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Wishes Can Happen, Inc. is a non-profit 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 and young adults 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.

All donations are gratefully accepted and are tax deductible.

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.

1310 N. Main Street, N. Canton, OH 44720

(330) 966-0043 www.wishescanhappen.org

FOR LUCAS AND KEVIN, THE SKY WAS THE LIMIT!

Two very special young men were given a trip of a lifetime this summer! Lucas Rife of North Canton and Kevin Willis of Strasburg were treated to a ride on a B-17 from WWII. This ride was courtesy of the Maps Air Museum and took place just prior to this year's Air Show. Each year, they contact Wishes Can Happen and donate a ride to several of our wish children at this event. Both boys were absolutely thrilled! Kevin said afterwards to his mother, "I think this might have been the best day of my life." And before the ride was over, Lucas was asking Cyndi Morrow (who accompanied the boys on the ride) who he should thank for this opportunity.

Lucas and Kevin were diagnosed with the same kind of cancer. Lucas is currently doing well and is in remission, while Kevin is still undergoing treat-

ments for the disease. Lucas had gone to a dude ranch out West for his wish a couple of years ago. Kevin has decided that he wants a new bunk bedroom suite complete with a desk area, which will be delivered soon.

Should you know of someone who might want to donate a special experience to one of our children, please let us know.

Special Thanks to Eric Fink and Joe Cheveraux for organizing this B-17



Wishes Can Happen is an all volunteer wish granting group that has been granting wishes in our area for over 23 years!

Please support us!



GREETINGS FROM WISHES CAN HAPPEN

Volume 3

2003-04

WISHES CAN HAPPEN, INC.

We're on the web!
www.wishescanhappen.org

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Alicia Meets with Country Music Entertainer of the Year—Toby Keith

Nine year old Alicia Helwig of Zoar knew exactly what she wanted for a wish. She wanted to meet her "man"-Toby Keith.

Alicia was diagnosed in 2002 with a malignant brain tumor that metastasized down her spine. Wishes Can Happen reached Toby Keith quickly, and being the kind man that he is, he offered to meet her that very night in California. However, due to her medical condition, she was unable to fly. Arrangements were made for the family to drive to an upcoming concert in West Virginia.

As the time grew near, Alicia slipped into a coma-like sleep, and it wasn't looking favorable for her to

meet her man. But she came out of it, and it was proclaimed to be "Wish Week" for Alicia.

Magician Tim Angeloni of Louisville went to her home to do a private magic show for Alicia, her family, and her friends. Stump Hill Farms took a six week old baby lion to her home on Thanksgiving Day. And Theatre 815 of Green did a special private showing of a Christmas musical for Alicia and her third grade classmates from Bolivar.

On the way to Huntington where Alicia met Toby, Wishes arranged for a visit to the Lee Middleton Doll Company, where she hand picked a baby doll. There was even a special adoption ceremony.



Alicia Helwig proclaims, "He's my man!"

Alicia did meet her man on November 29th, and touched him so much that he spoke of her on TV for a full week.

Sadly, Alicia passed away on Christmas Eve. Wishes Can Happen is honored to have given her family happy memories in her last days on earth.

NCI Computer Donates Website to Wishes Can Happen—www.wishescanhappen.org

NCI Computer, Inc. of Canton recently donated a website to Wishes Can Happen.

President George Raresheid said that he wanted to "give back to the community for supporting his business" and couldn't think of a more worthwhile

organization with which to share his time and talent.

The website includes the history of Wishes, as well as upcoming events, links to newsletters, wish stories, and much more. It also allows you to make donations on line and refer

new wishes to us.

Check it out soon! And spread the word — we're ON LINE!

Special thanks to NCI Computer and programmer Peggy Yehl for all the hard work and effort!



Tim Ness Asks, "Can You Make Hugh Heffner my Best Friend?"

Yes, this was his first request. This ornery 18 year old boy from Canton South was quite the challenge.

but our policy is no motorized vehicles due to liability.



"I've thought of a wish . . . Can you make Hugh Heffner my best friend???"

Then came the request that sounded easy. "How 'bout a game room?" We can do that! But the kicker was there was no room in their house to put one.

So it was decided to remodel their two car garage into a game room. This required a

lot of coordination, and a whole lot of donations!

Construction began immediately to transform their garage into a fully finished room, complete with heating and air conditioning. It included a gorgeous pool table and light, ping pong table top, dart board, neon pool clock, and framed pool room prints.

Tim's cancer is in remission, and he is doing very well. So well, in fact, that he was named Canton South's MVP this year for football! Way to go, Tim!

SPECIAL THANKS TO JIM MANGES OF THE FINISHED EDGE FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THIS PROJECT. ALSO, THANKS TO DSD FOR WINDOWS, FRED'S CARPETS, CLARK & SON'S POOL TABLES, LOWE'S, AND GREENTOWN ART GALLERY.

Alex Owen Waved Off by Her Classmates at Bolivar

Alex Owen was a classmate of Alicia Helwig in Bolivar (see front page story). Alicia loved candy. She didn't eat it so much, but she dearly loved to sort it! She had a big jar full of "candy money." Her mother donated Alicia's money toward her friend's wish. Alex chose to tour Disney, as well as to go on a 3 day Disney cruise. They were "spoiled rotten" at Give Kids the World in Kissimmee, Florida! They fully enjoyed the "go to the front of the line passes" at all the Disney parks.

Alex especially appreciated all the special attention from the Disney characters on the ship. A beautiful white limo donated by Mid-Ohio Limousine drove Alex past her school, where the entire class waved goodbye in spite of sub-zero temperatures!

"Alex hasn't stopped talking about her trip . . . We've done scrapbooks and seen the pictures and tapes several times! You truly made her wish come true."



Mom says, "TURN IT DOWN!" Will says, "THIS RULES!"

Will Harms loves to play video games. All video games. He especially likes Mega Man games, and probably has every one of the 29+ games in that series that are available. This year marks the 15th anniversary of Mega Man games, and no one can match Will's skill in beating the bosses at each level.

having the big TV screen is such a great thing for him! One of the games that Will plays with his friends called Mario Kart splits into 4 screens. "When you're playing on a 65" screen, it feels like each player has his own separate TV," says Sharon Harms. Her only complaint is that the sound system often absolutely rumbles, and she makes a lot of trips up the stairs to say, "TURN IT DOWN!"



Thanks, Wishes Can Happen, because playing games on this TV rules! - Will



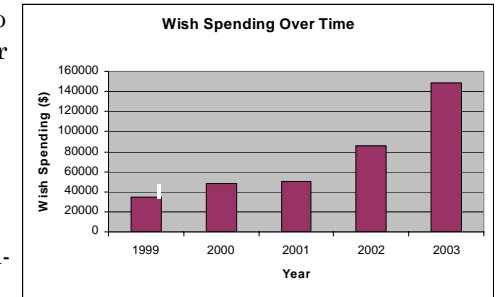
-Will Harms passed away Summer 2004-

We Need Your Help—Wish Spending Increased by 80% in 2003

Wishes Can Happen, Inc. had an absolutely record breaking wish granting year in 2003. Our recent increase in the number of wishes granted since 2002 has necessitated this request for your financial support. For many years, we were able to invest donations received from private donors to support our wish granting activity levels. However, we have now reached the point where we must raise funds in order to continue fulfilling our mission. Since our organization touches the lives of so many children and families in the Stark and

surrounding area, we are appealing to local individuals and organizations for support. This chart gives you a picture of the growth in the wish spending of our organization since 1999.

At Wishes Can Happen, these dollars are spent almost entirely on the granting of wishes because our organization has no paid staff and has very marginal needs for supplies or infrastructure. Last year, we spent 95+% of every dollar donated toward the granting of wishes. This figure is well above the generally accepted average of 70% for charitable organizations.



We would very much like to briefly meet with you to discuss our mission and financial needs in more detail. Please let us know if you would like to learn more about us! Call us at (330) 966-0043, or email us via our website at www.wishescan happen.org!

Adam Albaugh is All Wet on This Wish

Hot tubs make Adam feel really, really good! His condition causes him a lot of pain, and dad Eric says that when he's in a hot tub, he's smiling!

Wishes Can Happen made Adam's Christmas extra special, because his eight person hot tub arrived just in time for the special day.



Dylan Does Disney As Captain Hook!



Dylan Gatian had his face painted every day of his trip!

Decisions, Decisions - Which Shoe to Pick?



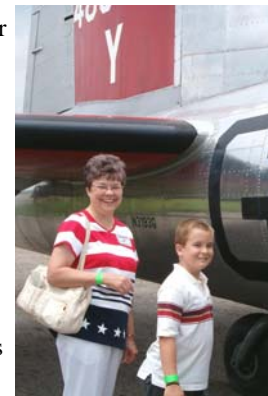
Quiara Thomas Enjoys Cleveland Shopping Spree With Family!

Wishes Volunteers Recognized by their Peers

Cyndi Morrow, Executive Director and Founder of Wishes Can Happen, was recently honored by being chosen "Woman of the Year" by the Junior League of Canton. Wishes Board member and past recipient of this award, Lucie Rush, nominated Cyndi for her work with Wishes Can Happen.

Cyndi was presented with this award on April 19, 2004. Cyndi is co-owner of North Canton based Koala Kruizers.

Cyndi Morrow founded Wishes Can Happen in 1982.



Cyndi with Lukie Rife about to ride a B-17 at Akron Air Show



Madelyn and Alicia Helwig in front of limo prior to Toby Keith concert

Madelyn Sweeney, Community Relations Director and Wish Coordinator for Wishes Can Happen, received the Ambassador Award from GMAC Real Estate. This national award recognizes a salesperson from one of GMAC's 1500 nationwide offices for volunteerism. Madelyn has volunteered for Wishes for over seven years. She is a Realtor with the North Canton office of Cutler GMAC Real Estate. Cutler Managers Sue Seivert, Ellen McNally, and Jim Bray nominated her for this award.

Madelyn was presented with her award in New Orleans March 15-20, 2004.