



A Special Wish Foundation, Dayton Chapter
741 Valley Street
Dayton, OH 45404
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aspecialwishdayton.org

Serving Darke, Greene, Mercer, Miami,
Montgomery and Shelby counties



A Special Wish Foundation, Dayton Chapter Statement Regarding COVID-19

In line with state and federal guidelines and in an abundance of caution, A Special Wish Foundation Dayton office will be closed through March 30, 2020. We apologize for an inconvenience this may cause, but the health and safety of our staff and the children we serve is paramount.

All scheduled wishes and wish deliveries through April 2020 have been postponed and will be

rescheduled at a later date. The ASW staff will be working from home, so please feel free to continue to email and call. Please look for updates on the ASW Facebook page.

All of us at A Special Wish Foundation Dayton wish you good health during this challenging situation.

Find A Special Wish Dayton on



Ways to Get Involved

Host a fundraising event • Volunteer at special events • Engage on social media • Donate your skills
Create a birthday fundraiser on Facebook • Organize a drive • Utilize matching gift programs

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THE WISH REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF A SPECIAL WISH FOUNDATION, DAYTON CHAPTER

VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 1 • MARCH 2020



Our Mission

To grant the Special Wish of a young person, birth through age twenty, who has been diagnosed by a physician with a life-threatening disorder.

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We would like to introduce you to Alexis!

In 2017, Alexis and her family were so excited to go on her Special Wish Trip to Hawaii so Alexis could meet the Walt Disney princess, Moana. The trip was planned and everything was ready.

Unfortunately, Alexis' health took a serious turn for the worse and the trip had to be canceled. With this new development in her illness, her doctors were not sure she would ever be able to go on a Wish Trip. With this news, we arranged for Moana to visit Alexis in the hospital

to encourage her to feel better, so that she could one day come see her home. Sure enough, that is exactly what Alexis did, despite doubts from specialists.

This year, Alexis was cleared to travel by her doctors and she would finally be able to meet Moana at her home in Hawaii! On February 14, 2020, Alexis and her family departed from a very cold Ohio to the warm

sands of Oahu and stayed at Aulani, A Disney Resort and Spa. Alexis got to meet many Disney characters including her hero Moana. She even got a princess makeover! She learned how to snorkel in their controlled fish reef pool, swam in all their pools and even played on their pool playground. She was even invited to the Kakamora Chaos event with Moana.

This event included interacting and playing traditional Hawaiian children's games with Moana herself!

The family decided to extend their trip and traveled to Maui after their

time with Moana. There they traveled to many of their famous beaches, ate at wonderful restaurants, attended a luau and even did the Road to Hana. The family then traveled to the island of Kauai where they scoped out various beaches and interesting hot spots. They explored a chocolate farm, went shopping, did some sightseeing around the island, hung out by the pool and spent more time

relaxing and resting on the island.

After the trip, Alexis' mom stated, "We can't thank A Special Wish Foundation enough and everyone who has prayed and wished us well. We had the best time!"

The funds for Alexis' trip were raised by The University of Dayton's *Distance 4 Dreams*. This group of UD students is dedicated to raising money running marathons and

hosting events to make Special Wishes come true.

Stories like Alexis' are all too familiar with families in the Dayton and surrounding region. Please join ASW today by making a donation at aspecialwishdayton.org/donate-now and help grant the Special Wish of a local child battling for their life. All funds raised stays here in the Dayton Region benefitting local children.



How far I'll go!



It's Maui: breathe it in!

wishes granted: **1,750**

A Letter from David Seyer, Executive Director

Welcome Spring!!! I love this time of year as winter says its final good-byes and plants start to emerge from their long rest. Just like our gardens, we seem to do the same thing. We shed coats and replace them with jackets, snow boots turn into rain boots and we buzz with anticipation of firing up the grill for the first grilled hamburger of the year.

Here at A Special Wish, it is no different. As we move into spring and summer, wish trips start "popping up" more frequently and this year we are off to a great start with many wishes. Trips to Walt Disney World lead the way, with playsets, computers and gaming systems right behind. All of us at A Special Wish love wish delivery time, when we get to see the faces of the children light up when they find out their wish is being granted. Knowing that a child who has been through so much is finally going to have the week with no stress or doctor's visits and the only thing on the calendar is to have fun.

All of this is made possible because of you. A Special Wish Foundation is funded strictly through the generosity of community members and local businesses and foundations. All donations received stay right here within our community to benefit local children fighting a life-threatening illness. You can read about a few of these wish kids in this edition of the newsletter.

Thank you for being part of making special wishes come true and please consider continuing to support local wish kids by making a donation in the enclosed envelope. Together we can make very special wishes come true for children who need it most!

David

David Seyer
Executive Director

I want to see, want to see 'em dancin'

The 15th Annual Valentines Dance, presented by James Free Jewelers, was held at the Wright State University Nutter Center on Friday, February 7, 2020. The Valentines Dance is a wonderful night of dancing, great music and boasts a much-anticipated *Dancing with the Dayton Stars* dance competition. Featuring local community leaders paired with professional dancers as they leave it all on the dance floor in their quest to capture the coveted mirrored ball trophy!

This year we had four female and four male community leader competitors:

- Shannon Carlson**, Best Female Dancer, Hale Group at Morgan Stanley
- Kelly Romano**, Online Favorite, Thrive Mortgage
- Jessica Saunders**, Dayton Children's
- Janet Moland**, Retired
- Mark Shaker**, Best Male Dancer, Shaker Strategic Solutions
- Eric Gagliano**, River Valley Credit Union
- Monty Mabry**, Mabry Muscle Machine
- Andrew Mitakides**, Prince Auctions and Benefits

We should be able to grant at least 15 wishes from this event alone! Additional pictures from this event can be found on our Facebook page (ASpecialWishDayton).

Thank you to the dancers, sponsors and everyone who voted, volunteered, donated and came out to support!



2020 Valentines Dance Winners!
Professional Dancer Sara Andrews with her celebrity dance partner Mark Shaker & Professional Dancer Guillermo Cisneros with his celebrity dance partner Shannon Carlson.



The 2020 Valentines Dancers

IT'S BACK AND IN A NEW LOCATION!

GLOW FORE WISHES

The only night of the year when you can hit the links after the sun sets. **Glow Fore Wishes** is a great night of golf where the only light on the course is the neon glow of the balls, flags, pins and hopefully a full moon.

\$400 per foursome includes one glow ball and one beverage ticket per player, two carts, access to driving range, entry into the Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive contests, and late night breakfast buffet!

Friday, August 28, 2020
PipeStone Golf Club
4344 Benner Road
Miamisburg, OH 45342

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY! Space is limited!
aspecialwishdayton.org

Wish Kids enjoy time with their families

ELI WISHED TO GO TO WALT DISNEY WORLD

Eli and his family spent a lot of time Walt Disney World and Universal Studios meeting a lot of characters, but hands down, Minnie Mouse was Eli's favorite. He wouldn't let go of her and kept running back and hugging her. They ended up going to see her almost every day.



Having a Seussical time

Eli's Mom said, **"We are feeling so blessed for the amazing time we had as a family and it was an unforgettable trip for sure! So thankful and amazed by all the blessings and the kindness he received on our trip!"**

Eli's wish was sponsored by Panera Bread through their Round-Up program.

ANA IS READY FOR COLLEGE

Ana is headed to Sinclair Community College this fall and will be ready with her brand new laptop and camera supplies! She is so excited to start this chapter in her life and wanted to make sure she had everything needed to succeed for her interest in marketing and photography.



I can go the distance!

Good luck, Ana! We wish you best!

ELLIE WISHED TO GO TO WALT DISNEY WORLD

Ellie and her family spent a week in Orlando soaking up the sun and meeting all of the Disney characters.



A dream is a wish the heart makes

Ellie's Mom said, **"Miss Ellie is having the time of her life on her Special Wish trip! We cannot thank you all enough!"** Her wish was sponsored by UBS.

Trans Am Nationals 'Rev Up' Fundraising

If you are ever near the Holiday Inn on Presidential Drive in Fairborn, on the 4th weekend of August, you are sure to have heard the roaring of hundreds of Pontiac Trans Ams. Over the last 35 years, the Trans Am Club of America, Dayton Chapter (TACADC) has hosted the one of the largest all-



Wish Kid Tommy, presenting the trophy for his favorite car at the 2019 Trans Am Nationals

Pontiac shows in the country, the Trans Am Nationals. Cars come from all over the United States and Canada.

"The Trans Am Club of America, Dayton Chapter has been an amazing friend and partner with A Special Wish Foundation Dayton," said David Seyer, executive director of A Special Wish Foundation, Dayton Chapter. "We are honored by the members every year for their dedication to granting wishes to local children battling for their lives against a life-threatening illness. Their commitment has now raised over \$100,000 for Special Wishes and have had a positive impact on the children ASW serves."

Wing Contest Takes Flight



First Place winner, Carrie J. Summers!



Contestants in the first annual Blind Bob's "Wing Battle"

March 8th was the first annual Blind Bob's "Wing Battle," where several members of the Dayton community went head-to-head in a wing eating contest! The competitors raised money online for ASW before the competition, then faced each other at the table to see who could eat the most wings. Attendees at the event had the opportunity to purchase tickets to vote for their favorite competitor. Every 10 tickets a competitor received counted as an additional wing to their total. Winners were determined based on total wings eaten.

Big congratulations to our top three winners! First Place: Carrie J. Summers; Second Place: Tyler Morton; Third Place: Brian Eastman!