



Celebrating **35 years** of granting wishes to Michigan children with life-threatening illnesses

January Volunteer Connection

Happy New Year!

It is going to be a busy year for everyone at The Rainbow Connection! We are very excited to celebrate our 35th birthday in 2020... and you are all invited to celebrate with us through all of these exciting events!



[Click Here For More Event Details](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

We are in need of Volunteer Photographers!

Are you an amateur or professional photographer who would like to help capture special moments for our wish children and supporters? Do you know a photographer who might want to help?

We would love to meet with any potential photographers as soon as possible to look at their portfolio and chat about our needs! We have fundraising events, wish child parties, and more to be captured :)

If you or someone you know may be interested please email Kristen at kpontz@rainbowconnection.org

Volunteer Spotlight

Meet John!

John has been volunteering with The Rainbow Connection for almost 5 years now! He most recently volunteered during the coldest night of Treats on Tillson Street and was such a good sport! We asked John some questions about his TRC volunteer experiences. Read his answers below:

What do you enjoy most about volunteering for The Rainbow Connection?

I like the satisfaction of helping and giving back. Also the TRC Staff and fellow volunteers.



What has been your favorite experience with The Rainbow Connection? Why?

I particularly like manning the Info Booth at Arts, Beats & Eats. I enjoy directing people to their desired locations. We also get some 'strange' questions. Like the lady who asked me much do you think I'll spend? I asked how many in the family, she replied, 'Herself , her husband and 3 pre-teen kids.' We determined \$50 per adult and \$25 each for the kids. I got a thanks and she noted, 'That's about what I thought.'

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

Most of my close friends and family know that I have been practicing yoga for 40+ years and loving it.

Anything else you would like to share about yourself, your family, your work or other community involvement.

I also volunteer for St. Irenaeus Catholic Church, St. Vincent de Paul Society, OPC Meals on Wheels and Troy Historic Village.

From the Wish Department

Wish Child Alma Meets Aladdin

Alma, age 5, knew exactly what she wanted when she met with The Rainbow Connection back in the summer of 2018. She LOVES Disney characters, especially Aladdin! She wished to travel to Disney World with her family and have a play date with Aladdin.

Her mom describes how special Alma's wish was, "Alma's wish trip was pure magic. Nearly every moment of the trip was filled with such joy. Alma's smile and energy never faded. It was such a nice change for her to feel special and taken care of because she was having fun, not because

she was getting poked or getting chemotherapy."

"So many of our special moments came from when she got to meet the characters at Disney World. Each of them took such a special care in being with her, she really felt special. We loved her "play date" with Aladdin. They really got to hang out like good friends. They hugged, colored pictures for each other, played hide-and-seek, danced, and just talked. We really couldn't have imagined anything more amazing."



Kristen Pontz, Volunteer Coordinator

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