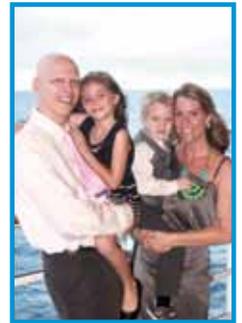
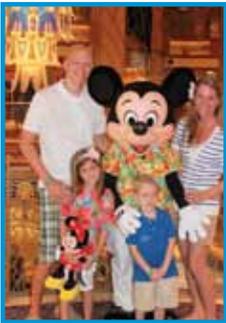




## GAVIN'S MAGICAL VOYAGE



Four-year-old **Gavin** from Cape Coral battles daily with a mitochondrial disease that also causes seizures. He wished to “go on the big red boat” but his family didn’t know what he meant until his older sister mentioned a Disney Cruise commercial.

Gavin was treated like royalty aboard the Disney Dream® with the staff catering to his every need and Disney characters waiting to give him hugs around every corner of the ship. He went down the Mickey slide over and over again and loved to discover the treats that were left in his cabin just about every time he left. Each day, he feasted on sushi and mac and cheese before asking his parents if it was time for ice cream yet.

Days at dock offered him even more opportunities for adventure. In Nassau, he went swimming with dolphins which was a huge thrill. At Castaway Cay, Disney’s private island, Gavin enjoyed one of the best moments of the cruise – dancing with his favorite characters.

Gavin’s jaw nearly hit the floor when he met Mickey Mouse at a private meeting that was arranged after he missed an earlier opportunity to meet him because of a seizure. He still sleeps with the stuffed Mickey that Mickey Mouse gave him, and autographed on his foot, during their special moment together.

Gavin’s mother said, “We haven’t smiled that much in a long time. This wish allowed our family a break from reality and the daunting routine of doctors and the overwhelming stress and medical bills. The experience was priceless.”

*Wish Granters: Coby Palmer & Jeffrey Sills*

*Referred by Dr. Jose Colon, his physician*

*Wish adopted by Bob DesJardin & Leadership Collier Class of 2013*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Fort Lauderdale Office

4491 South State Road 7, Suite 201  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314  
Ph: 954.967.WISH (9474)  
Fax: 954.967.2468  
e-mail: info@sfla.wish.org

### West Coast Office

3635 Bonita Beach Road, Suite 4  
Bonita Springs, FL 34134  
Ph: 239.992.WISH (9474)  
Fax: 239.992.2833  
e-mail: swfl@sfla.wish.org

**Web Site:** [www.sfla.wish.org](http://www.sfla.wish.org)

### Norman Wedderburn

*President / CEO*

[nwedderburn@sflawish.org](mailto:nwedderburn@sflawish.org)

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The Treasure Coast Square Mall was the ideal setting for 6-year-old **Angelica's** wish to have a shopping spree. This Fort Pierce girl, who is battling rhabdomyosarcoma, loves to shop and model outfits for her mother so much that she tries to save her allowance so her mother doesn't have to spend the money. Angelica's wish day was a time to focus on fashion and fun without worrying about the price tags. She visited all her favorite stores, selecting everything from trendy clothes and cute shoes to Hello Kitty items and pink sunglasses. Of course, she

stopped by the food court to snack on a cupcake. With an overflowing limo trunk of purchases, Angelica and her family ended the day with a delicious meal at Chili's.

*Wish Granters: Carol Bannister & Charmaine Clements*

*Referred by Dr. Melissa Singer, her physician*

*Wish adopted by Stanley & Arna Smith Foundation*



Fourteen-year-old **Jonathan** from Miami battles daily with life-threatening complications from sickle cell anemia. He wished to turn up the HEAT in his bedroom with a room makeover inspired by his passion for his favorite basketball team. Jonathan's wish day was a slam dunk as he was amazed to see the transformation. New flooring and a new coat of paint, along with all-new furniture and bedding were just the beginning. Jonathan was delighted to find so much Miami HEAT memorabilia and a mini basketball hoop. With his new laptop,

television and boom box, Jonathan doesn't want to leave his room. His new digs are "amazing" and "cool." It's the perfect room for a Miami HEAT fan!

*Wish Granters: Digna Lorenzo & Nilsa Louis*

*Referred by Noeline Lewis, his nurse*

*Wish adopted by Fresco Development Group, LLC*

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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).

## 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.



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





An animal lover from Cape Coral, 5-year-old **Caliah** wanted to take an ultimate escape from her battle with leukemia – a trip to Alaska. It was her goal to enjoy the snow

and see as many native baby animals as she could. Caliah loved seeing glaciers from a helicopter and going on a dog sled ride the most. She even got to hold a 2-week-old Husky puppy. From a baby elk to a family of beluga whales and a baby walrus, animals were the main attraction. There was also time to hike to a beautiful waterfall and do a little gold mining. It was a week of chilly adventures that will warm Caliah's heart for years to come!

*Wish Granters: Mathew & Linda Schloss  
Referred by Stacie Margaritis, her child life specialist  
Wish adopted by Aubuchon Homes, Inc.*



Recess is 5-year-old **Pablo's** favorite part of the school day so a trip to *Walt Disney World*® to play and laugh with his Disney friends was his ideal wish. Pablo

and his family left Hialeah and headed for Orlando where they spent a week in the magic and splendor of the theme parks. Each moment was better than the last as he rode the rides, watched the parades and met up with Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy, among other fun characters. His VIP status meant no waiting in lines for the rides, which he loved. Each night, Pablo would retreat to his villa at Give Kids The World Village and enjoy the amazing amenities, including the video arcade, mini golf and complimentary ice cream parlor. His wish vacation was nothing short of phenomenal!

*Wish Granters: Suleydi San Martin & Maria Wong  
Referred by Dr. Amarilys Murillo-Perez  
Wish adopted by Hana Stern Diamond & Jewelry Designs*



Sailing, diving, going to the beach – if it involves water, 16-year-old **Marina** from Hollywood enjoys it. Since surfing is her favorite escape, the opportunity to customize her own surfboard was an easy choice. Marina worked closely with a designer to craft her dream board, with elements inspired by her

battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Surrounded by family and friends, her wish day was no ordinary day at the beach. Marina said, "This is a wish that will last forever. Now when I think back, I don't remember the bad parts of having cancer. I only think of the good things."

*Wish Granters: Katelin Shahzade & Dulce Stephens  
Referred by Elisa Jones, her child life specialist  
Wish adopted by Drs. Roger & Ginger Medel*



In fifth grade, **Mengie** from Boynton Beach went on a class trip to Washington D.C. An even bigger history buff, Mengie, who is now 18 and

suffers from a life-threatening immunity disorder, wanted to capitalize on her wish by returning to the U.S. capital. She decided that since she is older, she would appreciate the trip even more and wanted to share the experience with her family. Once in Washington D.C., she soaked up all that she could and was thrilled to learn so much about U.S. history. Mengie and her family visited the zoo, the aquarium, several museums and every landmark in town. It was such an electrifying experience that she decided she wants to attend college in Washington D.C.

*Wish Granters: Gary & Elaine Shore  
Referred by Jennifer Piva, her nurse  
Wish adopted by Anixter*

Although 14-year-old **Marquis** lives in Homestead he remains a huge New York Yankees fan so it came as no surprise when he wished to meet his favorite baseball team. For this teen who loves to play baseball, this wish was sure to be a grand slam.

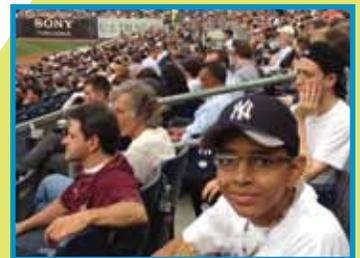
On his wish day, Marquis and his family headed to the stadium for a behind-the-scenes tour. He couldn't believe his eyes as he met many Yankees players. He got handshakes and autographs, posed for photos and chatted with all the greats. He even got to spend some extra time with Alex Rodriguez in the dugout. His favorite player autographed a pair of his very own batting gloves and gave them to Marquis. During the game, Marquis watched all the action from awesome seats and was even greeted with a special welcome message on the scoreboard.

His battle with a brain tumor benched him for awhile but he is once again training to be the best baseball player that he can be. Marquis said, "I started to feel like myself again, getting in touch with my friends again, and seeing the cup half-full instead of half-empty. God has blessed me by letting me experience many things, but that one moment in my life will always remind me how someone's life can be drastically changed by your one action."

*Wish Granters: Claudia & Marta Bustamante*

*Referred by Noeline Lewis, his nurse*

*Wish adopted by Gayle Erdrich-Tucker Memorial Fund*



*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*



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