

WISHING WELL

May to August 2019

ISSUE 43



*“I wish to visit
New York!”*

– Sunny, 9
acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

Make-A-Wish
SINGAPORE

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Special Thanks to all Wish Granters

MCI (P) 070/09/2016

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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



As a paediatrician and child neurologist, I have been taking care of children and adolescents with various medical conditions including critical illnesses such as cancers, brain injuries, etc. for many years.

I remember my first contact with Make-A-Wish Foundation was through my patient, Andy, ten years ago. Andy was a 10-year-old boy who had a brain tumour. I took care of Andy since I was a junior doctor and accompanied him while he went through chemotherapy and other painful treatments. Despite the physical suffering, Andy remained amazingly brave, resilient and hopeful. Someone had told me about Make-A-Wish Foundation and I initiated the referral for Andy, not knowing what to expect but just wanting to do something extra for him, other than poking his veins every other day!

Andy made a simple wish – to spend time with his family and friends at Sentosa, where he had the fondest childhood memories. But granting Andy's wish was no simple feat given his fragile state and dependence on medical support. Yet the wish granters believed in what they were doing and did their best to fulfil his wish. I was surprised to be invited by Andy himself to his intimate gathering. It was a visit that made me a believer of wishes. I don't think anyone would forget that day, and how Andy's smiles and laughter touched and warmed every one of our hearts. Andy has since sadly passed on but not without a valiant fight. One thing was certain – the magic that the wish had on Andy and his family never quite left us. Up until today, Andy's family still visits me at the hospital and would speak of the happy memories of the day he had on Sentosa (but never about his many days in hospital)!

After Andy, I continued to see how wishes impacted my patients and their families at firsthand, in terms of providing them joy, hope and strength, and in intangible ways that medicine alone cannot provide.

I am happy that with rapid advances in medicine, our children are fortunately surviving critical illnesses such as cancers, traumatic injuries, etc. and growing into adulthood. The wishes from the Foundation are thus evolving to become life-changing "recovery wishes" for the children, as part of their often challenging and chronic sick journeys. The wishes still bring them happiness and hope in times of pain and adversity. When children see their wishes come to life and the impossible become possible, they will believe that anything is possible – and that they can overcome everything including their illnesses. This is the power of a wish.

Make-A-Wish Foundation is truly a unique organisation that impacts on each of our beneficiaries and families, in a very personal but powerful and lasting way, regardless of race, religion or socio-economic status. I am truly glad to be given this opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors of the Foundation. I will do my best to provide my medical knowledge to the Foundation to achieve our mission to grant the wish of every eligible child in Singapore.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, partners, Wish Children, Wish Families and to our committed volunteers and staff for believing in our charter and for your unwavering support over the years. Together, let us continue to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses!

Sincerely,
Dr Jeremy Lin

Open Kitchen Cookbook Launch



Janice O'Connor launched her debut cookbook, Open Kitchen earlier in May. It is a result of a decade of charity parties and dinners hosted by the charismatic O'Connors, with Janice cooking and preparing the glorious meals, alongside her husband Terry, hosting their friends at home. The idea of Open Kitchen was mooted by Janice's dear friend and radio personality, Florence Lian, who encouraged her to put together this book documenting her recipes and stories. The cookbook shares 100 recipes and stories including Janice's mother's dishes and best-kept secrets.

All 1,000 copies of Open Kitchen have been sold out and an additional 300 copies have been printed for the second print. A total of \$100,000 was raised and we would like to thank Janice O'Connor for her tremendous generosity. This donation will certainly help us fulfil more wishes and deliver hope, strength and joy to our wish children.

Adventure at nex with Spider-Man

We had a fun-filled afternoon with our wish kids, where they had a chance to be up close and personal with their favourite web-slinging superhero and took cool snaps at the 180-degree Freeze Frame Photo Booth! The event was open to public and they could donate \$2 or more to have their photos taken to form the Spider-Man: Far From Home Montage Wall. Congratulations to nex Singapore on the 3.5m tall photo montage made up of 1,058 individual photos to form the movie poster!



Art Jamming at Times Bookstore

Our wish children unleashed their inner Picasso at a fun art jamming session with organisers Gritbistro and Times Bookstore! Big thanks to the guardians who donated and joined us at the event to help our little budding artists splatter and wish to their heart's content as they created their very own masterpiece.



Movie Day Out with Sysmex



Sysmex Asia Pacific invited 50 wish children and their families for a day out at the movies. The first stop was to Sysmex office, where they indulged in a palatable spread of lunch buffet and enjoyed several rounds of charades. The day ended in a cineplex where they gathered to watch Aladdin. A movie hall was booked at Cathay Cineleisure and our wish children were thrilled when they were served with popcorn and drinks, specially prepared for them. We would like to thank Sysmex Asia Pacific for organising the event and raising \$14,500 to help our wish granting efforts.

Bedok View Secondary School Fund-Raising Efforts for Wish Adoption



The students and teachers at Bedok View Secondary School have been very supportive in their fundraising efforts for Make-A-Wish Singapore through their annual festival celebration, F.A.M.E (Festival of Arts, Music and Exercise). This is their 3rd year supporting us and this year, they have contributed to the adoption of a motorised wheelchair wish.

All Bedok Viewians, from the students to teachers and staff, came together through a whole school approach to organise a carnival at the F.A.M.E festival and raised more than \$8,000. Thank you Bedok View Secondary School for the time and effort in helping to grant life-changing wishes for our wish children.

Special thanks to Drew & Napier for hosting a movie outing for our wish children in August and the adoption of a wheelchair wish.

ORGANISED BY

Make-A-Wish[®]
SINGAPORE

EVENTS HIGHLIGHT



Saturday, 7 December 2019 • 3pm - 8pm
Singapore Sports Hub

2.5km/5km Fun Run • 10km Competitive Run

Register for one of our race categories and receive a fantastic race pack that includes exclusive race merchandise along with other exciting gifts! Come celebrate the festive season with us at our full-day carnival with fun games and kid-friendly rides.

All proceeds from this event go towards our wish granting efforts.
 You can make a difference in helping to make wishes of our little heroes come true.

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Santa Run for Wishes Is Back!



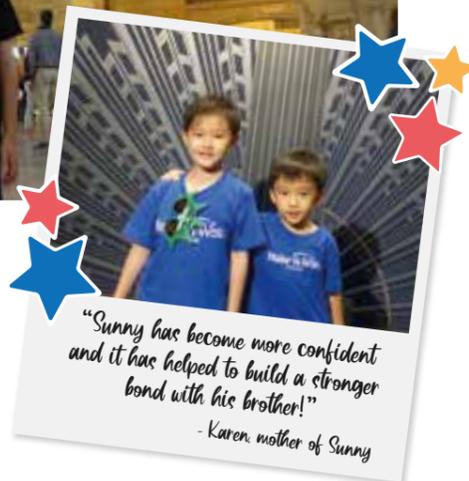
Gear up and lace up your running shoes for the return of Santa Run for Wishes this coming December!

The sixth edition of Santa Run For Wishes is gearing up for another fantastic day of fun and festivities for the whole family in conjunction with Sports Hub Community Play Day! Bond with your family as you run together for a meaningful cause. It is the day where the young and young at heart come dressed in Santa Claus and Elf outfits to bring love and sparkle to children with critical illnesses.

You can walk, dance or race your way through one of our three running routes - 2.5km/5km Fun Run or 10km Competitive Run, which features a spectacular scenic view of the waterfront. Runners will receive a themed t-shirt, race bag, Santa hat and medallion, along with goodies from race sponsors. All proceeds from this event go towards our wish granting efforts. You can make a difference in helping to make wishes of our little heroes come true.



▲ Captain Universe logo designed by Sunny.



“I WISH TO VISIT NEW YORK!”

Sunny, 9
acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

Wish granters: Angeline Leow, Tan Pei Fen & Yvonne Yip

Two years ago, Sunny was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. He had to miss school for one year to go for his treatments. Sunny kept busy and passed his time during his long stay at the hospital with his favourite PlayStation 4 game - LEGO Marvel Avengers. It was the topic which drew a positive response and smile as it acted as an anchor through Sunny's health obstacles.

He eventually became very fascinated with the idea of what the real New York looked like and wanted to go to the same places the superheroes travelled to in the game. He was thrilled when he found out that his wish to visit New York would become a reality.

Before Sunny travelled to New York, he was presented with a few LEGO sets with missing key characters and he had to complete eight missions in New York to rescue them. To prepare for his mission, Sunny designed his own logo and created his superhero identity - Captain Universe. With his new superhero t-shirt and identity in place, Captain Universe was ready to save the day!

With the help of Make-A-Wish Metro New York, Singapore Airlines, LEGO and Marvel, Captain Universe flew to New York to rescue the missing superheroes.

Secret agents were stationed at eight different locations - Grand Central Station, Central Park, Marvel HQ, LEGO Store @ Rockefeller, Times Square, Liberty Island, Brooklyn Bridge and the Empire State Building - waiting for Sunny with his missions.

The missions closely followed his favourite LEGO Marvel Avengers game so he was constantly drawing parallels between the game and what was in front of him. "I feel very happy that I've been to every place in my game," exclaimed Sunny. His favourite part of the trip was visiting Central Park, Umpire Rock in Central Park, and the LEGO Store @ Rockefeller.

"Through this experience, Sunny has become more confident and it has helped to build a stronger bond with his brother," said Karen, Sunny's mother.

Sunny's wish trip brought the family closer as they had the chance to spend more quality time together. It has created unforgettable memories for him and his family. "It is very satisfying to see him so carefree and enjoying himself. As parents, we're very happy when he's happy," Karen said. "This is a priceless experience for us!"



“I WISH TO GO TO LEGOLAND WITH MY BEST FRIEND, BRANDEN!”

Caelen, 6
spinal muscular atrophy

Wish granters: Christie Ang, Daryl Lee & Suzanne Liu

Caelen, 6, was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy, a genetic disease that affects the nervous system resulting in lack of control of muscles. His wish was to visit Legoland with his best friend, Branden, who shares the same medical condition.

Caelen made his own LEGO invite for Branden, which was then sent to Branden's home in Malaysia along with a Legoland map. Once Branden received the personalised handmade invitation, they both were beyond thrilled about the trip and gushed about the attractions they wished to experience. The pair of best friends unanimously agreed that Ninjago World was their 'must-go' attraction, and began counting down to the day they would meet at LEGOLAND.

A week leading up to the wish day, Caelen had the opportunity to build a skyscraper "that reaches the sky" with LEGO bricks. Brick designer, Jeffrey, from Artisan Bricks patiently guided Caelen and his family along, coaching them on how to piece the lego bricks together properly and sketching ideas before building them. With everyone's participation, a personalised skyscraper over 1 metre tall was completed!

The highlight for Caelen's wish trip was the VIP Expedition Tour, where the families enjoyed priority access to rides and attractions, while spending time at an exclusive LEGO building workshop.

Caelen's wish has brought immense hope and joy to him, Branden and the two families, along with memories that will last a lifetime. It allowed both families to spend precious bonding time together, strengthening their friendship and support for each other.





“I WISH TO COOK FOR MY FAMILY!”

Glenis, 13, cardiomyopathy

Wish granters: Ariel Ong, Constance Lee & Low Wanyi

Glenis loves her father and grandmother’s cooking and has always wanted to learn how to cook. Therefore, it came as no surprise that when we asked her what her one true wish was, she knew exactly what she wanted – to cook for her family!

Together with the help of celebrity chef Eric Teo, we turned her dream into reality. Before her wish day, Chef Eric Teo made a surprise visit to Glenis’ home to discuss the menu and we presented Glenis with her own chef’s hat and apron.

On her wish day, Glenis and her family gathered at Marina Mandarin Hotel. With the chef’s help and her father as her assistant, they cooked her favourite dishes, Sweet Sour Pork, Teriyaki Chicken, Fried Rice and Nonya Chap Chye. Glenis had the time of her life cooking and serving a delicious feast for her family while asking lots of questions along the way.

Under the impression that she would only be spending the day cooking for her family, Glenis was completely surprised when one of her favourite singers, Sherraine Law joined the dinner and received a video message from another one of her favourite singers, Lee Pei Fen, who wished her all the best.

Glenis was presented with a certificate of achievement, a chef apron with Chef Eric’s logo, a recipe book of the dishes she learned as well as a very special chef hat that Chef Eric won while representing Singapore in an international culinary competition.

With a smile that lit the whole room, Glenis’ wish came true.

“I WISH TO HAVE A WHEELCHAIR!”

Hadif, 8, haemophilia a

Wish granters: Prabha N. & Shinu Arora

8-year-old Hadif is non-verbal, so our wish granters had to work with Hadif’s parents to discover his one true wish. Turns out, it is to have a lightweight folding wheelchair that can help him to move around and one that can be easily kept when they are travelling in a car or public transport. The wheelchair’s backrest and cushion were customised according to Hadif’s needs, ensuring that it supports his reduced trunk control and includes a pelvic and shoulder harness to keep him safe.

Although unable to verbalise his wish, Hadif has some receptive understanding of language. Each time ideas were presented to him, he showed a strong liking for The Minions, and this helped us to plan for a family outing to Universal Studios where he could test-run his wheelchair and meet & greet various characters.

His wish started with a mini party in his home, where he was surprised with his new wheelchair, minion-themed cookies and ice-cream! Hadif and his family then took a trip to Universal Studios where he could explore the place in his new wheelchair. They were guided around the theme park by a VIP host, sat on some rides and met the characters, including his favourite - The Minions.

Hadif’s wish was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience for him. It takes the support of many to make wishes like his come true. **Huge thanks to Drew & Napier for adopting his wish.**

When a wish is granted, it does much more than bring joy to a child’s heart. For wish kids like Hadif, who are faced with a critical illness, a wish-come-true provides them with improved quality of life and the strength to battle through and hope for healthier, happier days ahead.





“I WISH FOR A MOTORISED WHEELCHAIR!”

Isaac, 18, Duchenne muscular dystrophy

Wish granters: Amanda Cho & Joshua Tan

Isaac, 18, is a cheerful boy living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. He loves First Person Shooting games, the Internet of Things (IOT) and weekend outings with family and friends. He never had a motorised wheelchair and has always relied on his parents to push him around. When the wish granters met with Isaac, he wished for a motorised wheelchair which would give him greater independence to move around freely.

On his wish day, we brought Isaac and his family to Changi Jewel to test drive his new motorised wheelchair. Upon arrival at Jewel, Isaac and his family were greeted with a warm welcome by the Jewel concierge team, Rafly and Czyrene. Special preparations were also made to book a table at A&W as Isaac had always wanted to eat there but never got the chance.

After lunch, Isaac was presented a challenge map specially designed with his love for gaming and technology in mind. It mapped out fun challenges that allowed him to test drive his wheelchair as he explored Jewel. We prepared a bag full of Isaac's favourite things as prizes for each challenge he completed.

Once Isaac was briefed on the challenges, he made his way to the first stop - the Changi experience studio where he marvelled at the use of Augmented Reality (AR).

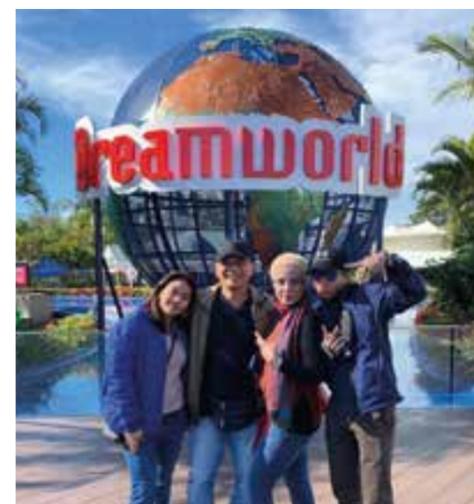
There, Isaac completed a race using a hand cycling device while the rest pedalled on bicycles at the Amazing Runway.

Next up was the Hedge Maze where Isaac accomplished three challenges. He had to snap a photo of an orange daisy which popped in and out of the hedge as well as to take a photo at the flower shrine. To top it off, he had to make it out within 15 minutes! With the help of his family, Isaac completed the tasks and moved on to the final challenge at the Canopy Bridge where he was supposed to take a family photo to conclude the challenge.

Upon completing all the challenges, Isaac proceeded to the Topiary Walk for the prize presentation where he unwrapped all his prizes eagerly. His favourite gifts were the Xiaomi lights which were compatible with his Google home hub that he had at home. These IOT devices, similar to his motorised wheelchair, will help him become more independent as it allows him to control, dim, or even change the colour of his lights using just his voice.

“We are very touched by the kindness and generosity. It truly impacts and brighten up Isaac's life by making his wish come true and we truly feel blessed!” said Mei Leng, Isaac's mother.

Thank you Bedok View Secondary School for contributing to the adoption of Isaac's wish.



“I WISH TO TRAVEL TO GOLD COAST WITH MY FAMILY TO RELIVE HAPPY MEMORIES I HAD THERE AS A KID!”

Syabil, 18, glioblastoma

Wish granters: Christie Ang & Shinu Arora

Syabil is a gregarious and imaginative boy who loves to spend time with his family. He has visited Gold Coast as a child but because he was too young, he could not enjoy all the rides in the amusement park. So for Syabil, his wish was clear, he wanted to visit Gold Coast to relive his childhood memories and enjoy all the rides that he previously couldn't.

Syabil was closely involved in planning for his wish day and the full itinerary was planned just the way he wanted it to be. He took time out of his busy schedule to go through flight and stay alternatives and make suggestions to the wish granters. In addition, Syabil researched on the places he would like to visit and activities that he could enjoy with his family during the trip.

His wish started off with a pre-trip wish celebration at an Aussie themed restaurant with his family on Father's Day. When his wish day arrived, Syabil and his family flew to Brisbane, where they headed straight to the Hilton Surfers' Paradise for their 5-day stay. They explored the city and enjoyed various activities like a wild life sanctuary experience, whale watching and a visit to both Dreamworld and Movieworld.

“This trip is very relaxing and it's been such an enjoyable experience for me and my family,” Syabil said. He was overjoyed that he was able to relive his childhood memories, spend quality time and explore Gold Coast with his favourite people.



Call for Referrals

A child diagnosed with a critical illness spends their days in and out of medical procedures and misses out on the everyday pleasures of life.

Make-A-Wish believes in the healing power of a wish. By helping these children fulfil a cherished dream, you can reignite their sense of hope and imagination, and give the family additional strength to battle these illnesses.

Who is eligible for a wish?



Singaporeans,
Permanent Residents,
Dependent Pass Holders



Diagnosed with a critical
medical condition*

*Critical medical conditions include but are not restricted to, childhood cancers, certain types of muscular dystrophy, certain neurological or genetic diseases, cardiac conditions, renal failure and traumatic injuries.



Between the ages of
3-18 years old

We depend on you to make a referral. Drop us an email at wish@makeawish.org.sg or call/text 9366 2004 to refer a deserving child.

Donation Form

To make a donation online, please visit www.makeawish.org.sg/en/donate

My Particulars

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NRIC / FIN Number: Contact Number:

Address:

Email:

Payment Method

\$50 \$100 \$300 \$500 Other Amounts: \$

*Donations above \$50 will be entitled to a 2.5 tax deductible

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