

The Well Wisher

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**Celebrating 327
wishes in 2007!**



The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Massachusetts grants wishes for children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy.

From the Chairman & Chief Executive Officer – Fall 2007 Beyond the Numbers: What a Wish Gives

Dear Make-A-Wish Friends,

Every number has a story. This fall, there are many numbers – and many stories – to share with you as the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Massachusetts begins a new fiscal/program year!

As you will read in our year-end report on page four, 2007 was a milestone year for the wish children of Massachusetts. We fulfilled wishes for 327 children with life-threatening medical conditions statewide, representing a 4.1% increase from the previous year.

While numbers help us measure outcomes and plan for the future, the significance of our work goes far beyond statistics. **What a wish gives to a seriously ill child is immeasurable.** As you will read in this issue, a wish gave Gracie the power of choice. A wish gave Claudine the encouragement to pursue a future career. A wish gave Stephan the confidence to meet his hero. The wishes of 2007 lifted our children from the depths of illness, and helped them soar to new heights of joy.

Every sick child deserves a wish. It is this single belief that drives us, that motivates our organization to aspire for greater success every year. Our Board of Directors is crafting a strategic plan to guide our course over the next few years. The plan will identify the resources and initiatives we need to reach our ultimate goal: granting wishes for every medically eligible child in the Commonwealth.

The power of a wish touches our entire community. And as we celebrate the success of 2007, we also celebrate you – the donors, volunteers, and wish families who inspire us to reach higher every day.

On to 2008...our next generation of wish children is waiting to be uplifted!

Sincerely,

Kenneth V. McGraime
Chairman of the Board

Charlotte A. Beattie
Chief Executive Officer

We Remember

We dedicate this issue of The Well Wisher to the memory of the following wish children. Manee K., Courtney B., Karen B., Kristine F., Andrew B., Anthony K., Katelyn M., Matthew M., Colleen L., Jonathan M., Paul J., Mary C., Jeffrey H., Robert T., Jack L., Erin M., Andrea G., Michael R., Logan R.S., Michael D., Dominic D.

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On Our Cover

Gracie Van Brunt and Kelly Clarkson

Photography

Cover & page 3, courtesy of Herb Irvine



Gracie's Story



Gracie embraced the chance to make a wish, because it was her choice. At last, she had a strong voice in her life to match her singing voice.



Gracie Van Brunt (second from right) and her family with Kelly Clarkson (third from right).

The Voice of a Wish

Recently, the Sherborn home of 12-year-old Gracie Van Brunt is filled with the sweet sounds of music. When Gracie sings, her voice is clear and strong – she is in control.

In other aspects of her life, Gracie does not have control. At age two, she was diagnosed with a rare genetic disease, Shwachman Diamond Syndrome. She has spent much of her life at the hospital, receiving i.v. antibiotics, bone marrow biopsies, and other critical treatments.

When it comes to illness, Gracie often has no voice – she endures treatments without a choice or say. Until the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Massachusetts entered her world.

“I wish to sing with Kelly Clarkson!”

With her eyes glued to the popular reality television program, Gracie was enthralled when Kelly Clarkson was crowned the first *American Idol*. She admires Clarkson’s powerful voice and down-to-earth kindness. Gracie embraced the chance to

make a wish, because it was her choice. At last, she had a strong voice in her life to match her singing voice. And with that voice, she wished to meet and sing with Kelly Clarkson.

Living (and singing) the dream

The Make-A-Wish Foundation flew Gracie and her family to Los Angeles, where they were whisked to a sound studio in Burbank. Gracie sat in the V.I.P. section of the intimate 250-guest audience.

After Clarkson performed, she spent private time with Gracie and her family. As Clarkson chatted and signed autographs, she learned that Gracie could sing. Gracie smiled shyly and giggled when Kelly asked to hear her voice.

As Gracie sang Bonnie Raitt’s *Let’s Give Them Something to Talk About*, a hush fell over the sound stage. Gracie was soaring high, awing Clarkson and others who crowded around to listen. When Clarkson praised her talent, Gracie was filled with joy.

Experience Gracie’s wish on the web

Be there with Gracie when she sings to Kelly Clarkson. Visit www.mass.wish.org/wishing and follow the links to view a clip of Gracie’s wish!

“When I think back to Gracie’s strong, brave voice that night, I know she was singing not just for Kelly, not just for the other people there,” said Blair Van Brunt, Gracie’s mother. “She was singing for all the other kids with wishes.”

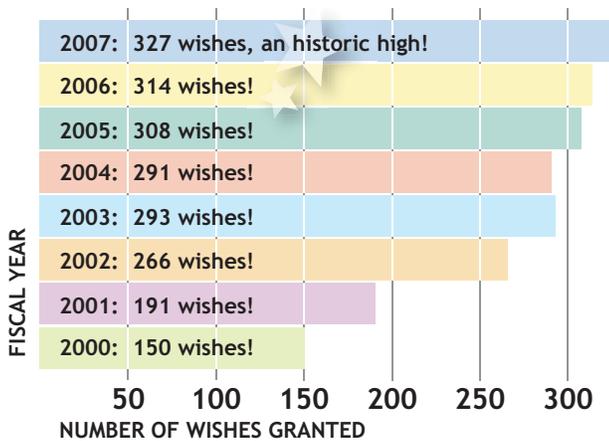
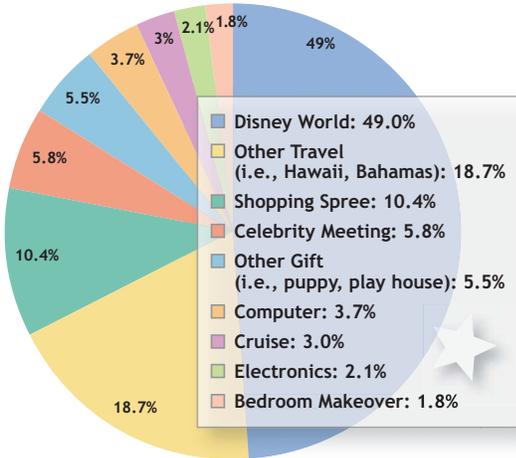
Through the power of a wish, Gracie’s voice – and her strength – were clearer than ever.

Volunteer Team: Sue Glovsky & Shari Mega

2007 Report

When 2007 began, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Massachusetts prepared to celebrate 20 years of wish-granting. The best way to honor history was to create history anew – which the Foundation did by serving more children than ever before. Below is a look at the historic year that was.

Celebrating 327 Wishes



Beyond Wishes: Organization Accomplishments at a Glance

- ★ To begin the program year last September, the Foundation received a “Chapter Excellence Award” from the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of America, in recognition of our successful outcomes in wish-granting and fundraising
- ★ Launched newly redesigned website at www.mass.wish.org
- ★ Strengthened our medical outreach program by educating more local health care providers about our mission
- ★ Benefited from 187 community events statewide
- ★ Hosted five Make-A-Wish Special Events, including two golf tournaments, gala, social reception, and radiothon
- ★ Honored New England Patriots linebacker Tedy Bruschi as our first-ever Wish Hero at the 2007 Make-A-Wish Gala, which raised over \$550,000
- ★ Celebrated the 15th anniversary of our Golf Tournament, which raised over \$234,000
- ★ Recruited and trained 84 new volunteers

6-year-old Savanna was one of 160 children who wished to visit Disney World in 2007 – our most popular wish.

These children stay at Give Kids The World Village, a resort designed specially for children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Newsflash: Massachusetts Child's Wish Granted on ESPN



Photo by John Atashian

One special evening this summer, a 12-year-old wish child from Middleton entered the hearts and homes of millions across the country.

When **Stephan Zepeda-LeColst** met Red Sox slugger **David Ortiz** at Fenway Park, ESPN cameras were rolling. His wish was featured as part of the SportsCenter's series "My Wish" - a collaborative effort with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America to chronicle the granting of sports wishes for five children nationwide.

Stephan, who has neurofibromatosis type II, has become a true wish ambassador for the Foundation. In September, he attended a national Make-A-Wish conference in Arizona to continue sharing his story!

Focus on Kids for Wish Kids®!

As students hit the books this fall, the Foundation is revamping **Kids for Wish Kids®**, our educational fundraising program by kids, for kids. Children and teens develop new skills and learn about philanthropy when they raise funds to grant kids' wishes! New program features include:

- * A Tool Kit containing program information, project ideas, and program materials
- * Program support in the form of Make-A-Wish banners, balloons, buttons, and wristbands
- * Rewards such as check presentation parties, wish child stories, and "honor roll" listing in our newsletter and on our website

To get started, contact **Jessica Coviello** at 617.367.9474 to request a brochure!

Tune in, listen, give: The 2007 Holiday Wish-A-Thon

December 13 & 14, 2007, on Oldies 103.3 FM

The Foundation is pleased to announce that its annual **Holiday Wish-A-Thon** will be broadcast live on Oldies 103.3 FM on Thursday, December 13th and Friday, December 14th! The Wish-A-Thon is a unique opportunity to learn about the power of supporting our mission — the broadcast features live interviews with wish children, wish parents, and volunteers.



8-year-old Hannah talks about her wish with Oldies host Paula Street at the 2006 Wish-A-Thon

.....

Pledge or make a donation by calling the Wish-A-Thon or visiting our broadcast at the Prudential Center Food Court!

Giving

Everyone has the power to grant a child's wish – small businesses and large corporations, leadership donors and family foundations, youth groups and young professionals.

FOR MASSACHUSETTS CORPORATIONS AND BUSINESSES:

Establish a corporate promotion

Jasper White's Summer Shack. Macy's. Giant Glass.
Cold Stone Creamery. Bank of America.

Beyond strong brand recognition, these local and national businesses share a commitment to children's wishes. These businesses and others partner with the Make-A-Wish Foundation to establish unique promotions that gain new customers and exposure while raising funds for wishes.



Join the ranks of these successful businesses and align your company with the power of the Make-A-Wish brand. Contact Jo-Anne Spillane at 617.367.9474 for more information.

FOR MONTHLY DONORS:

Sponsor a child's wish

Anyone who makes a gift of \$6,000 or more is considered a wish sponsor – the sole funder of a child's wish. By enrolling in our monthly **Wishmaker® Club**, you can sponsor a child's wish in manageable monthly installments.

Ask your friends to join you! Just think: a group of five friends can sponsor a wish if each gives just \$100 per month (\$25 per week) for a year. As a wish sponsor, you will receive the story of the child's wish you funded.

Contact Jen Cormier at 617.367.9474 to create a wish sponsorship payment plan that works for you.



Wishes available for sponsorship

4-year-old Maxwell of Westford, undergoing treatment for aplastic anemia
"I wish to travel to Turks and Caicos"

7-year-old Amelia of Chicopee, undergoing treatment for a brain tumor
"I wish to go to Disney World"

16-year-old Victoria of Brookline, undergoing treatment for leukemia
"I wish to take a cruise to the Caribbean"

These are just 3 of the 145 children with wishes in the works!
Bring their dreams to life – sponsor a wish.

FOR HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVERS:

Shop the Make-A-Wish way



Wish child Jack grins with holiday joy last winter. Photo by Ellen Rogers

Give a gift of joy for the holidays. We offer several ways to honor a special someone or everyone on your holiday gift list, from family and friends to clients and colleagues.

- * **Send “Holiday Wishes” Cards:** Whimsical cards feature holiday-themed artwork drawn by a wish child and can be custom-imprinted.
- * **Visit the Make-A-Wish Holiday Booth:** From December 1st through 14th at the Terrace Food Court at the Prudential Center, you can purchase various Make-A-Wish gifts at our Holiday Booth.
- * **Shop at Macy’s through “Thanks for Sharing”:** Enroll in this program for \$25.00 and earn 10% back on all Macy’s credit card purchases through December 31, 2007. Rewards come in the form of a gift card sent to participants in March 2008. The Foundation receives a portion of customer enrollment payments.

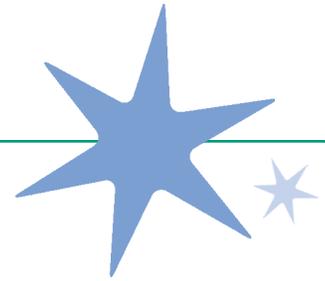
Join a Giving Society

Leadership donors give so much more than monetary support. By contributing major gifts, they inspire others in the community to give. Their generosity helps us meet our annual wish-granting goal and strengthens our organization for long-term growth.

Our exclusive society of leadership donors receive distinguished recognition and benefits. Please contact Jo-Anne Spillane at 617.367.9474 to learn more about our Giving Societies.

GIVE ONLINE AT WWW.MASS.WISH.ORG/GIVING

Our website features a full menu of giving options beyond those noted in these pages. You can also make your contribution online with credit card.



A special call for in-kind gifts and services

In-kind gifts help us keep expenses low and direct more funds to wish-granting. You never know what we can use! Examples of unique and generous in-kind donors include:

- * **Metaltek International** donated bicycles for our wish children. Employees built the bikes during a company team-building exercise.
- * **Party Favors in Brookline** donated a cake for a wish child’s birthday party and cupcakes for events including our Gala and Wish-A-Thon.

If you have an item or service you think we can use, please contact Lauren Cotter at 617.367.9474. We have a special need for the following:

- * Desktop and laptop computers for our offices
- * Sporting event and concert tickets for wish children and fundraising auctions
- * Printing services for organization publications



Wishing

“The King” and Samir

He may be only 13 years old, but **Samir** from Methuen has a deep appreciation for the King of Rock ‘n Roll, Elvis Presley. Samir, who has intractable epilepsy, wished to visit Elvis’ famed Memphis home, Graceland. The family was flown to Tennessee and escorted to Graceland in a 1955 Cadillac!

Claudine strikes a pose

For as long as 14-year-old **Claudine** can remember, she has wanted to be a model. Sometimes it can be difficult to dream about the future, because the Mattapan girl has sickle cell anemia. Claudine wished for a professional photo shoot to support her dream. With the help of a personal shopper and stylist, Claudine posed for the cameras in a new stylish wardrobe.

A little house for Maddie

Tea time, slumber parties, and bird-watching...these are a few of 6-year-old **Maddie**’s favorite things! Since ovarian cancer keeps Maddie at home to rest, she wished for a fun retreat right in her North Easton backyard – a play house. The little house was painted Maddie’s favorite shade of blue...and featured sleeping bags, a bird feeder, and a tea set, of course!

The suite life of Thomas

Since his heart condition limits his activity, 8-year-old **Thomas** from Pittsfield finds joy in watching the Nickelodeon channel. He wished to stay at the SpongeBob SquarePants suite at the Nickelodeon Hotel in Orlando! Thomas had a blast swimming, dining with characters, playing video games in the suite, and even “sliming” his parents.

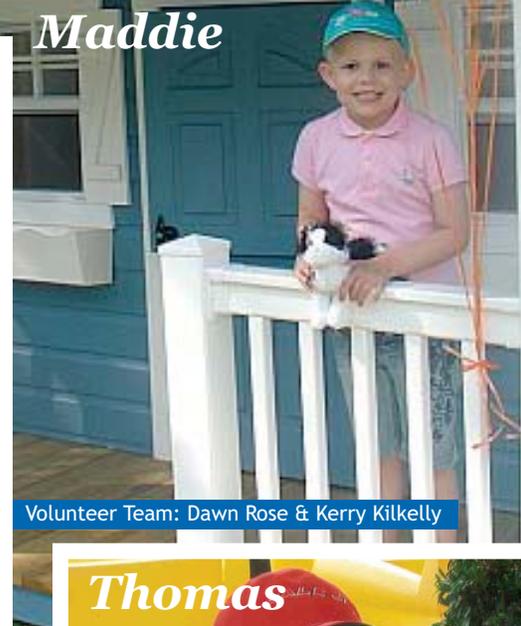


Volunteer Team: Pam Elliott & Sherril Tjalsma

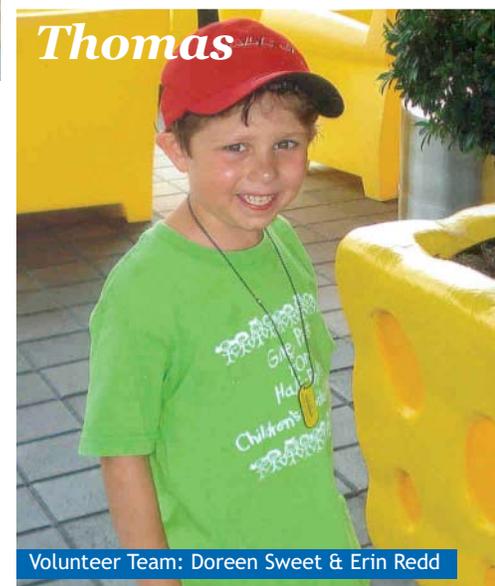


Photo by Melissa Mahoney

Volunteer Team: Maureen Clark & Victoria Skomial



Volunteer Team: Dawn Rose & Kerry Kilkelly



Volunteer Team: Doreen Sweet & Erin Redd



Michael

Volunteer Team: Mary McLaughlin & Sandra Garrity



Michelle

Volunteer Team: Pam Elliott & Tiffanie Crocker



Dayna

Volunteer Team: Melissa Carroll & April Tucker

Michael's touchdown trip

Football is always first in 14-year-old **Michael's** heart. The ardent sports fan from Danvers endures constant treatment due to chronic renal failure. His spirits soared when he wished to attend the 2007 Super Bowl in Miami! Michael cheered from the stands as the Indianapolis Colts took on the Chicago Bears.

Dayna strolls the red carpet

During her struggle with end stage renal disease, 18-year-old **Dayna** has cultivated a deep appreciation for film. Still, her Franklin home seems a long way from the glamour of Hollywood. Dayna was star-struck when the Foundation fulfilled her wish to attend the People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles! Dayna walked the red carpet and watched her favorite actors accept awards at the Shrine Auditorium.

Beach meets bedroom for Michelle

When 17-year-old **Michelle** is having a difficult time with her condition, aplastic anemia, she thinks of the beach. Dreaming of sparkling waves reenergizes the thoughtful teen. The Foundation brought a bit of the beach to Michelle's Haverhill home with a bedroom makeover. The blue-green color scheme and furnishings were highlighted by an ocean-scene mural!

To read more children's stories, visit www.mass.wish.org/wishing

To refer a child for a wish, contact our office at 617.367.9474

Community Stars

Our Make-A-Wish community is comprised of extraordinary individuals and organizations who support our work. We honor all of our “community stars” for going above and beyond to give our children joy.

Volunteer All-Stars

Photo by Robert & Lauri Priestley



* Patrick & Sue Loughlin

When 13-year-old Kyle realized his dream to swim with a dolphin, **Patrick and Sue Loughlin** made a promise – to give back to the Foundation that brought their son’s wish to life.

Since last year, the Loughlins have served as eloquent ambassadors, raising awareness of our mission by sharing their son’s story

at events. Sue also works as a wish granter and Patrick has helped construct a wish child’s backyard play house.

Dedication runs in the Loughlin family. Kyle spoke about his wish at the 2007 Make-A-Wish Gala and declared, “When I’m older, I hope that I can be a volunteer for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Then I can help more sick kids forget about being sick and make them feel like extra-special kids – because that is how the Make-A-Wish Foundation made me feel.”

* Bill LaFlamme

For over a decade, **Bill LaFlamme** has been a volunteer renaissance man for the Foundation. He has fulfilled wishes for 31 children and provided assistance at nearly 50 fundraising events – incredible!

Always soft-spoken and jovial, Bill commits himself far beyond the typical volunteer duties. When the event has ended and the guests are long gone, Bill is there, packing boxes and loading cars. For several years, he has played Santa Claus to the delight of the wish children at our annual Holiday Cruise. He frequently dons a tool belt to help construct wish children’s play sets and play houses.

Wish granter. Event greeter. Santa Claus. Builder. Bill LaFlamme truly does it all!

Welcome to the family!

The following individuals joined the Make-A-Wish volunteer team in 2007:

Gabrielle Allen
Elvia Bautista
Renee M. Baxter
Andrea Beloff
Fran B. Blais
Emily Boken
George Bourne
Beth J. Bowers
Alison M. Burkart
Liz E. Cooksey
Sandra L. Curci
Kerry L. Deforest
Linda M. Fardella
Darcie A. Fisher
Anna M. Fleck
Maria Fotiades

Katelyn Gannon
Byron Garcia
Heather Garni
Kyla M. Gaudiosi
Rachel Goldstein
Matthew T. Greeley
Margaret E. Griffin
Michelle Hallenbeck
Debora Harrison
Jenn B. Hendry
Denise C. Higgins
Michelle E. Hinkley
Ashley Hooten
Abigail M. Kell
Kendra Keyes
Jessica Kodys

Jenn K. Lagacy
Brian Lane
Jen M. Leonard
Tina I. T. Liao
Laura A. Lipfert
Patrick J. Loughlin
Danielle M. Martin
Steven McCabe
Robin McCree
Heidi A. McHugh
Tom Meehan
Liana N. Meyers
Linda C. Mitchell
Thomas Musich
Celeste Nadal
Peter C. Ormondroyd

Susan C. Ormondroyd
Deborah C. Packard
Erin L. Palmer
Jeff Paris
Parretti-Crete
Chris R. Pedro
Sierra A. Pino
Steve Pino
Jody M. Quinn
Vani Rastogi-Kelly
Annmarie Raymond
Christina Riedl
Nick J. Riley
Dawn A. Rose
Denise R. Rougeau
Kevin M. Ryan

Up Close and Personal... With a Medical Referral Source

Imagine a job that is both uplifting and discouraging. Imagine a place where you witness courage and pain on a daily basis. Such is the existence of Elyse Levin-Russman, who is a social worker in the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital for Children. Every day, Elyse meets children struggling with cancer. She helps them and their families cope with treatments.

Among her duties, Elyse cherishes one inspiring task – to refer children to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. “During challenging cancer treatments, there is little for a child to look forward to,” Elyse explained. “A wish strengthens the spirit of a child, and honors the difficult experience the child has to endure.”

The critical need for medical referral sources

Elyse has been referring children to the Foundation for eight years. Her partnership is critical to our mission – the Foundation relies on Elyse and other health care providers to understand our medical eligibility criteria and identify prospective children.

Our wish-granting program and the medical community work hand-in-hand to treat seriously ill children. Elyse recognizes the importance of the partnership, stating, “As part of a health care team, I am very grateful for the presence and the wonderful work of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Massachusetts.”

If you are a health care provider who would like to learn more about referring children, contact our office at 617.367.9474.



A MAKE-A-WISH TRIBUTE: Remembering Bob Sheppard

Robert L. Sheppard, Jr. had two passions in life – sailing and helping children. Every year, the Winthrop native combined these interests by supporting the Cottage Park Yacht Club’s “Make-A-Wish Regatta.” In 2000, he was chairman when the event raised a record-high \$52,000 for children’s wishes.

Our Make-A-Wish family was deeply saddened to learn of Bob’s passing on June 30, 2007. At the 13th Annual Make-A-Wish Regatta held in August, attendees remembered their friend and devoted philanthropist. The event raised over \$38,000, including a check for \$7,296 presented in Bob’s memory.

This tribute will ensure that the legacy of Bob Sheppard will live on in the hearts of our wish children. We remember his generous spirit and strong compassion for our children.

Barry J. Salow
Deborah Searfoss
Kristy L. Shaw
Bill A. Sheehan
Natalie Sheehan
David F. Slick, Jr.
Shannon P. Stone
Shoko Sugimoto
David Swartz
Jennifer Swartz

Gregg Therrien
Joan M. Vivaldelli
Karen M. Walsh
Kelly Walsh
Erica West
Jeff Wormuth
Virginia H. Young
Joanna K. Zeman
Le Zhao
Kim M. Ziemba

Be a star! To learn more about volunteering, visit www.mass.wish.org/volunteering or contact Krista Bishop at 617.367.9474.

On the Town

The following events will benefit the Foundation

Make-A-Wish Events

Contact Jessica Coviello at
617.367.9474

2007 Make-A-Wish Holiday Booth

Saturday, December 1 to Friday,
December 14, 2007

Prudential Center, Terrace
Food Court, Boston, MA

Purchase Make-A-Wish themed
items for your holiday gift list!

2007 Holiday Wish-A-Thon

Thursday & Friday, December 13 & 14, 2007

Broadcast Live on Oldies 103.3 FM
Prudential Center, Terrace Food Court,
Boston, MA

2008 Make-A-Wish Gala

April 2008 (date to be announced)
InterContinental Hotel, Boston, MA

Corporate Promotions

Macy's "Thanks for Sharing"

Enroll for \$25 and receive 10% back on
Macy's credit card purchases through
December 31, 2007. Partial proceeds
benefit the Foundation.

For Macy's location near you,
visit www.macys.com

Wood Palace Kitchens in Middleboro

For every cabinet installed between
September 2007 and September 2008,
\$2 will be donated to the Foundation.

Visit www.woodpalacekitchens.com
or call 508.947.1975

Community Events

Drive for Wishes Car Show

Saturday, October 20, 2007 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

One Wall Street, Burlington, MA

\$10.00 per person (children under 10 free)

Contact the Gutierrez Company at
781.272.7000 x 366

3rd Annual Benefit in Memory of Kevin McShane, Jr.

Friday, October 19, 2007 - 7 p.m.

Montvale Plaza, Stoneham, MA

\$35.00 per person

Contact Lisa McShane at 781.438.4684

FMC's Public Skating Weekend

Friday, November 30 to Sunday,

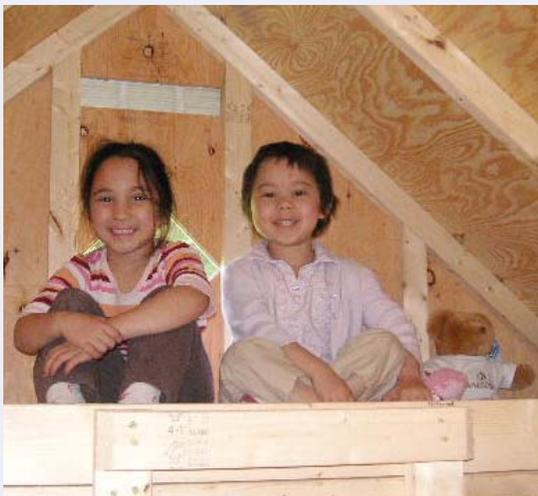
December 2, 2007

FMC Arenas (24 locations across MA)

\$4.00 per person

Visit www.fmcarenas.com for
arena locations

"I wish to have a backyard play house!"



Wish child Catie (right) and friend pose in the loft of
her new play house!

Wishing Spotlight

The Foundation is granting a growing number of
wishes for club houses, tree houses, and play sets.

“A seriously ill child often lacks the energy to visit the
neighborhood playground,” said Julie Abel, Director of
Program Services. “A play structure restores a child’s spirit
and imagination in the midst of treatment by providing a special retreat
right in the backyard.” In 2007, the Foundation fulfilled wishes for a
pirate ship play set, a castle-themed play house, a blue house with a
tea set, and many more.

Play structure wishes are costly and labor-intensive to fulfill. You
can help! If you can offer landscaping services, have construction
skills, or want to make a monetary gift, contact Lauren Cotter at
617.367.9474.

“The Well Wisher” is published by the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Massachusetts, a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to the Foundation are deductible for income tax purposes to the extent provided by law. Contact us: Make-A-Wish Foundation® Massachusetts, Main Office: One Bulfinch Place, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02114, 617.367.9474, 617.367.1059 fax, boston@mass.wish.org; Field Office: 181 Park Avenue, Suite 12, West Springfield, MA 01089, 413.733.9474, 413.731.9658 fax, regional@mass.wish.org