



Making dreams come true for Michigan children with life threatening illnesses

History

On May 9, 1980, Ron Dobson and his two children, Tim and Jennifer, were killed in a tragic plane crash. In August of 1980 Rainbow Connection Founder, L. Brooks Patterson, held a memorial golf outing raising funds in the children's names.

From this humble beginning evolved what is today The Rainbow Connection, a Michigan based 501(c)(3) charity dedicated to fulfilling the special dreams of Michigan children who are literally fighting for their lives.

From that very first wish, when John Bowden shadowboxed with Muhammad Ali from his bed at Children's Hospital, the staff and Board of Directors at The Rainbow Connection have dedicated their efforts to making dreams come true for Michigan children diagnosed with life threatening illnesses. From something as simple as a computer or as unique as meeting the President of the United States at The White House, The Rainbow Connection, with individual and corporate support, has fulfilled more than 3,000 dreams for Michigan children.

Dreams Come True!

Making a dream come true brings joy and laughter to our wish kids and their families as they bravely face their health challenges. Dreams most often fall into one of three categories: a dream to go somewhere, a dream to meet someone and a dream to receive something special. The most popular dream come true is a magical trip to Walt Disney World! The wish child's immediate family is always included in the wish experience.

Who Gets A Dream Come True?

All Michigan children diagnosed with a life threatening illness, who have not received a dream come true or wish before, are eligible.

How do we find the children?

A child may be referred by one of three sources:

- Healthcare providers, including the child's physician, social worker, or nurse;
- The child's parent(s) or guardian(s); and
- The child themselves.

Other well-meaning individuals are asked to contact the family directly to share The Rainbow Connection information so they, in turn, can determine if and when they would like to refer their child.

Updated 4/1/16



Referrals can be made by calling 248-601-9474 or by completing the online form on our website at rainbowconnection.org.

Our trained staff meet each and every wish child following written verification of the illness from the child's physician. The visit may occur at the hospital, the child's home, at our office, or wherever is most convenient for the family.

Additional Services

The Rainbow Connection offers support services including a link to needed services, assistance with expenses, and a listening ear. Our Enhancement Program provides fun times for our wish families through summer picnics, holiday parties and tickets to area theatres, concerts, and sporting events. We also offer college scholarships each year to wish children.

Leadership

The Rainbow Connection is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Executive Director Mary Grace McCarter works with the dedicated professional staff and many volunteers to make dreams come true and provide support to the entire family during this most difficult time.

Funding

The Rainbow Connection is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. More than 86% of our expenses directly support wish services.

Come feel the magic...donate today!

The Rainbow Connection
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www.rainbowconnection.org

