

WISH NEWS

25 MAKE-A-WISH.
YEARS IN CONNECTICUT



I WISH TO GO TO WALT DISNEY WORLD®!!!

When Sammy was diagnosed with cancer, it was a life-altering experience for him and his entire family. The endless parade of doctor visits and medical treatments were tiring and stressful, especially for a boy of such a young age. But throughout Sammy's treatments, there was only one thing that remained in his mind...the Make-A-Wish Foundation® was going to grant his one true wish...anything he wished for in the entire world. With stars in his eyes, Sammy decided that his one true wish would be to go to Walt Disney World®. As nervous as his parents were about traveling to such a busy place, as Sammy could not even wash his own face at the time, the wish was all about Sammy, and he wanted to go to Disney World.

The trip quickly rolled around the corner, and Sammy's wish began with a limo ride to the airport, making him and his entire family immediately feel like royalty. The family stayed in the Candy Land Villa at Give Kids The World Village, which was the perfect place for Sammy. They were able to see all the characters in the Village without the crazy lines of the theme parks; they even had rides and activities such as Dinosaur Mini-Golf and a pirate ship on premises! After daily breakfast at the Gingerbread House followed by a morning activity at the village, Sammy and his family would spend all day and night visiting the theme parks and making the most of their magical experience. And every night upon their return back to their villa, an array of candy, games, and other fun treats awaited them.

While the trip was fun and exciting, the most impressive element that Sammy's family will forever remember was the stress-free atmosphere that awaited them each and every day. They had the chance to be a family.

"It was a dream trip for Sammy and our entire family," Sammy's mother said. "We were able to forget the hospital visits and treatments for a week. Instead we were able to focus on family reconnections. The trip was full of positivity and beyond the dreams of Sammy and all of us. Even though it was Sammy's wish, a wish came true for the whole family."

The hospitality and incredible attention to detail that Sammy and his family experienced at "Give Kids The World" was better than they ever could have imagined.

"Give Kids the World is a place that really understands the needs of families and children with illness," says mom. "I have nothing but praise and gratitude!"



Sammy heading out to his limo to begin his magical Wish experience!

JOIN THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION® OF CONNECTICUT
AS WE CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF WISHES AT OUR

Evening of Wishes Gala

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011
UNCAS BALLROOM AT MOHEGAN SUN
6:00 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT



Special dinner menu created and presented
live by Celebrity Chef Todd English.

Hosted by "Voice of the UCONN Huskies"
Sports Announcer Joe D'Ambrosio and
FOXCT Anchor Sarah French



Visit wishct.kintera.org/gala11 to purchase tickets or make a donation today!

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MEDIA SPONSORS



Donate your unused frequent flier miles to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and make wishes come true for Connecticut kids!

It takes a lot of air miles to earn big rewards - but if you donate those miles to Make-A-Wish, the reward becomes immediate.

If you'd like to donate your unused miles, just visit our website at www.ct.wish.org or call us toll free at (877)-203-WISH!

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BECOME A WISH GRANTER!!!

Over the past several months, we have worked hard to increase outreach and find every eligible Wish child throughout the state of Connecticut. The result has been a dramatic increase in referrals of children with life-threatening medical conditions. In 2009 we had 181 referrals and granted 130 Wishes. In 2010 we had 205 referrals and granted a record 150 Wishes. This year, we already have 141 referrals and are on pace to grant at least 165 Wishes.

The recruitment and training of new Wish Granting Volunteers is a top priority for the Chapter. We have completely revised our training process, making full use of online resources and webinars so that volunteering is easier and more convenient for everyone. We are conducting monthly trainings so that we can expand our "army" of Wish Granters to 300 by the end of the year.

You can share in the hope, strength and joy that a Wish can provide by becoming a Wish Granter today! Please visit our website at www.ct.wish.org and look under "Ways To Help" to join Make-A-Wish today!