



December 13, 2021

Ms. Melissa Herbinko  
GKG Orthodontics  
1000 Brooktree Rd., Suite 200  
Wexford, PA 15090

Dear Melissa, GKG Associates and Patients:

Your abundance of care for the children served by our organization is evident due to your continued support. On behalf of Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia, I want to thank GKG Orthodontics for your generous donation of \$8,800, received on December 9, 2021. According to IRS regulations no goods or services were exchanged for this wonderful gift. Your 2021 Wishmaker date plate has been received. We are delighted to recognize GKG Orthodontics on our website donor list, in our annual report and in our newsletter donor list as a Wishmaker. As you know there are many children waiting to experience the power of a wish, and we are most grateful to your community for this generosity. Children living with a critical illness often face uncertainty and fear. We want to reassure them that they are not alone, and we are here to grant them a wish of a lifetime. We are excited you will be helping to fund the wishes of the following two children...

#### Colin

Going off to college is an exciting time for any student, but for wish kid Colin it is an exceptionally special time having been diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma. This bright 18-year-old from Valencia had a few different ideas for his wish at first. With treatments causing him to be tired, Colin thought maybe a pool or hot tub would be just what he needed to relax in. After some more thought though, he started thinking about his future and knew that an online shopping spree was the perfect wish for him.

In today's day and age, a computer is practically a necessity in college; and with that in mind, first on Colin's list was a new laptop. Specifically, Colin thought a MacBook Pro would be the best choice for him and his schoolwork. After getting some more things to help with his studies, Colin knew he would need something to help him unwind after classes and homework. Typical of a teenage boy, Colin loves video games so he decided a gaming computer and a virtual reality headset would not only be the perfect break from studying, but also a great way to make friends in school.

We at Make-A-Wish and Colin's volunteers worked hard to make sure Colin received everything from his wish list. When all of Colin's items arrived, he was beyond ecstatic to see everything in person, especially the gaming computer that he had customized for himself. With all the latest Madden games and a Steam gift card so he could purchase

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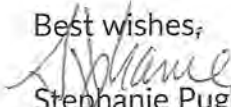
whatever else he needed. Colin has never been so excited! We are thrilled to help Colin with his next steps in life, and we are so thankful for donors like you who help make wishes like Colin's possible

#### Braden

At age ten most young boys just want to be hanging with their friends, playing sports and video games, stopping for wings to see who can eat the hottest and playing cards. But, when Braden from Pittsburgh was diagnosed with cancer most of these activities had to stop. He was at home resting or visiting his doctor for chemo treatments. Braden had nothing to look forward to and his cheerful outlook on life was dimmed. Until the meet-up with his Make-A-Wish volunteers. He was told he could wish for anything, and Braden realized that he needed something to come home to and care for. So, with his parents' permission he decided that a puppy would keep him active and give him a cuddle buddy. When Braden returned from a doctor's appointment one day he was met at the door by the cutest gray "Blue" Frenchie ever seen, Yes, Braden is a bit biased! The puppy was bubbling with energy and could not wait to nibble at Braden's toes and lick his face. Braden's face hurt from all the smiling, and he named him Zen. The family learned that they would also receive obedience training, a crate, food, toys and other necessary items to keep Zen healthy and happy. And now Braden is happier and healthier than ever before due to this snuggly puppy he looks forward to spending time with every day.

Thank you again for your act of giving and for helping Colin and Braden continue their journeys. Contributions such as this enables us to reach out to children in need of some magic and hope for the future.

Best wishes,

  
Stephanie Pugliese  
Director of Development

*It was wonderful  
seeing everyone -  
The Best!*



December 9, 2020

Ms. Melissa Herbinko  
John Marshall Grady DMD & Assoc., LLC  
1000 Brooktree Rd., Suite 200  
Wexford, PA 15090

Dear Melissa, Patients and Staff:

During these troubled times knowing that you are here for our wish kids is so comforting. On behalf of Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia, I want to thank John Marshall Grady DMD & Assoc, LLC for your incredible gift of \$8,800, received on December 4, 2020, from your year-long collections. We are honored to recognize John Marshall Grady DMD & Assoc, LLC as a Wishmaker on our website donor list, annual report, and newsletter. Your new Wishmaker plaque will arrive shortly.

As we continue to move through 2020 with some sort of uncertainty, we have found that the challenges of this past year have brought out the best in so many people. Amidst the uncertainty, the fear, and the anxiety are groups such as John Marshall Grady DMD & Assoc, LLC and we are delighted that your donation will help to fund the wishes of the following two children...

#### **Cara**

Sixteen-year-old Cara loves two things: the feel of moving water and a warm breeze on her face. So, before the pandemic hit, it was off to Captiva Island, Florida with her family for a week on the Gulf coast. Cara's life has not always been full of sunshine and relaxation. She has a nervous system disorder that often disrupts her everyday life in Wexford, PA, but she is fighting through it and looking towards the future.

Kicking off the trip at Fort Myers Airport, Cara and her family received a big greeting from local Make-A-Wish volunteers. They welcomed her with balloons, a chocolate cake and of course her favorite snack: Doritos. Her family appreciated the reception and guidance.

The resort was everything the family wanted and needed. It included handicap access, including paved walkways and an elevator that was very close to the beach. They enjoyed sampling different restaurants, giving Cara an opportunity



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to try all kinds of new fish and other seafood. Every morning started with time at the beach. Cara sat in a low-seated chair in the water so that she could feel the warm water rushing over her. After lunch, it got hot, so they headed to the pool.

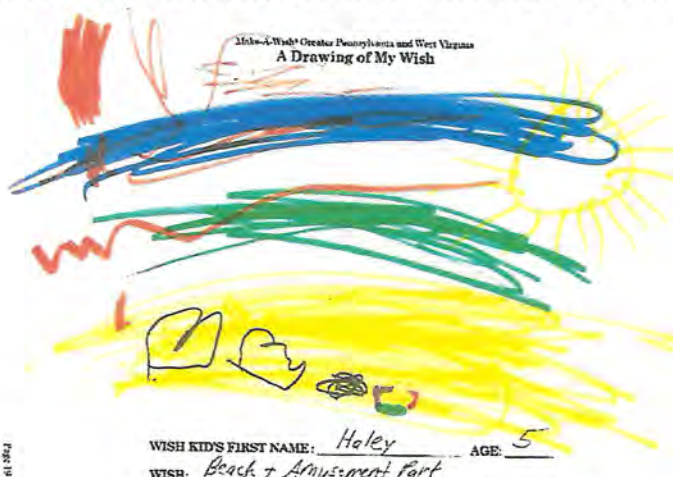
One evening, they had an unforgettable time on a dolphin cruise. Cara had fun making lots of noise to encourage the dolphins to jump. This experience gave them a chance to see plenty of dolphins, including a few babies. Another evening set them off on a sunset cruise where Cara enjoyed the live music on the boat.

Mom and dad said Cara had the time of her life because her trip was filled with smiles and laughter. They said it was so nice to have a week together as a family with nothing to worry about except relaxing and enjoying their time in Florida.

### Haley

Haley is an amazing six-year-old from Pittsburgh, PA. living with epilepsy. Because of her illness she can have several seizures a day and she is on strong medication. But this does not stop her from listening to her favorite Taylor Swift music, watch Disney movies and play soccer outside in the sunshine. In fact, she LOVES to be outside so when her kind volunteers from Make-A-Wish visited, Haley told them that she really wanted an above ground swimming pool so that she could do water therapy to keep her body toned and limber and of course have swim parties with her friends and family. So, it was decided that an above ground swimming pool would be the best possible wish for little Haley.

The volunteers got to work finding a pool company that would stop what they were doing, to build Haley's pool and easily found a company to squeeze her in during the COVID 19 pandemic, so she would have it before summer ended. Haley got to watch



her empty backyard grow from a boring space to the above ground swimming pool she now has. She was delighted when the fire truck arrived to fill the pool with cool, clear water and she could relax and look up at the bright blue sky. This swimming pool will be enjoyed for years to come by the entire family and Haley is proud that it is hers forever.

Our donors are so generous, and we welcome this opportunity to thank you again for helping to make Cara's

and Haley's wishes reality.

Best Wishes  
Stephanie Pugliese  
Director of Development

Thank you  
so very much!





January 16, 2020

Ms. Melissa Herbinko  
John Marshall Grady, DMD & Associates, L.L.C  
1000 Brooktree  
Suite 200  
Wexford, PA 15090

Dear Melissa, Patients and Staff:

Your continued efforts in raising funds for the children we serve is so very appreciated. On behalf of Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia, I want to thank you for your incredible donation of \$8,800 from your annual fund raisers at Grady, Kastner & Gornick Orthodontics. We are honored to recognize your group as a Wishmaker® on our website donor list, in our annual report and in our newsletter. Your 2019 Wishmaker date plate is attached.

Year after year, we are amazed by your diligence and efforts in collecting much needed donations from your patients and staff. We are incredibly thankful for your dedication. The way your group comes together is the epitome of "community"- your work is truly inspirational.

We are thrilled that Grady, Kastner & Gornick Orthodontics will be helping to grant the wishes of two deserving children. When meeting a wish child, it is our honor and pleasure to get to know them. We want to know their likes and dislikes, what makes them smile, and most importantly, we ask them to tell us about their one true wish. We know that living with a critical illness can have lifelong consequences for these children, and we make it our goal to bring some hope, joy and transformation into their lives at a time when they need it the most.

#### Jake

Jake is a 15-year-old car and train lover from Wexford. Having nephrotic syndrome means that Jake's kidneys do not function properly. However, Jake's critical illness does not hold him back. Because he spends so much time indoors, he has ample time to build his trains and learn about cars.

When Jake met with his Make-A-Wish® volunteers he already had a plan for his wish. His face lit up as he described the Test Track at Epcot in the Walt Disney World® Resort. The Test Track is a simulated excursion of the testing procedures that General Motors uses to evaluate new concept cars.

Once arriving in Disney, Jake got to design his own car and then take it through a round of tests, seeing how it performed compared to other cars. His parents recall sitting at dinner after an activity filled day, listening as Jake went on and on explaining everything he had learned. He was so proud of the car he had developed and how it had performed. It reminded Jake that he was capable of anything he set his mind to.



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## Visit Captiva Island

Frequently, kids experiencing tough times are asked to close their eyes and find their happy place. This 17-year-old would do just that when experiencing treatments for her cancer. She would squeeze her eyes shut and imagine beaches for miles, the warm sun, and sand between her toes. This Wexford-native started planning her wish when she was first diagnosed. However, due to the complexity of her critical illness it wasn't until two years later that her wish would be realized, giving her lots of time to fantasize about what would soon be a life-changing experience.

When meeting with her Make-A-Wish volunteers, she described the happy place she would escape to, wondering if there was anywhere as magical, she could visit for her wish. Through her descriptions, volunteers realized that perfect place. This wish kid and her family would be headed to Captiva Island, Florida—it was time to make her dream a reality.

Captiva Island has 15 miles of beaches to be explored, and she planned to do just that. Each morning the whole family would start the day enjoying breakfast, her favorite meal. They would eat, laugh and relax, enjoying time together while watching the waves crash. It was the peace



they needed during such a difficult period.

This family will always have the memories of being together, and for this lovely girl, now when she squeezes her eyes shut and escapes to her happy place, she doesn't picture a dream, she pictures a tangible reality that would not have been possible without Make-A-Wish.

We know that these two wish kids have quite a journey ahead of them, but with the love of family and friends and knowing how their wishes transformed their lives, they can get through anything.

Thank you again for making these wishes possible.

Best wishes,

*Stephanie*  
Stephanie Pugliese  
Director of Development

*Thank You  
for your efforts!  
You are the BEST!*



Ms. Melissa Herbinko  
GKG Orthodontics  
1000 Brooktree Rd., Suite 200  
Wexford, PA 15090

Dear Melissa and GKG Associates:

Your ongoing commitment to our wish kids during the holiday season and all year long is so phenomenal. On behalf of Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia, I want to thank you for planning and implementing ongoing fundraisers which raised \$8,800, received on December 17, 2018 during our holiday campaign. We are honored to recognize GKG Orthodontics as a Wishmaker on our website donor list, in our annual report and in our newsletter. Please accept the attached 2018 Wishmaker date plate as a token of our deep appreciation. As you know, here at Make-A-Wish, we work tirelessly to provide a magical wish experience for eligible children facing critical illnesses.

So, what does it take to make a wish come true? Donors with big hearts, and volunteers with lots of creativity and determination. We are thrilled that GKG Orthodontics will be helping to fund the wishes of two children from the area.

### **Vivienne**

Ghouls, ghosts and a gleeful little girl. This is the perfect way to describe Vivienne's wish. Vivienne is a sweet five-year-old Pittsburgh native who unfortunately suffers from congenital adrenal hyperplasia, which affects a child's normal growth and development. The illness is categorized by a group of genetic conditions that limit hormone production in the adrenal glands.

When Vivienne met with her volunteers to plan her wish she thought about one of her favorite holidays—Halloween. Combining her holiday with a trip to the ever-magical Walt Disney World® Resort was an instant fit. She loves Mickey Mouse and with that, even got to go to Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party! She also adores the Indiana Jones movies and was so excited when she found out she could actually attend the Indiana Jones Stunt Spectacular at Hollywood Studios park. She was speechless when "Indiana Jones" met with her after the show and even presented her with his hat!

It was the trip of a lifetime for Vivienne and company. For Vivienne's family, it allowed them to alleviate some of the daily struggles that come with caretaking. As well as see a smile from ear to ear on Vivienne's face. And for Vivienne herself, it was a time spent just being a kid.



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## JaMar

Six-year-old JaMar can be found most days outside on the nearest playground. However, because JaMar is in a wheelchair for much of the day, it can make getting around and being active a little bit of a challenge. JaMar is diagnosed with hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, a disease that is defined by signs and symptoms of abnormal neurological function in the first few days of life in an infant born at term.

Because of this, Make-A-Wish stepped in to provide JaMar with an experience he would never forget. His very own wish was going to be granted. After much deliberation, JaMar's wish was to have his very own state-of-the-art awning and swing set combination on his porch. This would give JaMar the freedom of being in the outdoors, as well as getting some awesome exercise.



JaMar was over the moon watching his awning and swing set be constructed into this new haven for his enjoyment. According to a recent study on the impact of a wish, researchers found a connection between the wish experience and a recipient's sense of hope and possibility. The swing set has provided JaMar with an endless amount of smiles since its installation, and will continue to be a staple of JaMar's daily routine for the foreseeable future.

Thank you again for joining Make-A-Wish on this journey with Vivienne and JaMar.

Best wishes,

*Stephanie*  
Stephanie Pugliese  
Director of Development

*Thank you  
so much  
for everything!*



# MAKE-A-WISH®

## WISH KIDS GKG ORTHO

**Harper** – Age 8, From Mars, Diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia

**Likes** – Soccer, the color teal, drawing and painting, McDonald's, her goldendoodle – Lody, playing Connect 4

**WISH** – Visited Disney World in May 2022



**Margo** – Age 3, From Baden, Diagnosed with cancer

**Likes** – Listens to dad's pop playlist, princess movies, the color pink, memory games, gummies and Starbursts

**Wish** – To visit the new Peppa Pig Theme Park near Tampa, FL, this coming summer 2023 due to treatment schedule