

# WISHLINE

Make-A-Wish® Southern Florida

## 30 YEARS OF WISHES

Volume 30, No. 1

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition

30  
Years  
of Wishes

MAKE-A-WISH®  
Southern Florida

## A WISH FOR THE AGES



In 1989, four-year-old **Bryan** was receiving treatment for leukemia when Make-A-Wish granted his wish to go to *Walt Disney World*®. Although he was so young, Bryan remembers meeting the Disney characters and playing in the pool at Give Kids The World Village. His parents were so happy to see Bryan just be a kid and forget about the treatments he was receiving.

Bryan's volunteer wish granter, a local firefighter, hosted a party for Bryan at his firehouse before he left for Orlando. Ever since, Bryan was determined to become a firefighter and paramedic. When Bryan completed paramedic training, his father contacted his wish granter, the firefighter who inspired his son twenty years before. His former wish granter Norm was even present at the graduation ceremony to present Bryan with his paramedic pin.

Most recently, Bryan joined the army and, as an officer, enrolled in medical school at the University of Miami. His experience with Make-A-Wish continues to shape how he interacts with people. He strives to make people feel comfortable by showing compassion and attentiveness...the way he feels Make-A-Wish treated him.

*Wish Granter: Norm Engle*

To learn more about Bryan's wish, visit [www.youtube.com/makeawishsfla](http://www.youtube.com/makeawishsfla)

# 80s

THEN



After overcoming Hodgkin's Disease, 18-year-old *Colleen* couldn't imagine a greater victory celebration than to wish for an Alaskan adventure for her family. "When I was diagnosed, my family had to cancel a much-anticipated trip." When Make-A-Wish came into Colleen's life and told her she could wish for anything her heart desired, she knew just what she wanted. "I picked a trip to Alaska because it was a place I didn't think I'd ever be able to go. It was important to me to give back to my family something they had given up while they cared for me during my illness."

90's

Nearly 15 years later, Colleen still remembers the cruise ship that took her and her family on their Alaskan escapade. "My whole family was given the red carpet treatment. I got to stand with the captain on the bridge and go on a helicopter tour of the glaciers. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience!" Colleen, now a mother and special events coordinator for a large foundation, still thinks back on her trip with gratitude. "What meant so much to me was that my family could share in this positive experience after enduring the ugliness of cancer with me. The trip came after my treatment and was a celebration that brought my family closer. And for that, I will always be grateful to Make-A-Wish."

NOW



*Wish Granter: German Miret*  
*Referred by: Jessica Daniels*  
*Wish adopted by AAHAM Golf Tournament*  
*To learn more about Bryan's wish, visit [www.youtube.com/makeawishsfla](http://www.youtube.com/makeawishsfla)*

THEN



In 2006, *Jonalya* could only imagine what it would be like to be a firefighter. "I wanted to fight fires, save lives and make sure people were okay," she says, reflecting back. "Dealing with my own illness just made me want to show people that there is help." Her heartfelt wish would be forever etched in Make-A-Wish Southern Florida history as the 6,000th wish granted by the chapter.

Jonalya's wish experience started off with sirens blaring, as she was escorted from her home to the Hollywood Fire Station. She was greeted by applause from the entire engine company and presented with her personalized firefighter turnouts. Then, Jonalya heard a fire alarm and saved a stuffed Dalmatian from a burning house.

Today, Jonalya is nearing her 15th birthday. Her eighth grade schedule keeps her busy, and writing is her favorite subject. She fondly remembers her wish day; the excitement and nervousness she felt. "Receiving my wish made me very happy. Not many people can have the experience that I did. In fact, I'd love to do it again!" When asked what she thinks when she sees firefighters rushing off to answer a call, she thinks, "Yeah, I did that!"

*Wish Granters: German Miret & Jose Morales*  
*Referred by: Cassandra Stepherson, her aunt*  
*Wish adopted by Jewelers For Children*

00's



NOW

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!



Social networking is a wonderful platform for keeping in touch with us. You can get updates on wishes, special events and more by connecting with us on these social media sites.



From relaxing him to providing an outlet for him to express his feelings, art has held a special place in **Ben's** life since he was 2 and undergoing treatment for leukemia. Now 7, this Boynton Beach boy still creates a new piece of artwork just about every week. This budding artist wished to have his very own art gallery show so he could share his passion with the world. His wish came true at Art House of Delray surrounded by dozens of loved ones and other art admirers who couldn't wait to meet the featured artist - Ben. He was all smiles and said that the best parts of his wish day were riding in the limo and selling his paintings.

*Wish Granters: Ann Lattanzio & Sue Pikus*  
*Referred by: Dr. Melissa Singer*  
*Wish adopted by Children's Healthcare Charity, Inc.*

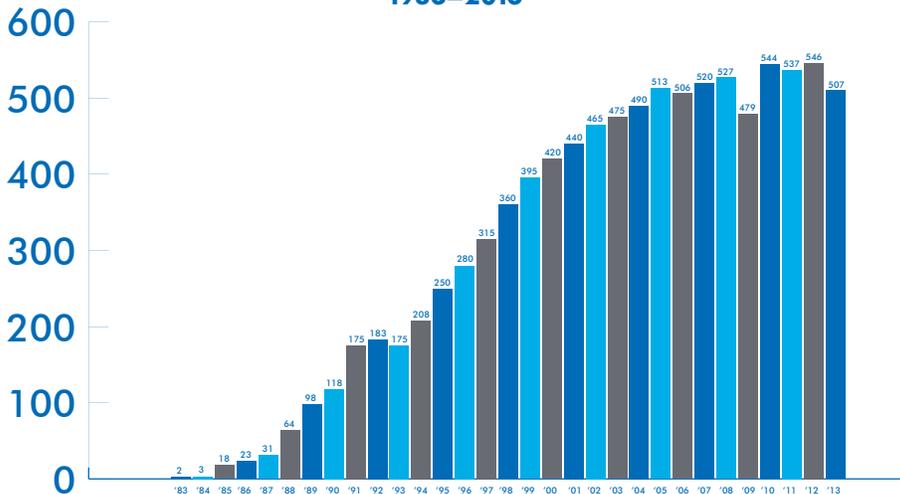


Six-year-old **Jeslyn** from Homestead set sail on a 5-day adventure aboard the Disney Dream. Her mother said she was "all smiles" when they set foot on the ship. Jeslyn, who is battling an autoimmune disorder, loved all the shows and the fireworks. She was pampered in the spa with a manicure and pedicure and got her hair braided. Jeslyn and her family played mini golf, went swimming and soaked up the sun on the pool deck. She loved bumping into all the characters, including her favorite Minnie Mouse. Jeslyn danced, laughed and played with them every chance she had. It was a spectacular voyage!

*Wish granters: Claudia Bustamante & Marta Bustamante*  
*Referred by Grissel Caballero, her grandma*  
*Wish adopted by Richard & Susan Finkelstein*

*If you know of a child with a life-threatening medical condition who would love to experience a wish come true, call Make-A-Wish Southern Florida at 888.773.9474*

**WISHES GRANTED  
1983-2013**



**DONATE YOUR AIRLINE MILES**

Please help us grant wishes involving airline travel. Donate your unused airline miles today!  
 For more information, visit [www.sfla.wish.org](http://www.sfla.wish.org).



We recognize and thank Give Kids the World Village for helping make wishes come true.

# SAMANTHA'S WELCOME TO THE "CASTLE"



For seventeen-year-old *Samantha*, it's not every day that you get to meet the cast of your favorite show. Her wish took her all the way to Los Angeles, California to meet the cast of the hit TV series "Castle." Samantha, a Royal Palm Beach native, and her family made the trip to the West Coast. Her adventure started off exciting as she met the pilot of the plane and was able to tour the cockpit!

As soon as she checked in to their gorgeous hotel, Samantha, who suffers from cerebral palsy, felt like a celebrity. Her grandmother said everything was fabulous. "We had chocolate-covered strawberries and cookies sent up to our room which just made Samantha so happy," she said. Then came the big day – her special meeting with the "Castle" cast.

Samantha had VIP seating right behind the director during the taping and met many stars from her favorite show, along with a producer. After all of that excitement, Samantha took a tour, visiting the show's most important sets. She even sat at the desk of the main character. Her favorite person to meet was actress Stana Katic, who even tweeted about her visit!

While in California, she and her family also explored Universal Studios. Samantha's grandmother said it was "an amazing once-in-a-lifetime experience."

*Wish Granters: Shannon Ramirez & Sandra Ramirez  
Referred by herself  
Wish adopted by Ryan & Nicole Munder*



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