolulu. Ashley went to Kauai to visit "The Garden Island."

Annette had her wish fulfilled by meeting Randy Travis and attending his concert. For her birthday, Brittany was surprised by Wishing Star and her mother; she met Clay Aiken and was a special guest at his concert.



New York City hosted Joshua and his family for the Broadway productions of Avenue Q and the Lion King. Solina was able to have her wish fulfilled of going to NYC and Washington DC. While in NYC, she saw Wicked on Broadway.

Robert wanted to meet the president of the United States but since this was not possible, he vacationed in Washington DC and had a tour of the White House. After his Washington DC visit, his family was able to go to Philadelphia to visit relatives.

Karissa's hot tub was completed in July while one of her brothers had his basketball court completed in August and the second one had his play area completed in September.

Christina had a "back-to-school" shopping spree in September and Baudelia had a bedroom makeover, including a laptop for her wish.

Wish Helpers

Just about every girl I know loves beautiful jewelry. When I went to the Association of Wish Granting Organization's conference in June, I found a great necklace in an airport shop. To my surprise, the necklace came in a heart shaped tin. I decided to do some research on the manufacturer of the necklace. In searching, I found the company is called Brighton. I browsed their website and found so many fantastic pieces of jewelry that I decided to write and ask them for a donation.

They responded by sending three very large boxes filled with beautiful necklaces and bracelets for our wish kids. Each one is packaged in a unique heart-shaped tin. The wish kids who have received these pieces have been made truly happy by this gift. To view the complete line of jewelry, accessories and leather gifts, go to www.brighton.com. Thank you to Brighton for bringing this joy to Wishing Star.

*Special Note: Many heart felt thanks go to the 100's of faithful volunteers and donors who give of their time, talent and treasure to help wishes come true!
We appreciate you! ~ The Wishing Star Staff*

Wishes In the works

Fast becoming one of the most popular wishes is the family cruise. There are many restaurants, shore excursions and leisure activities for wish kids to choose from. Wish kids recognize the overall uniqueness and value of the cruises. Over the next several months, Amber will be going on a Hawaiian Island cruise on Norwegian Cruise Line. Alex, Tyler, Daniel and Kendyl will be going on Disney cruises.

Heather will be going to the set of CSI and Candice wants to go behind the set of Gilmore Girls. Tim is getting ready to go to WrestleMania 2006 in the spring.

Volunteer Chapter Locations

Boise • Coeur d'Alene
Lewiston/Clarkston • Moscow/Pullman
Sandpoint • Spokane • Tri-Cities
Twin Falls/Magic Valley • Walla Walla
Weiser/Payette/Ontario • Wenatchee
Yakima • Moses Lake

Gold Stars

ANONYMOUS
 A Clear Image
 A Little Class.
 A. R. Story
 A-1 Closing Inc
 AAPEX Construction Inc
 Albertsons
 Allen & Polly Butler
 Allen & Ranae Stastny
 Alliance
 Allied Envelope
 Allison Raduziner
 Alma Tinsley
 American Italian Club
 Amy Rogers
 Apple Athletic
 Apria
 Arlene Roth
 At-Work Office Products
 B & C Telephone (Karen Cummings/Pat Kaufmann)
 B. French
 Back Country Adventures of Kauai
 Battele Energy Alliance
 Ben Kaufman
 Benton Franklin Fair & Rodeo
 Bergstrom Air Craft
 Berit Thompson
 Best Western Hospitality House, NYC
 Betsy & Graham Crutchfield
 Betty Wheat
 Beutler & Assoc
 Bill Fanning
 Black Rock Catering
 Blaine & Chantel Kakuda
 Blaine & Janelle Jarman
 Boise Hilton Garden Inn
 Bonnie Jenkin
 Brighten Jewelry
 Brown, Carrie
 Bud & Noreen Holten
 C Withrow
 CDA Casino & Resort
 C&G Construction
 Camp Automotive
 Carl Cramer
 Carmella Vineyards
 Carpenters 18491
 Carrie Main
 Casa Mia Restaurant
 Casey
 Castle Rock Industries
 Catholic Ladies
 Central Lions Club
 Century Publishing
 Charles Shallbetter
 Charles Slagg
 Charles Trimm
 Charlotte Eliason
 Chervenall Construction
 Cheyenne Bird
 Choates Restaurant
 Christmas Program Sponsors
 Chute 2 Promotions
 Cinnabon
 Claud Shamley
 Clay Aiken & his managers/producers
 Coeur d'Alene Resort
 Columbia Hydro Race
 Colvico, Inc
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 Curt Chumbley Homes
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 Dale & Deborah Seagle
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 Daniel & Rose Mathison
 Darin Phinney, A Time to Snack
 Davenport Food City
 David & Linda Strand
 David & Lynne Slemp
 David Anderson

David Martin
 David Shumlich
 Debbie Cosgrove
 Deborah King
 Derrick & Tera Reeves
 Design Events
 Design Source
 Devries Information Management/ Pat Devries
 Dewayne Wageman
 Diana Jones
 Diane Maehl
 Disney Cruise Line
 Disney Theater Productions
 Dolly & Marshall Mend
 Don Hargraves
 Donna Knudsen
 Donna Smith
 Rose Doty
 Doug Lydig
 Doug Wilson
 Douglas & Nancy Cleavenger
 Dr. Dac & Lori Johnson
 Eileen Ahrens-Blankies
 Eileen Clouse & Lorene Remmers-Blankies
 Empire Electric
 Esther Grant
 Eugene & Helen Mauzey
 Eva Gowdey
 Evelyn Magnuson- Blankies
 EZ Loader Trailers
 Fairfield Inn- Sea Tac
 Farmers Insurance
 Ferguson Enterprises Inc
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 First Bank
 Florence Samels
 Forest Steel Inc
 Fred & Gary's Body Shop
 G & A Jensen
 Gale & Kami Braun
 Gary Gottberg
 Geo Engineers Inc
 George Custer
 Gerald & Norma Hill
 Germaine's Luau.
 Ginno Construction
 Give Kids The World.
 Grace Lambert
 Grant Co Firefighters Assoc
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 Greg & Erin Wilson
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 Gregory Cronin
 Gregory Sofio
 Griffiths & Company
 HACON
 Hawaii Car Service
 Hegy's South Hill Winery, Boise
 Hidden Lake Golf
 Holiday Inn Airport
 Hometown TV & Appliances of Ephrata
 Hulett Printing
 Ida Wilson
 Idaho Dairymen
 Idaho Independent Bank
 Idaho Joes
 Inland Coffee and Beverage
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 International Minute Press, Downtown Boise
 INW CFC
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 Isothermal Systems Research Inc
 Jack & Denise Hogg
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 Jean Miller
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 John Clark Lino Service
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 Marial Wilford, Blankies
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 Marlen & Darlene Rieke
 Marta Reyes, Spokane International
 Mary Ann Evans
 Mary Karren
 Mattawa Area News
 Maxie's Pizza
 Medco Health Employee Giving Campaign
 Melody Wendt- Boise
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 Michelle Marcum
 Michael Crabb
 Michael White
 Mid Columbia Jr. QH Assoc
 Mike Watcher
 Mindy Hayes
 Modern Drywall
 Moser Inc
 Mott Liek
 Mt Spokane Church
 Night Hawk
 Nikki Fix- Blankies
 Norman & Helen Foster
 North Idaho Title
 Northern Quest Casino
 Northwest Fence Co Inc
 Norwegian Cruise Lines
 The Onion, Inc
 Orlo Young
 Oxford Suites.
 PAML
 Paper Plus
 Parma Ridge, Boise
 Pat Basler-Blankies
 Pat O'Lynch
 Patricia Boeving
 Patricia Hartson
 Patricia Parks
 Patricia Simmons
 Patricia Smeback
 Paul Brown
 Pawn 1
 PD or BK Parker
 Pearl Harbor Survivors Wives Club- Blankies
 Peter Shroyer
 Pioneer Title Company of Kootenai County
 Poffenroth
 Pollywog's Inc
 Pool World
 Project Linus
 Prudential Builders Center

Quality Vending
 Quin & Treta Ravencraft
 R Place Tavern Inc
 Radio-Thon
 Railroad Employees Club
 Randall & Christy Folkins
 Randie & Tammy Moore
 Randolph Construction
 Randy & Annette Wells
 Randy Travis & his managers/producers
 Ray & Ellen Kincaid
 Ray Soderlund
 Raymond & Jane Morgan
 Red Lion
 Redeemer Lutheran Church- Blankies
 Richard Baldwin
 Rios Auto & Ag Supply
 Robert & Joyce Hirsch
 Robert & Sharon Mellis
 Robert Bolts
 Rockford United Methodist- Blankies
 Rockie Egner
 Rodney Ficek
 Ronald & Gayle Pete
 Ronald Bisset
 Ronald Smith
 Rosebuds Florists
 Ron Rosenberger
 Royal Neighbors of America
 Russel & Anita Fabre
 Safeco
 Sally Marie Stout
 Sandy Montgomery
 Schneidmiller Realty
 Sealife Park of Honolulu
 Shadle Park High School
 Shannon Neeley
 Sharee LaRue-Wright
 Sharon & Robert Thompson
 SHBA
 Sherwin Williams
 Shirley Bauguessy
 Shumate Harley
 Sir Speedy
 Smith's Sweetheart Manor
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 Spin & Curl
 Spokane Yamaha
 Sportsman's Warehouse, Meridian
 STCU
 Stevens, Denise
 Sue Spinazza
 Sundance Air Craf
 T & P Transport
 Ta & Jennifer Groenke
 Taylor Engineering, Inc
 Taylor Orchards, LLC
 TC Fire Department
 The Shop
 The Tin Roof
 Theresa Gilbertson
 Thomas Chernik
 Thomas, Dean & Hoskins
 Three Trees Landscaping
 Tomlinson Black, Boise
 Translation
 Trentwood Services Club
 Marcie Treuman
 Tyson's Corner Marriott
 United Pipe Company
 United Way
 USKH, Inc
 Vaughn & Martha Wood
 Veenstra Dairy
 Vehrs Inc
 Vera & Alice Pillers- Blankies
 Vincent Campanella
 WA State Quarter Horse Assoc.
 Walker Construction, Inc
 WalMart
 Walt Disney Theater Productions
 Wells Fargo
 West Coast Paper
 WFS Financial, Boise
 William & Jeannie Schow
 William Jackson
 Winery at Eagle Knoll
 Winthrop Arms
 Wishland
 World Gym Fitness Center
 Young Burdette
 Ziggy's

A Year of Transition & Change

**Paula Nordgaarden, M.Ed.,MSW,
Executive Director**

The Wishing Star Foundation has undergone an incredible year of transition and change during the past year. In January of 2005, Wendy Stone became the wish coordinator. In March, I came on board as Executive Director, followed by Kim McLendon and Patt Walker who job share as administrative assistants. Recently, we moved to a new and spacious office.

Best practices in non-profit accounting have been put in place thanks to the help of Griffiths and Company. Three new members have been added to our board of trustees. Many new partners have been added to our list of friends. Finally, our annual report is now available for all donors to see how their contributions are being invested.

Here are a few excerpts:

- We are proud to announce that of each dollar expended in 2004-2005, 76 cents went directly to wish

programs, leaving 5 cents for administrative costs and 19 cents for fundraising expenses.

- We belong to the Association of Wish Granting Organizations (AWGO) which holds high standards. They require that members expend no more than 30% of its total expenditures on administration and fundraising and no less than 70% on wishes.
- In order to become more culturally diverse, during this reporting period our brochures and the letters and forms used by our families were translated into Spanish.
- The volunteers and staff worked hard last year to fulfill our mission statement. We granted 43 wishes during the 2004-2005 fiscal year. Counting parents and siblings, "we put smiles on the faces of 182 faces


of wish kids and their families."

- We saw a 37% increase in total revenue as compared to the previous fiscal year.
- Following our marked increase in revenue, our program services increased by \$231,743.
- We served 120 families in our Christmas Program.
- Our Blankie program continues to grow as we distributed \$54,700 worth of handmade blankets to the dozens of hospitals in our service area.
- We sent over 750 birthday cards out last year.

If you are interested in reading the entire report, please contact Paula Nordgaarden, 509-744-3411 or paulan@wishingstar.org



We Help Children's Dreams Come True!!



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