



# GREETINGS FROM WISHES CAN HAPPEN

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December 2001

## WISHES CAN HAPPEN INC.

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## Wishes Can Happen Hosts Party for Wish Children at Price Park in North Canton

Wishes Can Happen held a carnival at Price Park in North Canton on September 30th for children who have benefited from a wish since 1995. The event was open to the wish child's entire family.

Guests were greeted by Executive Director Cyndi Morrow, Wish Coordinator Mary Jane Kinney, Board Member Lucie Rush, and Community Relations Director, Madelyn Sweeney.

The weather couldn't have cooperated more—it was a perfect Fall afternoon! After enjoying a delicious catered meal from Santangelo's Catering, all in attendance were invited to play carnival games and win prizes! Board members Jodi Wilson, Ken Scheurer, and Mike Shaheen helped run games.

A special cotton candy display was put on by Mad Science of North Canton. Guests were also treated to ice cream sundaes served up by Vice President Kathy Rainieri and Board Mem-

ber Dave Ferrell. The sundaes were made possible by Reiter Dairy and Smucker's. A special thanks to N. Canton Radio and TV for donating and delivering the ice cream freezer.

Cowboy Len Zaleski delighted the children with roping tricks while waiting for their own horse and pony ride on Dolly and Emily of Hillview Stables. Children and adults alike were enchanted with the Pete and Pop Monkey Show, and all were impressed with the yo-yo tricks of Eric Monroe, The Wizard of Yo. Background carnival music was provided by Jeff Volkert. Pellegrino's Music graciously donated a piano that Molly Ramsey expertly played. The piano was delivered to the Civic Center by Abbott's Moving at no charge. Young and old took their turns in the colorful bounce house donated by Bounce House Rentals and the Hibben family. The afternoon concluded with a magic show by Mike Bishop.



Wishes Treasurer Mike Shaheen made sure every child was a winner!

Special thanks to event volunteers: Tim, Margee & Vicki Escola; Jim, Teresa & Lindsey Knappenberger; Tom & Tonya Preston; Kathie Kerekes; Cindy Derrell; Terri Bordner; Robert Ramey; Heather Brown; Ryan & Ashley Semrau; Dave Sweeney; and Warren Dunn.

Once again, the generosity of our community in making this event possible was overwhelming. We hope to continue this as an annual tradition.

## Wishes Board Member David Ferrell Elected as Director and Officer of Association of Wish Granting Organizations

David Ferrell was elected to a three year term on the Board of Directors of the Association of Wish Granting Organizations (AWGO). He will serve as secretary for the coming year. He received this honor at the annual membership meeting in Idaho. AWGO brings together wish granting organizations from around the

world that share in a desire to uphold a strict code of ethics regarding wish granting and the fund raising process that supports their program.

Wishes Can Happen is proud to have Dave represent us in this important organization.



Attorney David Ferrell



## WISHES CAN HAPPEN INC.

## September 11th Didn't Deter Elizabeth's Wish

Elizabeth had looked forward to her Disney trip for weeks. It was all she could talk about! She was scheduled to go in September, shortly after the events of Sept. 11th.

Her parents had considered postponing the trip, but didn't want to disappoint Elizabeth. They decided to go ahead with their plans, and Elizabeth couldn't



Elizabeth was overcome with excitement at Disney and "Give Kids the World"

have been happier!

They stayed at "Give Kids the World" in Orlando. "Give Kids the World" is a special place for special children from all over the world. Any child dealing with a life threatening illness referred by a wish granting organization is welcome to stay there while they enjoy Florida's attractions. Many of our families tell us that there is so much to do at "Give Kids the World" that they

like it just as well as Disney. *Wishes Can Happen* works closely with "Give Kids the World" to insure that every child's visit to Florida is truly a memorable one!



The movie theatre is one of many highlights at "Give Kids the World"

## Two Holes in One at this *Wishes Can Happen* Fundraiser

The 10th Annual *Wishes Can Happen* Pro3-AM Golf Tournament was held once again at Riceland Golf Course in Wayne County. Riceland has teamed with *Wishes Can Happen* to grant wishes to 19 children from the Wayne County area in the last 10 years.

This year's tournament benefited five year old Kelly, who was diagnosed with leukemia this year.

While Kelly's dream of visiting Disney World and meeting Mickey Mouse can now be a reality, two dream shots were generated that day by players Gary Octavio and Walt Robertson.

**"The real winners are the kids",  
said Riceland pro/manager  
Larry Lisic.**

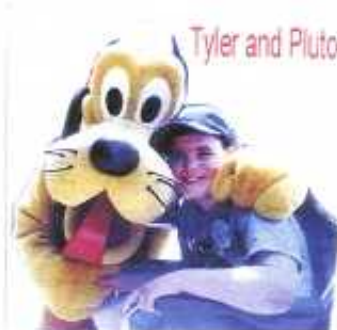
Both players knocked in holes-in-one! Each player split a \$1,500 purse donated by local car dealerships Performance Pontiac, Banner Chevrolet and Maibach Ford. Robertson, who aced the 152 yard 10th hole with a 9-iron, also won a \$14,000 Steiner mower donated by Mast Lepley.

*Wishes Can Happen* is grateful to the Lisic's for organizing this fine event.

## Words from Wish Kids

"At Disney World, there was a funny thing Pluto did. I was in my wheelchair, and mom was taking a picture of Pluto and me. All of a sudden, Pluto started skipping away with me and my wheelchair! Mom was confused at first, then she started chasing after us! Pluto took me around the park to visit all the characters, and I got a picture of me with each one!" - taken from "A Dream Come True", by Tyler

.....



Pluto is a real trickster!

## and their Families

"Daniel's dream of meeting Jim Thome is a wish come true, and one that he'll remember for a lifetime. We have many memories of this trip . . . (and oh-what a trip!) that we'll laugh about and cherish forever. We know that God and angels exist. You have been our special angels here on earth. God Bless You!"

-Daniel's Family

## Boy Reunites with his Sister in Scotland

CJ's wish was to visit his sister in Scotland. They visited many wonderful sites, including the infamous Loch Ness. They also saw the William Wallace monument. As you may remember, William Wallace was the subject of the Mel Gibson movie, "Braveheart".

CJ writes, "I wanted to let you know that we had a great time and we were all very happy to see each other again."

He reported that his sister, Diana, got a little sick on one of the boat trips!



CJ at Firth of Forth near a Medieval Abbey



May Your Heart Be Warm This Winter!

## Jered's Wish is to Visit the Dolphins

So simple, this wish. Just to go to Florida and see dolphins. But the happiness on Jered's face says it all!

"I can't tell you how our two older children thanked Jered for this trip. There had been missed vacations, birthday parties, sleepovers, and holiday gatherings. We would try to make excuses why we couldn't go, but he knew. You provided an opportunity for healing for all of us." - Jered's Mom

Wishes Can Happen,  
And they do!  
Because of the kindness of people like you!



"Thank you for making Jered smile, like I have never seen before."

## In Memoriam

Three year old Shayne's wish, granted last Christmas, was for a Thomas the Tank Engine train set.

Shayne's mother writes, "Shayne had a very nice Christmas. He was very happy with the Thomas track and play table. His face never smiled so much! You will never know how much we appreciated everything. . ."



Shayne: 1997-2001

"Shayne loves his Thomas train set. He plays with it everyday that we're home."

*Your generosity and support helps Wishes Can Happen put smiles on children's faces and create happy memories for their families.*

*Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.*

*-The Board of Directors and Staff at Wishes Can Happen, Inc.*

**WISHES  
CAN HAPPEN**  
INC.

## *Wishes Can Happen* Elects New Officers

New officers were elected at the last meeting of the Board of Directors.

The officers for the 2002-2004 term are as follows:

President: Kathy Rainieri

Vice President: Ken Ryan

Treasurer: Michael Shaheen

Secretary: Kenneth Scheurer

The following members will remain on the Board: Robert McFarlane (outgoing president), Dr. Regis Burlas, Lucie Rush, Jodi Wilson, and David Ferrell.

Cyndi Morrow, Founder of *Wishes Can Happen*, and Madelyn Sweeney, Director of Community Relations, will continue to serve the organization.

*Wishes Can Happen, Inc.* is a nonprofit organization, chartered in the State of Ohio since 1982. We are simply organized under the guidance of a Board of Directors. Our sole purpose is to bring special joys and memories to children facing life threatening illnesses. *Wishes Can Happen* is entirely donor supported, and we rely solely on the compassion and generosity of private donors and corporate sponsors to fund our efforts. We are available to speak to you or your organization if you would like to learn more about *Wishes Can Happen*.

Please contact us if you know of a child with a life threatening illness who would benefit from our services.

**WISHES CAN HAPPEN, INC.**

**(330) 966-0043**

Give a Priceless Gift.

A gift of love to a local child.

Help make a wish come true for a child suffering from a life threatening illness.

Make a donation to **WISHES CAN HAPPEN**  
in the name of a family member, friend, or past recipient.

This gift is made in: (honor) (memory) of: \_\_\_\_\_

It is being given by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name

Send Confirmation Card to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and send to: *Wishes Can Happen*, 1310 N. Main, N. Canton, OH 44720