Who are The Rainbow Connection wish children?

172 wishes were granted to Michigan children facing a life threatening medical condition in 2017 - the most wishes granted in a single year in TRC history!

boys vs girls

- 87 boys
- 85 girls

What were their wishes?

32 children wished for something special. Caroline, John, Alison, and Aaron each enjoyed a day at their favorite stores picking out treasures to take home.

- children wished to meet their heroes!
  - Justin met the San Francisco Giants at AT&T Stadium,
  - Shelby met Ed Sheeran at Little Caesars Arena,
  - Maya went to VidCon in California to meet YouTube professionals.

age is just a number

- 62 wish children 13-18 years old
- 42 wish children 8-12 years old
- 68 wish children 2-7 years old

The Rainbow Connection Wishes by County

- Macomb County: 27 Macomb families were served in 2017, 573 Macomb families served over our entire history
- Oakland County: 42 Oakland families were served in 2017, 770 Oakland families served over our entire history
- Wayne County: 65 Wayne families were served in 2017, 1225 Wayne families served over our entire history
- Other Counties: 38 of our 2017 wish families reside outside the Tri-County area, 887 of all wish families reside outside of the Tri-County area

137 children wished to travel somewhere. Zander went site seeing in New York City, Landry swam like a fish in Orlando, and Preetam explored the beauty of Alaska.
We are able to continue our important work because of your generosity and honor that dedication by putting your dollars to work to grant wishes.

We believe that the dollars we raise should go to the families we serve and that transparency is key to maintaining the trust of our donors.

Charity Navigator has recognized this commitment by once again awarding The Rainbow Connection its highest rating of four stars for the sixth consecutive year. This rating places The Rainbow Connection in the top 6% of all rated charities in the U.S.

We are proud to hold such a rating and continue to work toward the highest standards for our families.

It Takes a Village

Bob Aldis hosts Bushido Martial Arts Kick-a-Thon
Susan Demil hosts Wishes Can Come True
Danny Chemotti and Tawny McGowan host Fire On Ice
Top NEW events in 2017
Leto Strong Golf Outing
Penn Station Stores
Rockin' the Shores
Sedona Taphouse
Ray Weigand's Charity Pumpkin Walk

2017 Community Event that raised the most money ($22,909)
2017 Longest Running Community Event (16 years)
Raised the most Money in TRC history (over $300,000)
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BONNIE DEMEYERE
2017 Volunteer of the Year

TRICIA KUJAWA
2017 Volunteer with most hours of service

BRENT WALDREP
2017 Volunteer who raised the most amount of dollars for wishes

STU SMITH
2017 Volunteer who traveled the furthest to volunteer

DEREK BOCZKOWSKI
2017 Volunteer who facilitated the most wishes

Our Board

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Grant Thornton

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Founder
L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive

Volunteers in 2017

565 volunteers

4,603 hours of service

Volunteer Spotlight

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2017
Major Events
by the numbers
Dream Makers Ball

Attendees: 220
Dollars Raised: $384,367

The Dobson

Attendees: 200
Dollars Raised: $195,412

Walk for Kids

Attendees: 800
Dollars Raised: $122,273

Celebration of Dreams

Attendees: 400
Dollars Raised: $211,675

From Our President

The Rainbow Connection continues to exceed industry standards. Quality of service for our families and fiscal responsibility are at the top of our values.

Because of generous financial support from a very giving community, dreams are fulfilled. Volunteers provide much needed support to our dedicated staff. Inspiring wish stories of restored hope keep us focused on our mission.

Take a few minutes to read through our Annual Report and then tell just one person you know about The Rainbow Connection. Ask them to visit rainbowconnection.org. If you are so inclined, bring them to our office to see the Wish Wall first-hand and experience the life of a child battling a life threatening illness.

Remember - together we make dreams come true!

Ryan Giacolone
Board President

Thank you
2017
Major Donors

John & Sue Welker • Reiny & Lisa Eschbach • Paul Housey • Ruth Eschbach • Eastern Oil Company • Plastipak Holdings, Inc. • County of Sanilac - Thumbs Up for Kids • Others First • Steve Toller • Michael & Mary Anne Alioto • Secure-24 • Tommy & Nicole Woycik • Smith's Disposal • Doeren Mayhew RCO Engineering • Mickey Shapiro • Prudential Financial • Gemini Group • DTE Energy Foundation • L Brooks Patterson • Ryan & Lori Gicalone • Robert Ritchie Foundation • Arts, Beats & Eats Foundation • Allie's Angels • Thomas & Kris Veneuleen Karl & Charisse Eschbach • Sterling Heights Firefighter's Charities • Stacy Peardon • ITC Holdings Corp. • Ray Wiegand's Nursery • Ted PlANCH • Krista Eschbach • Mark Crawford & D'Ann Colombo • Ulliance • County of Oakland, Employee Contribution • Todd Fox • Bern Dog Enterprises, LLC • Shelton Buick GMC, Inc. • Real Estate One Charitable Foundation • Willis Towers Watson • Janet Vernier Dobson • Vito Anthony • Save on Everything, Inc. • Dominic & Anna Moceri • Michigan Trucking Association • Frank Rewold and Son, Inc. • William & Vivienne Young • Robert Ufer • C.H. Robinson • Eagles for Children • Joseph & Christina Wenzloff • Craig Duhaime • Jennifer Mancini • Jonathon & Christina Sanders • Renee Grimm Vertical Technologies • University of Michigan Health System Rachel Thomas • The John Drypen Foundation • Richard and Jane Manoogian Foundation • Project 1 • Polaris Greystone Financial Group • Lee Industrial Contractors • HPS Advanced Dental Care P.C. • Grant Thomson • Citi Corporate • Ciena Healthcare • C.E. Gleeson Constructors, Inc. • Beaumont Health
The Rainbow Connection Staff

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Ingrid Todt

Marketing and Major Events Director
Megan Phelps

Operations Director
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Community Events Director
Brenda Moore

Wish Coordinator
Nancy Schick

Wish Coordinator & Community Events Coordinator
Kristen McKelvey

Grants and Volunteer Coordinator
Karen Johnson

Operations Coordinator
Rebecca Snay

Marketing and Major Events Coordinator
Jessica Prucknic

Program Accountant
Ray Lagrou

Granted 172 Wishes to Michigan children

Provided fun-filled activities to 855 TRC Families

Responded to 42 wish family requests for emergency support

Awarded 22 TRC children with college scholarships