



Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Ohio,
Kentucky & Indiana, Central Ohio Region
Katie Kelso
Development Associate
2545 Famers Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43235
Phone: (614) 923-0555
Toll Free: (877) 206-WISH
Fax: (614) 923-0573
Email: KatieK@makeawishohio.org



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 15, 2009**

WALKERS SOUGHT FOR 10TH ANNUAL MEDICAL MUTUAL OF OHIO® WALK FOR WISHES®

(COLUMBUS, OH) --- The Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Greater Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana, Central Ohio Region is seeking individuals to participate in its 10th Annual Medical Mutual of Ohio® *Walk for Wishes*® on **Saturday, August 15 at 9:30 a.m. at Creekside Park, 123 Mill Street**. This year, the Foundation hopes to exceed \$130,000 in donations at the Walk. Individuals can help raise funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation at the *Walk for Wishes* by visiting www.makeawishohio.org.

The walk will begin and end at Creekside and will wind through the beautiful trails of Gahanna's parks. Walkers may participate as an individual or pair up with co-workers, friends or family to form a team. The *Walk for Wishes* gives Make-A-Wish supporters, volunteers, wish families and individuals the opportunity to fundraise and unite for a day of celebration.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at one of Gahanna's most picturesque venues, Creekside Park. The entire route is handicapped accessible. At the conclusion of the Walk stay for a Wish Reunion Celebration at Creekside and join the Make-A-Wish Foundation in celebrating 10 years of the *Walk for Wishes* Program. The family-friendly event will feature games, food and entertainment for all ages! Participants will also have the opportunity to meet current and past wish families. The Wish Reunion is open to all Walk participants, so join us as we come together to *share the power of a wish*®.

Honorary Wish Child, Courtney, will be on hand for the event to share her wish story. Courtney is living with a brain tumor, which is a challenge for all ages, but for a teenager, the pain and uncertainty of the life-threatening medical condition is much more difficult to face. Unable to participate in many of the day-to-day activities of her peers, Courtney, who enjoys shopping, cheering on the Cleveland Indians, and going to the beach, was offered a brief reprieve from doctor visits and medical treatments when her social worker referred her to the Make-A-Wish Foundation last September. When Make-A-Wish volunteers asked, "If you could make one wish, what would it be?" the 16-year-old wished for a tropical getaway!

"We were so excited when Courtney was selected as the honorary wish child for the *Walk for Wishes*. We had an amazing time in Hawaii and feel so grateful to all of the Walk participants for supporting the Make-A-Wish Foundation," said Courtney's mom Sue. "Our whole experience has been wonderful and we can't wait to be part of the walk in August!"

-More-

Participating in the 10th Annual Medical Mutual of Ohio® *Walk for Wishes* will help grant wishes of special children just like Courtney! With your support, we will grant the wishes of more than 100 children on our waiting list for wishes in Central Ohio. Financial support generated from the *Walk for Wishes* will provide the funding needed to make their wishes come true and to ignite the spirit of hope. Participants who raise \$100 or more will receive a *Walk for Wishes* T-shirt. For more information about this event, contact Katie Kelso, development associate, at (614) 923-0555 or KatieK@makeawishohio.org.

About the Make-A-Wish Foundation®

The Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Greater Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana is ***celebrating 25 years of inspiring lives, one wish at a time.*** Since the first wish was granted in 1984, this chapter has granted more than 7,300 magical wishes. This milestone year, the chapter will work to fulfill the wishes of a record-breaking 800 local children. There are so many ways that you can help create joyful moments for local wish children. Find out how at www.makeawishohio.org.

###