



Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Ohio,  
Kentucky & Indiana  
Kentucky Region, Lexington Office  
Jayna Oakley  
P.O. Box 910098  
Lexington, KY 40591  
(859) 389-9474  
(859) 389-6919  
[www.makeawishy.org](http://www.makeawishy.org)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
June 30, 2009**

**LEXINGTON WALK FOR WISHES®  
RAISES \$63,000 FOR MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION®**

**(LEXINGTON, KY)** --- A record number of registered to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Lexington *Walk for Wishes*® benefitting the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Greater Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana, Kentucky Region on Saturday, June 20 at the Keeneland Race Track.

“The storms we had in the morning did not seem to deter 400 participants from showing up and supporting our wish kids. I’m deeply grateful to our individual and teams of walkers who raised a record \$63,000 at this year’s walk,” remarked Regional Manager Jayna Oakley.

The 5K run/walk was a magnificent trek through 147 acres of rolling hills, white barns and historic grandstands in the heart of Kentucky. The 2k walk and the Kid’s Fun Runs had nearly 120 participants and was a highlight for walkers and volunteers alike.

Honorary Wish Child Emily was on hand for the event to share her wish story. Eight-year-old Emily is battling hydrocephalus, also known as water on the brain. A girly-girl who loves the color pink, Emily enjoys watching Dora the Explorer and playing Playhouse Disney on her computer. A vivacious, free-spirited child, Emily loves to go to the beach and jump on her trampoline.

When Make-A-Wish Foundation volunteers showed up in March in the rain to put Emily’s new Cedar Works play set together, she stuck her head out the back door and told them the play set “was just beautiful.”

-More-

Emily's parents, Kristi and Brandon, said Emily and sister, Katelyn, have had lots of fun playing on the equipment and expect to have even more this summer!

"We were happy when we were asked if Emily could be this year's honorary wish child for the *Walk for Wishes* here in Lexington," said Kristi. "Our whole experience has been wonderful and we were thrilled to be a part of such a successful event for the Make-A-Wish Foundation!"

"*Walk for Wishes* gives Make-A-Wish supporters, volunteers, wish families, and individuals the opportunity to raise funds for courageous kids in our community and to celebrate life," commented Oakley. "I am deeply grateful for the support of our host, Keeneland Race Course, and our major sponsors BB&T, Hot 102, O'Charley's, Panera, PIP Printing, Thorntons, UAW-GM, Wells Fargo and WLEX-TV."

There are currently more than 100 children from Kentucky, just like Emily, waiting for wishes. 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. For more information about getting involved with the Foundation, contact Jayna Oakley at (859) 389-9474 or [jaynao@makeawishky.org](mailto:jaynao@makeawishky.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 7,400 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.makeawishky.org](http://www.makeawishky.org).

###