PACIFIC BLUE CROSS

PRESENTS

NIGHT OF WONDERS

Children's Wish

WISH STORIES



THE MAGIC OF A WISH

The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada works with communities across the country to provide children with life threatening illnesses the opportunity to realize their most heartfelt wish. By creating unique, meaningful experiences, Children's Wish enhances quality of life for these courageous children and their families.

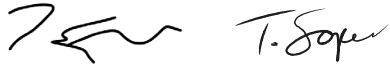
Dear Night of Wonders guest,

Thank you for your support of Children's Wish Foundation of Canada and the Night of Wonders gala this year. We are proud to once again be leading this spectacular event, showcasing the magic of a wish and raising much needed funds to support these wishes.

For children with a life-threatening illness and their families, a wish is much more than a simple gift; it can be the excitement a child needs to keep pushing through life-altering treatments or the celebration of health after a long and turbulent battle. For many, a wish is an opportunity for a family to reconnect and put their sickening stress and worry aside to focus on something positive. The magic of a wish is the antidote many children need to put one stronger foot in front of the other, becoming stronger with every step.

We are inspired by the work Children's Wish does day in and day out for over 100 families in B.C. and Yukon every year. Sadly, more children than ever are in desperate need of a wish. This year's Night of Wonders will provide roughly half of the chapter's annual fundraising target, meaning your gift is vital to ensuring each eligible child experiences a wish.

With every best wish,



Kevin Mazzone & Tiffany Soper
2019 Night of Wonders Gala Co-Chairs



2018/2019 WISH TRIP DESTINATIONS

15 countries visited so far


NTO, CA
NEW YORK CITY, USA
DISNEY WORLD
THE BAHAMAS
TURKS & CAICOS
ST. LUCIA
ARUBA
PARIS, FRANCE
ITALY
MARRAKESH,
MORROCO
KENYA

2018/2019 WISHES

Children's Wish, BC & Yukon Chapter is on track to grant 115 wishes this year. Since last year's gala, we've already granted or booked wishes for over 100 deserving children. Take a look at these special wishes below:

Aaron, 13: Trip to Disney World
Addison, 7: Meet astronaut David St. Jacques at NASA
Akita, 17: Gaming computer
Alexa, 15: Birthday party extravaganza
Alina, 6 : Trip to Disney World
Andre, 5: A Disney Cruise
Andrew, 18: Visit Ferrari & Masserati factories in Italy
Anthony, 12: Family reunion in California
Anthony, 17: Gaming computer
Blake, 9: Trip to Hawaii
Brandon, 13: Trip to Disney World
Bronwyn, 13: Trip to London
Cambie, 14: Trip to Hawaii
Carl, 14: A Disney Cruise
Carson, 8: Trip to Disney World
Cassidy, 18: Visit grandparents in Scotland
Claire, 9: Trip to New York City
Codi, 15: A mountain bike
Cody, 18: Gaming computer
Connor, 18: Trip to Turks & Caicos
Daniel, 17: Create a podcast
Diaz, 16: Shopping spree
Drake, 18: Trip to the Bahamas
Eliel, 10: Trip to Disney World
Emma, 12: Trip to Hawaii
Frankie, 9: Trip to Disneyland
Garrett, 18: Trip to Aruba
Gavin, 5: Trip to Great Wolf Lodge
Gloria, 10: Trip to Hawaii
Halle, 9: Trip to Turks & Caicos
Henry, 8: Trip to Disneyland
Iemanja, 8: Trip to Alberta
Izz, 9: Trip to Paris
Jalisa, 19: Apple computer
Jayden, 19: Trip to the Bahamas
Jazmene, 11: Trip to Disney World
Jessie, 17: A Disney Cruise
Jonah, 13: Trip to Hawaii
Jordyn, 14: Trip to the Bahamas
Julianne, 9: A Disney Cruise
Junaid, 18: An iPhone and Macbook Pro
Justine, 17: Trip to London
Kai, 17: Trip to St. Lucia
Kaiden, 11: Trip to Hawaii
Kaitlyn, 18: A Go-Pro Fusion
Kale, 9: A travel trailer
Karleigh, 4: A travel trailer
Kassandra, 16: Trip to Grand Cayman
Kayita, 16: A Macbook
Keaghan, 17: Trip to Disney World
Kela, 17: Shopping Spree
Kimber, 17: Trip to Canada's Wonderland
Kyle, 17: A travel trailer
Lakhvir, 9: Trip to Disney World
Larissa, 17: Trip to the Bahamas
Lauren, 6: A Disney Cruise
Lauren, 18: Trip to Scotland
Layna, 11: Meet Logan Paul
Louis, 8: Trip to Disney World
Mackinley, 17: Trip to Fiji
Maddison, 9: Trip to Disney World
Malachi, 13: An iPhone
Malik, 15: Safari in Kenya
Mallory, 16: Trip to Disney World
Man Kit, 8: Trip to Disney World
Melvina, 18: A Macbook
Michael, 18: A media centre
Mohammed, 17: An iPad and Smart TV

2018/2019 WISHES

Nadia, 6: Trip to Hawaii
Nora, 17: Trip to Turks & Caicos
Norina, 10: A Disney Cruise
Pamela, 12: Trip to Disney World & Cruise
Quinn, 12: Trip to Disneyland
Richard, 17: Family reunion in Yellowknife
Rya, 13: Trip to Disney World
Ryan, 9: Trip to Disneyland
Ryan, 13: Fishing in Prince Rupert
Sadie, 18: Yoga in Morocco
Saihaan, 3: A Disney Cruise
Sam, 14: Trip to Hawaii
Shyla, 4: A Princess Party
Skyla, 6: A Disney Cruise
Tess, 18: A Horse
Theodore, 4: Trip to Hawaii
Tiannah, 12: A Disney Cruise
William, 5: Trip to Disney World
Wyatt, 15: A mountain bike
Yu-Der, 18: Meet the band Kaleo

WISH STORIES

By the end of March 2019, the BC & Yukon Chapter of Children's Wish will have granted upwards of 115 wishes year over year.

But these are not just 115 children's lives changed; these are also 115 mothers and fathers, 115 grandparents, hundreds of siblings, and thousands of friends impacted by the magic of a wish.

The magic of a wish is not just measured in joy. Wishes are proven to reinvigorate a tired and wearied child. In fact, 93% of parents surveyed reported their child's wish was an essential part of their child's treatment.

When we grant wishes, we can work magic. Investing in a wish is not just a gift transaction — it is making a profound difference in the lives of children and families.

In the following pages, you will meet nine children who are looking to you to make a difference in their lives.



BLAKE, AGE 10

Blake has a smile that will light up your life. This fun and happy boy has been on a long journey, but by his charming energy, you would never know. Born with Down syndrome and pulmonary hypertension (PH), Blake had his first heart surgery at only five months old. Doctors hoped the surgery would clear the PH, but instead they determined Blake's type of PH has no cure, meaning he and his family had an uncertain future lying ahead.

As he gets older, they are beginning to see more symptoms appear with the increased pressure in his pulmonary arteries that damages his lungs. While the disease progresses, doctors are testing various medications to see which can keep Blake off supplementary oxygen and lower the pressure. While his medical team is surprised by his resilience and overall health, they know it can turn at any time.

Blake's identity isn't all about his illness – he is a huge lover of water and will spend the whole day playing in it. When he saw the pictures of the ocean in Hawaii, he was hooked. Now he can't stop talking about going to Hawaii in an airplane where he can play at the beach and in the pools from sunrise to sunset. This will be a memory-making trip for the whole family, and one that they can't wait to share together.



Blake's most heartfelt wish will be granted by:

BMO



SAFIYA, AGE 5

Milestones for a young child can be their first word, their first step, or their first day of kindergarten. But for five-year-old Safiya and her family, her young life has been marked by her first open-heart reconstruction. Then her second, and then her third. In between, six other surgeries have kept Safiya in and out of the hospital her entire life. Diagnosed with tricuspid atresia at 33 weeks in utero, a heart disease in which the tricuspid heart valve is missing or abnormally developed, Safiya has only known a life that sees more scans, tests, and procedures than most adults experience in a lifetime.

Safiya is not alone in her fight. Her mother and three siblings have witnessed each up and down in stride, but their worry, pain, and stress is seemingly indescribable.

Their journey is never over. Though Safiya's heart reconstruction is working for her today, as she grows, her heart will cause stress on her liver. If her liver declines, Safiya will require a heart transplant. But for now, when she is seemingly stable, even a fever results in a trip to the emergency room.

A wish is something that is bringing excitement and joy to Safiya's life and she is eagerly planning for a trip to Disney World with her family. For families like Safiya's, a wish can provide the rare – or otherwise impossible – opportunity for them to build positive everlasting memories together.



Safiya's most heartfelt wish will be granted by:

Peterson



JACK, AGE 7

Jack's never been able to take part in a lot of typical kid activities, like jumping on trampolines in the backyard, playing in bouncy castles at birthday parties, or even scoring a goal during a soccer game. Jack's health has kept him on the sidelines for much of his life since he was diagnosed with Alpha 1 Anti-Trypsin deficiency disorder, a genetic disorder that can cause lung and liver



disease, at nine months.

Over the last seven years, Jack has been to countless doctors' appointments and received too many blood tests to count. In 2018, his illness culminated in a successful liver transplant. Not without its many challenges, Jack's transplant has given him a second chance. He is now back at school and while he requires many medications and appointments, those will lessen with time. Learning piano and swimming have been good distractions for Jack, as are the many sports games he loves to watch on TV. This journey has had some silver linings; Jack's family is now knowledgeable about how vital blood and organ donors are and advocate for this cause passionately.

Another silver lining is Jack's wish. He is very excited and grateful to have the opportunity to receive a wish from Children's Wish and has chosen a trip to Disney World, where he is most looking forward to meeting Mickey Mouse. This is one childhood experience Jack will most definitely not miss out on.

Jack's most heartfelt wish will be granted by:

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ERIC, AGE 17

Eric is an active 17-year-old who is passionate about sports (soccer, basketball, ice hockey, skiing – you name it). He not only enjoys watching them, but also loves to play. With the amount of energy he has, you would never know that just two short years ago, Eric was diagnosed with Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph nodes.

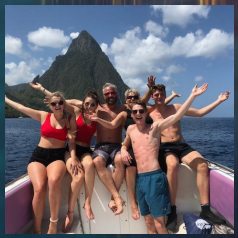
Eric, his parents, and sister were living in China at the time of his diagnosis, and when they moved to Canada, doctors changed the diagnosis to Gray Zone Lymphoma (GZL). GZL is often misdiagnosed as it shares features with other lymphomas and sits in an ill-defined “gray zone”. Fever, shortness of breath, and breathing problems are all symptoms of the disease. To fight the illness, Eric endured two rounds of chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant with his loving family by his side.

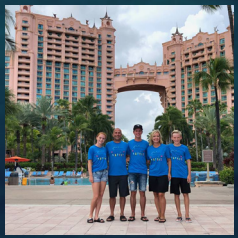
Eric has been in remission since his treatment and he and his family are extremely grateful that he has been able to live like a normal teen again. They are also grateful to Children’s Wish for granting Eric with a much-deserved family vacation to the Bahamas to relax and unwind. Eric might not have much time for relaxing; however, as he is already planning on trying out some new sports – surf and scuba!

Eric’s most heartfelt wish will be granted by:

parq vancouver



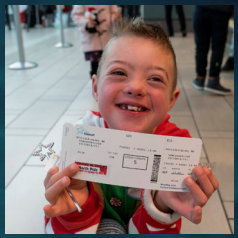





“To be surrounded by our family and friends, to see how happy our child was and the joy on her face was the best part of her wish experience.” - Wish Parents











“The wonderful experiences and happy memories she now holds have made her life better, her world more full of possibility and hope — now, tomorrow, and moving forward.” - Wish Mom













ODOBIE, AGE 14

Odobie is a 14-year-old girl who loves doing art, reading, and planning events with her friends. When she was just eight months old, she received the diagnosis of sickle cell anemia, to which there is no cure. The disease can cause anemia, episodes of pain, swelling, frequent infections, delayed growth, and vision problems. For Odobie, this meant many doctor's visits and tests – as well as three surgeries.

Her latest operation was back surgery in 2018 to help manage her pain. Odobie's mom has done her best to be by her side through everything. As with so many families with sick children, her mom had to juggle the gruelling responsibilities of home and work on top of managing Odobie's treatment. It was a good day when a nurse informed her of Children's Wish.

This year, Odobie is distracting herself by planning her upcoming wish to Disney World. When she found out her dream trip would finally happen, she called all her friends to tell them with excitement. With such a big trip on the horizon, she and her family have something positive to look forward to in 2019.



Odobie's most heartfelt wish will be granted by:

Air transat



ISABELLA, 9

Isabella was three when she was diagnosed with Leukemia on October 2, 2012 and it was a day that changed the course of her and her family's life for the foreseeable future. She was immediately hospitalized for two weeks for treatment, bringing a sudden sense of fear and sadness to her parents and siblings. As with many life-threatening illnesses, they didn't know what could be around the next corner for Isabella – a bad day, an infection, or worse.

At her sickest, the family revolved around her health, always trying to make her comfortable and keep her safe. Her siblings worked hard to entertain her and spend time with her while she was too sick to go anywhere. Day by day, the worry never left their side and made her parents feel like their lives were on hold. Fortunately now, Isabella has recovered and receives check-ups every few months. She is enjoying being nine years old and trying new things – like boxing – as well as crafts, reading, and playing with friends. She especially loves playing soccer and is getting quite good.

At school, she is learning French and has chosen to go to Paris for her wish! She has been researching the country's history and is most looking forward to seeing the Eiffel Tower and trying delicious French food. A holiday like this is not something this family would normally be able to enjoy and it will be filled with positive memories to last a lifetime.



Isabella's most heartfelt wish will be granted by:

mcmillan lawyers



ZAID, AGE 16

Zaid has a come a long way in a short time. Fleeing Iraq with his family in 2016, Zaid landed in Canada for a new life as a refugee along with his sister and parents. Back home in Iraq, Zaid could not receive the health care he so desperately needed, and since coming to Canada, he is in a much better and safer place. Zaid is diagnosed with spastic quadriplegia cerebral palsy, hip



dysplasia, seizures, global development delay, and feeding difficulties. He requires constant help and supervision for all of his daily needs and is completely dependent on his family. He is non-verbal but communicates through smiling and vocalization. He also underwent two major surgeries last year.

The impact on Zaid's family has been tough. His sister is dedicated to caring for her brother while keeping up with school. His parents lift and carry him from place to place, causing his father to have back problems. They experience isolation because of language difficulties, and despite having professions in Iraq, are currently unable to find suitable work in Canada.

The best thing for Zaid would be a trip to see Niagara Falls, a place where he can respond to the sound and feel of water on his face, and see more of the country he loves. Children's Wish is proud to give the family this opportunity to escape the hard realities of daily life.

Zaid's most heartfelt wish will be granted by:

bclc

A WISH FIT FOR A PRINCESS







Palliative care was being arranged when five-year-old Shyla received her “rush wish” of a magical Princess Party. Eight months later, she’s stronger than doctors could ever have imagined.

This is Shyla’s story.



SHYLA, AGE 5





Two weeks before her third birthday, Shyla was diagnosed with metastatic Rhabdomyosarcoma, the inoperable tumor originating in her bladder had spread to her lungs. In one year, Shyla had undergone chemotherapy, proton therapy, blood transfusions and lung radiation.

The little girl who loves to sing and dance, dress up as princesses, and eat donuts with pink frosting and sprinkles, was beating the cancer – at least for a while. In May 2018, after six months of clear scans, doctors gave Shyla's parents the news they had been dreading: the cancer had returned in her lungs. It had spread aggressively and caused her lungs to collapse. Her tiny body was once again full of the horrendous disease.

As expected, the family followed procedure – insert a chest tube and arrange palliative care with

Canuck Place. A last resort, doctors tried a different chemotherapy. In the midst of all this, Shyla was encouraged to receive her wish as soon as possible. Too sick to go to Disneyland, Children's Wish brought her favourite Disney princesses to her.

"Shyla had just restarted on her chemotherapy and was discharged just days before her princess party. She was recovering from the removal of her chest tube and was experiencing nerve pain in her feet causing her to walk on her tiptoes. The moment the Children Wish team came to our home to dress Shyla and take her to her princess party, she was so happy she didn't seem to be in any pain. To this day she brings up her princess party. It made her so happy and every time we talk about her wish it continues to lift her spirit," Shyla's mom says.



With their days filled with worries and uncertainty, a wish was something they had to look forward to. "A wish gave us the strength to carry on and remain hopeful for the future," Shyla's mom adds. "This will be an event we will forever hold close to our hearts. It was magical."

Shyla is now on her 12th cycle of the new chemotherapy and is responding excellently. She remains stable, and happy.



MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE, POSSIBLE...

A rare cancer gene is testing her odds, while she tests the odds of gravity.

ANNA JOY, AGE 18

Anna Joy is a 18-year-old who has been fighting a scary diagnosis of Li Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS) since she was 11 years old. LFS is a hereditary defect of the cancer-fighting gene and weakens her ability to resist cancer. Both her mother and brother also have the disease, and her mom has fought nine tumours in the past six years.





Anna Joy began her first battle with cancer at age 15 after doctors found a very dangerous tumour in her brain.

Her LFS requires her to have ongoing screening for cancer three to four times a year, including MRIs, ultrasounds, bloodwork, and other scans. With every test and scan, the threat of new or recurring cancer is a very real possibility. But for Anna Joy, life must go on. Despite missing the second half of her grade 10 year, she continued to work on her studies and was able to graduate high school with her friends. Her hard work granted her admission to Simon Fraser University's Health Sciences faculty where she plans to pursue her dream of becoming a medical professional. In her free time, she practices contortion and stretching her body into impossible positions – an ability that fascinates her. Her wish is to train with Cirque du Soleil's professional contortionists for an experience that will leave everyone's jaws on the floor.

At Night of Wonders, you will hear Anna Joy's incredible and inspiring story of facing tragedy head on.

Anna Joy's most heartfelt wish will be granted by:

the Lazy Gourmet





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WISHES WORK WONDERS

Wish Child photography by Jamie-Lee Fuoco, Fuoco Photography.

Special thanks to the families of Anna Joy, Blake, Eric, Isabella, Jack, Odobie, Safiya, Shyla, and Zaid for sharing their stories with Night of Wonders guests.

Creative Direction by Jessica Hollander and Adrian Horvath.



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