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THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION® LAUNCHES 25 MILLION MILE CHALLENGE



CAMPAIGN ADDRESSES URGENT NEED FOR FREQUENT FLYER MILES

The 25 Million Mile Challenge was recently launched to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Greater Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. Now through May, the Make-A-Wish Foundation hopes to collect 25 million donated frequent flyer miles and turn miles into smiles for children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Airline tickets present the single largest program expense for the Make-A-Wish Foundation according to President and CEO Susan McConnell. Unused frequent flyer miles may be donated by individuals or by companies who hold mileage drives and pool company miles together. Many people take one vacation a year and never accumulate enough miles to redeem a free ticket. Business travelers often accumulate an excessive amount of miles that they expire before redemption.

“More than 75 percent of wishes granted last year involved air travel. That translates to more than 2,300 airline tickets,” remarked McConnell. Every 50,000 miles donated is turned into a free ticket used for a destination wish. “Last year, more than 13 million frequent flyer miles were donated to our Chapter. With the help of individuals and businesses, I am confident we can reach our goal of 25 million miles.”

Participating airline partners include: AirTran, American Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delta Airlines, Northwest Airlines and US Airways.

“Donating unused frequent flyer miles enables the Make-A-Wish Foundation to send wish children and their families on trips of a lifetime, creating joyful memories for years to come,” said McConnell.

SAVE THE DATE! MAY 9, 2009

Join us for the 25th Anniversary **Big Wish Gala** on the 50-yard line of The Ohio State University Stadium. The gala event will feature entertainment by Rascal Flatts and celebrities from the tri-state area. Sponsorship packages and individual tickets are available now by calling toll free 877-206-WISH.



The enduring power of a wish...

Make-A-Wish Foundation® of America Recognizes Local Couple with Award

The Make-A-Wish Foundation® of America recently awarded Brad and Pam Halley with the Lori Schultz-Betancourt Indomitable Spirit Award at its national conference on October 22 in Phoenix, Arizona.

For more than 10 years, the Halleys have been loyal supporters of The Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Greater Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, raising \$44,000 for local wish granting. "Make-A-Wish was there for our family when the medicine was not," remarked Brad. The couple has organized Hoops for Hope, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, in memory of their son, Zach, for the past six years.

At 16, Zach had to put his dream to restore a 1976 Corvette on hold when he was diagnosed with cancer. The Make-A-Wish Foundation® made arrangements to restore Zach's Corvette and for a magical unveiling during an OSU football practice at the Woody Hayes Athletic Complex. Once Zach and his family were on the field, Coach Cooper drove the fully-

restored Corvette to him, motioned him to get in the car, and encouraged him to drive a lap around the field as his family, the players and coaches cheered him on.

Zach, who passed away shortly after his wish was granted in 1998, was the spark of the Hoops for Hope idea. "The smile on his face as he drove his shiny, red Corvette on the field that day will remain in our hearts for a lifetime. It was a pleasant oasis in a time of turmoil, and I want to spread that joy to other families," commented Brad.

Each year, the couple raises funds, finds sponsors, builds teams, organizes and promotes Hoops for Hope. The goal of the event is to bring the community together in Zach's memory and inspire participants to think of others who are facing great pain or loss.

"Brad and Pam showed courage, integrity, persistence and dedication



during a difficult and painful time in their lives. They are most deserving of the Lori Schultz-Betancourt Indomitable Spirit Award," commented Susan McConnell, president and CEO of the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Greater Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana.

"I had the privilege of knowing Zach and making the arrangements for his wish," remarked McConnell. "I will never forget the look on his face that day. His strength, perseverance and spirit continue to inspire me. We are thankful that Zach's family honors his memory in such a profound and meaningful way."

LOCAL EVENTS

Walkers Make Strides, Grant Wishes

The 9th Annual Medical Mutual of Ohio® Walk For Wishes, locally presented by Advantage RN, raised more than \$113,000 which will grant the wishes of 19 children on the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Greater Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana, Central Ohio waiting list.

More than 500 Make-A-Wish supporters, volunteers and wish families turned out for the event at Creekside Park in Gahanna. The City of Gahanna and the Gahanna Parks & Recreation Department teamed up to provide face-painting, crafts and family entertainment after the leisurely three-mile walk around Creekside Park. Several wish families participated in the event which included a special presentation by honorary wish child, Tracey.



SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, February 15, 2009
Bowlers registering now!
Beaver-Vu Bowling Lanes
Team, individual and corporate opportunities available!

Best Buy "Strikes Out" to Grant Wishes Bowling Tourney Raises \$12,400

Best Buy® Dayton Mall recently hosted a storewide employee bowling tournament to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, Central Ohio Region. The employee outing not only was a team-building experience for the Best Buy staff, but it also will contribute to a life-changing experience for a child with a life-threatening medical condition.



Many wish children, like Mayah above, dream of going on a shopping spree at Best Buy.