



February 5, 2025

Mr. Gary Yourman
12 Coventry Square
Ewing, NJ 08628

Dear Gary:

On behalf of Make-A-Wish® New Jersey and the wish children we serve, thank you for your steadfast dedication to our mission through the 2024 *Darts for Dreams* fundraising event. I am pleased to share that the funds raised, totaling \$101,915, will sponsor the heartfelt wishes of 9 children! It is my pleasure to tell you more about these special children and their wishes:

***Ayden**, who you had the pleasure of meeting this past August, is a 10-year-old boy who was diagnosed with a rare endocrine disorder last spring. Despite his medical challenges, Ayden is described by his loved ones as bubbly, positive, and always ready to give out a hug or two! His favorite foods are pepperoni pizza, vanilla cake, and popcorn. He likes bouncing on the trampoline and playing Go Fish with his friends, and he loves all things Nintendo – especially Pokémon, Kirby, and Mario. When asked about his most heartfelt wish, Ayden expressed his desire to have a party for his community, to celebrate their friendship and thank them for rallying around him when he was first diagnosed. His perfect party plans included bounce houses, lots of delicious foods, and an open invitation to the entire community of his hometown! As you know, Ayden’s wish was granted on his 10th birthday in Bordentown, which would not have been possible without your generosity. Please find the enclosed note from Ayden’s mom, who wrote to express her thanks for making his wish come true!*

***Daniela** is a 16-year-old girl living with an autoimmune disorder. She loves drawing, playing soccer, and reading – her favorite book is *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!* – and she would never say no to a slice of chocolate cake! Daniela also loves playing Roblox, she never misses an episode of Bluey, and she adores her family’s chihuahua, Queen. When our wish granting team visited Daniela and asked her that same magical question, she excitedly declared her wish to go to Disney World! Daniela excitedly explained that nothing makes her happier or more excited than when she sees advertisements for Disney on TV, and she feels that it is a place where she can truly be herself! Daniela recently returned from her wish trip to “the most magical place on earth,” and I am excited to share the enclosed photos of her heartfelt adventures during her wish-come-true.*

***Brandon** is a 10-year-old boy who recently underwent a stem cell transplant. He can usually be found reading his favorite book series, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, or catching up on the latest episode of *SpongeBob*. Outside, he likes taking walks and visiting the beach with his family or working on his soccer moves so he can grow up to be just like his sports hero, Cristiano Ronaldo! Brandon’s favorite color is green, he loves playing video games on his phone, and his favorite class in school is gym. When asked about his one true wish, Brandon declared his wish to have a shopping spree! With the help of our wish granting team, he worked hard at curating his perfect wish list, at the top of which were new sneakers and a video game console. Please enjoy the enclosed photos of his wish-come-true!*

***Allison** is a 9-year-old girl living with leukemia. She enjoying listening to pop music or doing crafts, and she can usually be found reading the *Junie B. Jones* series! She loves visiting the pool or beach with her friends, where they can splash around in the cool water or sunbathe. When she’s*



with her family, one of her favorite things to do bake or cook big family meals, especially pancakes or brownies! Allison loves watching videos about Disney World and learning all about it, and she has always wanted to go with her family. So, when our wish granting team visited her and asked her that same magical question, she declared her wish to go to Disney World! She is most excited to meet Princess Elsa, dance along to the happy music, and make happy memories with her family in sunny Orlando!

Harrison is an 18-year-old boy who was diagnosed with lymphoma last spring. Despite dealing with a diagnosis of a critical illness, he is an adventurous and spirited teen who is always eager to try new things and visit unfamiliar places. He loves going for drives while listening to music, shopping for new sneakers for his friends, and going fishing. At home, Brandon enjoys watching sports with his family or working out. During the summertime, one of his favorite activities is family trips to the beach, where everyone can enjoy the refreshing water and warm sun. To combine his love of exploration and family beach trips, Harrison declared his wish to go to Hawaii! In addition to lounging on the sandy beaches with his family, Harrison is excited to swim with sharks and see a volcano in real life!

Jana is a nine-year-old girl who was diagnosed with a nervous system disorder at just six years old. Creative and imaginative, she loves unicorns and pirate games, and she likes to do arts & crafts and paint her friends' nails. She loves to snack on Goldfish crackers and enjoy cotton candy as a sweet treat, and her favorite color is purple. She adores her two pet cats, Cheeto and Mayor Rizz, playing video games, and going for walks with her older brother. Jana's favorite movie is Disney's Tangled, and she often talks about wanting long hair down to the floor, just like Rapunzel! When our wish granting team visited her and her family to ask Jana about her one true wish, she declared her wish to go to Walt Disney World to meet Rapunzel and the other princesses and to explore all the parks with her brother.

Da'Sere is an 11-year-old boy living with a blood disorder. He loves riding bikes and playing catch with his friends, watching movies with his family, and reading Dr. Seuss books – his current favorite is "Cat in the Hat"! Da'Sere's favorite class in school is math, he loves chicken nuggets and potato chips, and his favorite color is blue. More than anything, Da'Sere loves football, and his favorite team has been the Cowboys for as long as he can remember. He never misses a game, even when he is in the hospital for treatments! When our wish granting team visited Da'Sere and his family and asked him that same magical question, he declared his wish to see the Dallas Cowboys play so he can see his heroes in action!

Ezra is a seven-year-old boy who was diagnosed with a rare disease just months before his fifth birthday. Despite an early childhood filled with difficult treatments and extended hospital stays, Ezra is a spunky and energetic little boy who loves zipping around on the playground with his friends, playing hide and seek, and kicking around the soccer ball with his family. When playing indoors, he likes to build LEGO creations or practice piano, but he can most usually be found rewatching his favorite Marvel movies to catch scenes that feature his favorite character, The Hulk! He also loves the Harry Potter series and is a huge Disney fan. Ezra's love for superheroes, the wizarding world, and Disney led him to declare his wish to go to Universal Studios, where he is excited to go on fast rides, meet his favorite characters, and eat delicious park foods.

Domenic is a five-year-old boy living with leukemia. Always on the go, Domenic enjoys a variety of sports and games, including bowling, tee ball, pool, fishing, and swimming. One of his favorite places is the beach, where he loves to swim and play minigolf on the boardwalk! At home, Domenic can usually be found playing video games, doing arts and crafts, or playing "Guess



Who?" with his family. During story time, Domenic will always choose a Disney book to read, he usually flips the television channel to Disney Jr., and his favorite "actor" is Mickey Mouse. As you can tell, Domenic's love for Disney is fierce! So, it was not too surprising when he declared his wish to go on a Disney Cruise! He recalls being mesmerized by cruise commercials while in the hospital, and the thought that he one day might get to experience that himself has brought him much strength and hope throughout his treatments. His face lit up when he envisioned himself dressing up in his "cruise outfits," splashing in the pools, meeting Mickey Mouse, and enjoying some fruity drinks under the warm sun!

We hope you enjoy the enclosed feedback from **Ayden, Daniela, Brandon, and Da'Sere's** wishes, and we look forward to sharing similar feedback from, **Harrison, Jana, Allison, Ezra, and Domenic** once their wishes come true. Thank you again for your continued dedication to our mission, which makes it possible for us to work towards our vision of granting the wish of every eligible child in the Garden State.

Sincerely,



Dominique Gleason
Director of Events





I wish to give a party to my community

Ayden, 10

endocrine disorder

“Ayden is brilliantly witty humble, selfless, and loving. He is currently doing exceptionally well clinically, but recent MRI results have shown a significant increase in the inflammation in his brain. As a result, his Loes score has increased from 14.5 to 18.5 in just the past 3 months. It will be a matter of time when more symptoms may present, further worsening his condition. His health journey has been devastating, but we have learned to take each day at a time and do our best to embrace each moment without stress.

When I found out Ayden was eligible for a wish, I was so excited and grateful. Ayden is very simple and low-key and does not really ask for much. He knows his community did so much for him, so he wanted to throw a party to give back to them in some way. He was most excited about having his family and friends there and giving lots of hugs. A wish was important to him because he does not have much time left, so we are on a mission to let him live the best life possible while he still here with us and still able to see, hear, walk, and talk. Once these functions decline, he will not be able to experience the joys of life, and that will be devastating.

Ayden's wish turned out to be an epic moment of a lifetime and it commemorated how special he was to the community. We will remember these moments for the rest of our lives. It was such a significant investment that we truly appreciate from our hearts.”

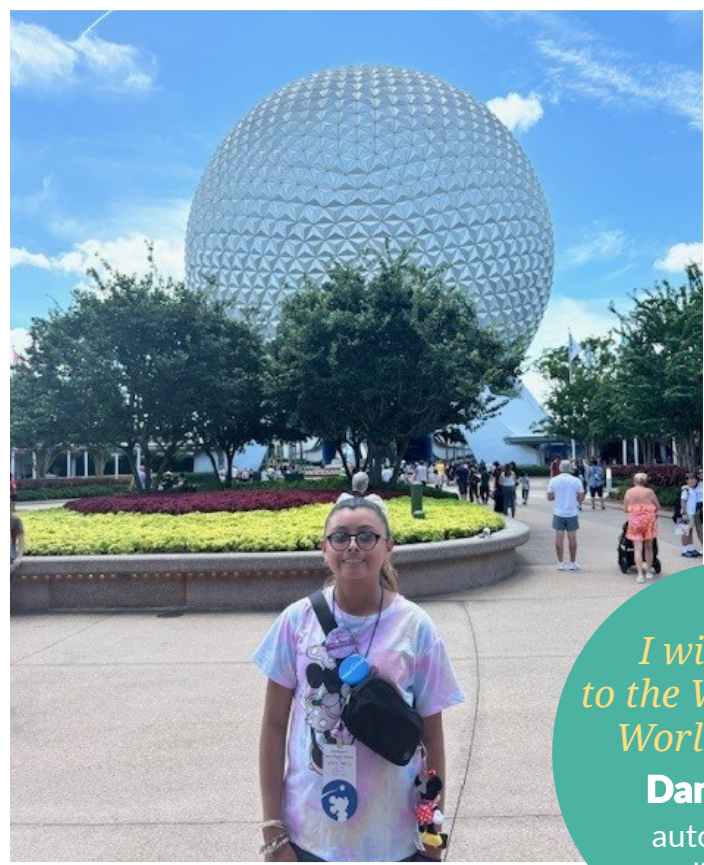
— Shawntell, Ayden's mom





Make-A-Wish®

NEW JERSEY



*I wish to go
to the Walt Disney
World® Resort*

Daniela, 15
autoimmune
disorder



*Together, we create life-changing wishes
for children with critical illnesses.*





Make-A-Wish®

NEW JERSEY



*I wish to have
a shopping spree*
Brandon, 10
stem cell transplant

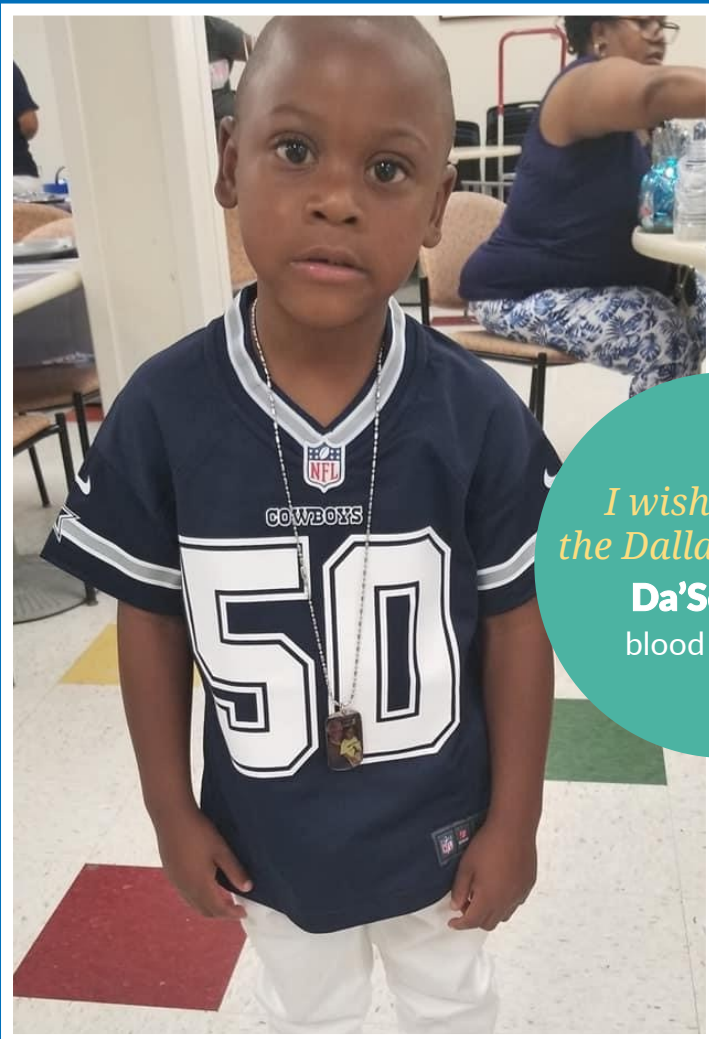


*Together, we create life-changing wishes
for children with critical illnesses.*



Make-A-Wish®

NEW JERSEY



*I wish to meet
the Dallas Cowboys*

Da'Sere, 11
blood disorder



"Da'Sere was so excited for his wish! We wouldn't trade the experience for anything in the world. I have never seen my son so happy in his life. He got autographs, jerseys, and took pictures with the Cowboys. The game was so fun, and the stadium suite was so nice! We enjoyed all the food there and enjoyed the plane ride, too. Da'Sere's smile was so genuine the whole time. I want to thank you so much."

Brandy, Da'Sere's mom

*Together, we create life-changing wishes
for children with critical illnesses.*