

Fun giggles Memories ADVENTURES  
hope strength JOY DREAMS  
Wishes Smiles Imagine  
Moments Journeys Smiles Imagine  
LOVE happiness Blessings believe  
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MAKE-A-WISH®

Make-A-Wish Foundation®  
of Southern Florida  
2009 Annual Report

**WISH** (wish) 1. deepest desire of one's heart 2. a longing for something seemingly out of reach 3. a dream or desire for oneself or someone else

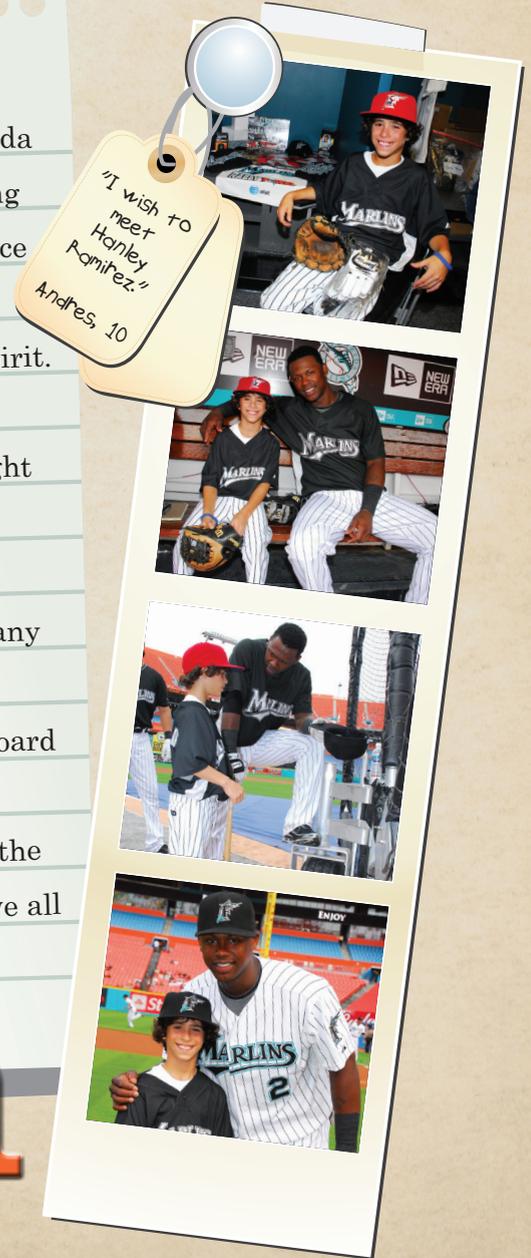
The Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Southern Florida grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Each wish is tailor-made to delight a child and awaken his or her spirit. It can transport a sick child from the dark and painful world of doctors and hospitals to the bright and blissful world of a fantastic wish come true.

In scrapbook-style, these pages illustrate the many intricate pieces that unite to make our mission attainable. From the donors, staff, board members and volunteers who come together to make wishes possible to the children whose wishes take flight, we all *share the power of a wish*®.

# fun



"I wish to have a Best Buy Shopping Spree."  
Amury, 16



"I wish to meet Hanley Ramirez."  
Andres, 10



# DREAM

Dear Make-A-Wish Friends:

At the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Southern Florida, a wish is more than a fantasy or a hope for the future. A wish is a desire plucked straight from a child's imagination and brought to life in an over-the-top fashion. It is hope, strength and joy all wrapped up in one magical experience.

Since 1983, we have positively impacted the lives of more than 7,000 children with life-threatening medical conditions by granting very special, very personal wishes. As a new year begins, there will be wishes to go to faraway places and wishes to meet adored celebrities. There will be wishes to have treasured gifts and to be dream occupations. As different as these wishes are, they are the same in that no matter what a child wishes for, the wish experience is lovingly crafted to be more than he or she imagined possible.

This year, we strive to grant the heartfelt wishes of 525 sick children in 13 Southern Florida counties and in the U.S. Virgin Islands. That's 525 smiling faces, 525 children free to be carefree kids again. It is only through the continued support of our kind donors and dedicated volunteers that we can achieve our goal and change the lives of these courageous children.

We live in an extraordinary community where, even in the toughest of economic times, our supporters dig deep into their pockets to ensure that no medically-eligible child is ever turned away because of a lack of funding.

It is our vision that everywhere, people will *share the power of a wish*®!

Best wishes,



Norman Wedderburn  
President/CEO



Brenda K. Yester  
Board Chair



"I wish to go to  
Discovery Cove."



Gabriella, 6

"The best way to describe Gabriella's trip is that she did not stop smiling for 7 days straight. Not one complaint from her, not one tear, not one word of protest...just pure and simple happiness."

-Leighann, Gabriella's Mom

I wish to go...



Dear Make-A-Wish Friends,

Bonjour! I can't believe that my wish came true. Paris is even more beautiful than I imagined. My vacation was magical, just picture perfect. As we got to the hotel, I could see the Eiffel Tower and I got teary eyed. It felt familiar to me because I've seen so many pictures of Paris, but to see it with my own eyes was an experience I will not soon forget. Paris is seeping with history and beauty.

Each morning, I started the day with a cafe au lait, a warm baguette and a pain au chocolat at a local bakery. Everything I did was spectacular - a dinner cruise down the Seine River, a double-decker bus tour and an illuminations night tour. You should see the Eiffel Tower at night - it's breathtaking! I shopped along the famous Champs-Élysées and explored places like the Louvre Museum and Notre Dame Cathedral.

A million thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. My wish will be eternally in my memories. All I keep telling my family is that I want to move to France - I could be Parisian in a heartbeat and I'll definitely be back!

Best,  
Monica

P.S. I even brought some cheese and chocolate home with me (still deciding if I will share or not!)



happy times



...40 Paris

# I wish to have..

Being Cameron's wish granters is something that we will cherish forever. He's a 4-year-old boy who is battling cancer and he's wise beyond his years. We brought him a Mr. Potato Head as a welcome gift. His smile lit up the room and his laugh was contagious. He also had a gleam in his eyes that just wrapped around our hearts.

During the wish game, Cameron had all the answers, he knew exactly what he wanted. He LOVES dinosaurs and in the hospital after finishing his chemotherapy treatment, the nurses held a little party for him which he called a "celebration." Putting that together, Cameron's wish was to have a "Dinosaur Celebration." He also knew exactly where to have his celebration - at a small local diner where he and his mother go and everyone knows him.

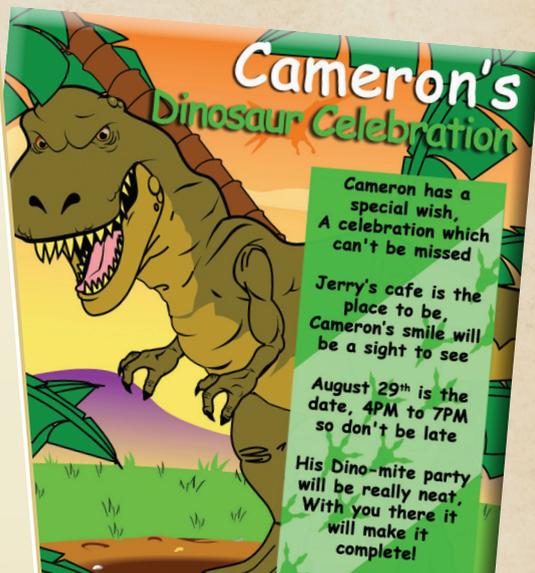
We immediately got to work on the very creative wish of a very special little boy. A party decorator transformed the diner into a prehistoric cave with live plants and flowers and gorillas hanging from the ceiling. Dinosaur signs with his name in lights adorned the walls.

As Cameron arrived at his celebration in a limousine, "Walk Like A Dinosaur" was playing on the sound system and his family and friends lined the entrance. To make his day complete, there was a photographer, a videographer, a balloon artist, a DJ and a face painter. He and his friends got dinosaur tattoos and created sand art. All of Cameron's favorite foods were served including Dinosaur chicken nuggets and a make-your-own sundae station.

The biggest surprise was saved for last. When Cameron arrived home, a 5-foot-tall T-Rex was waiting for him in his backyard with a big green bow (his favorite color)! With a dinosaur-sized smile, he ran over to give the dinosaur a super-sized hug and didn't want to let go.

We could not have been more fulfilled granting Cameron's wish and we know that every time he goes in his backyard, he will remember his "Dinosaur Celebration."

Leslie Levine and Candy Norton



All  
smiles

*Treasured*  
**memories**



...a dinosaur celebration

I wish to be...



follow your  
dreams



"I'm living my dream, make the most of everything. My wish is

## *How to become a Singing Sensation*

- Write your own songs
- Practice, practice, practice
- Express your fashion sense
- Get tips from a celebrity voice coach
- Hold a press conference
- Glam it up with a hair and makeup session
- Let your inner beauty shine
- Strike a pose during a photo shoot
- Get used to limousine rides!
- Spend the day in a recording studio
- Sign autographs for crazed fans
- Smile for the paparazzi
- Hold CD release party
- Make several wardrobe changes
- Sing from your heart
- Take a bow
- Stay true to yourself



*"to sing and live my dream."*

*a recording artist*

# I Wish to meet...

## ★ Wish Matchup

	Trevor	Michael Jordan
<i>Age:</i>	11	46
<i>Height:</i>	4' 4"	6' 6"
<i>Favorite Sport:</i>	Basketball	Basketball
<i>Favorite Sneakers:</i>	Air Jordans	Nikes
<i>Favorite Part of Wish:</i>	Meeting Michael Jordan	Meeting Trevor

A slam dunk day!



once-in-a-lifetime

