

# Montana Hope Project

Sponsored by the Association of Montana Troopers

December 2014



Artwork by Opal, a "Child of Hope"

**"The Bears that Care"**

# MONTANA HOPE PROJECT

## EDITOR/DESIGNER:

Kathy Sangray  
Submit your stories to:  
1975 US Highway 287 N  
Cameron, MT 59720  
ksangray@montanahope.org

## JOURNALISTS:

Cal Janes MHP 244  
Dave Evans  
Glen Barcus MHP 245  
Cate Nelson  
Josh Faith  
Tammy (Sam's Mom)  
Koltin (Child of Hope)  
Joe Wyant MHP 315  
Braden (Child of Hope)  
Pam (Caden's Mom)

## PHOTOJOURNALISTS:

Victoria Wojciechowski  
(Creative Vision)  
Gordon Wiltsie  
& many courtesy photos if not  
otherwise credited.

## Vice President/Secretary:

Cal Janes, MHP 244

## Treasurer:

Deborah Butler

## Wishes:

Tracy Bailey

## Bears:

Audrey Collins

## Media Coordinator:

Kathy Sangray

## Chaplain:

Chuck Lee

## Merchandise:

Cal Janes, MHP 244

## Billings/East:

Dave Evans

## Bozeman:

Glen Barcus, MHP 245

## Butte/Anaconda:

Joe Wyant, MHP 315

## Helena:

Rhonda Huseby

## Kalispell:

Steve Lavin, MHP 106

## Missoula:

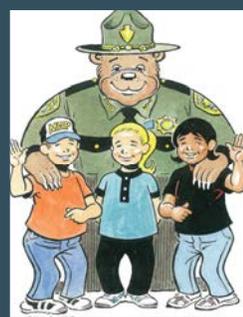
Michelle Navarro

## Hamilton:

Jeremiah Snider, MHP 279

## Reunions:

Cate Nelson



# 2014 EVENTS



## **Hope Project Reunions**

Cate Nelson

## **Ride for Hope**

Dave Evans

## **Santa at the Sweets Barn**

Del Ruggles, Kirk Martin, Dave & Bonnie Aicher

## **Eat Wings, Raise Funds: Buffalo Wild Wings**

## **Montgomery Distillery: Moscow Monday**

Michelle Navarro

## **Missoula Car Show**

Amanda Knudson

## **Beartooth Flyfishing Benefit**

Dan & Nancy Delekta

## **Kalispell Princess Ball**

Josh and Candy Faith

## **Spring Hope**

Rainbow Ranch Lodge

## **Spring Bulbs**

Don Hayden

## **Jamberry Nails Benefit**

Katelyn Anton & Dawn Gilman

Your event/benefit not listed here?

Please consider submitting your story to the editor at

[ksangray@montanahope.org](mailto:ksangray@montanahope.org).

We'd be happy to tell the world of your support for the Hope Project!

# HOPE PROJECT UPDATE

Cal Janes, MHP 244, Vice President

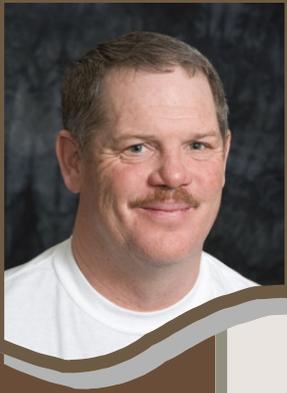


Photo by Victoria  
Wojciechowski

Another year has gone by and what a year it was for the Montana Hope Project. So far In 2014, the Project has granted 24 wishes and there are 14 pending. It's amazing how this wish granting idea has become such a success. To think, 30 years ago a hand-full of officers decided to try and make a few Montana children and families experience a happier side of medical and other life altering issues. In 1984 there were three wishes granted and now we typically grant well over 20 wishes per year. We've been blessed that the Montana Hope Project has moved forward with leaps and bounds. To date we've served over 385 children and their families.

This year we have also experienced some new faces in several different positions with the Project. Jeremiah Snider MHP 279 has taken on the responsibilities as the Hamilton area coordinator. Our wish granting position has been filled by Tracy Bailey, wife of Rocky Bailey MHP 261 from the Bitterroot Valley, and she's been as busy as a bee setting up wishes and trips. Cate Nelson, wife of Jay Nelson MHP 120 of Helena, is our new reunions coordinator. Cate has found her niche since she loves to serve children and her work ethic proves it. Michelle Navarro, wife of Nick Navarro MHP 170 of Missoula, took over as the Missoula area coordinator and has been busy setting up fundraisers and brings a fun sense of enthusiasm to her job. All the new smiling faces bring professionalism and eagerness to help see wishes granted across the state.

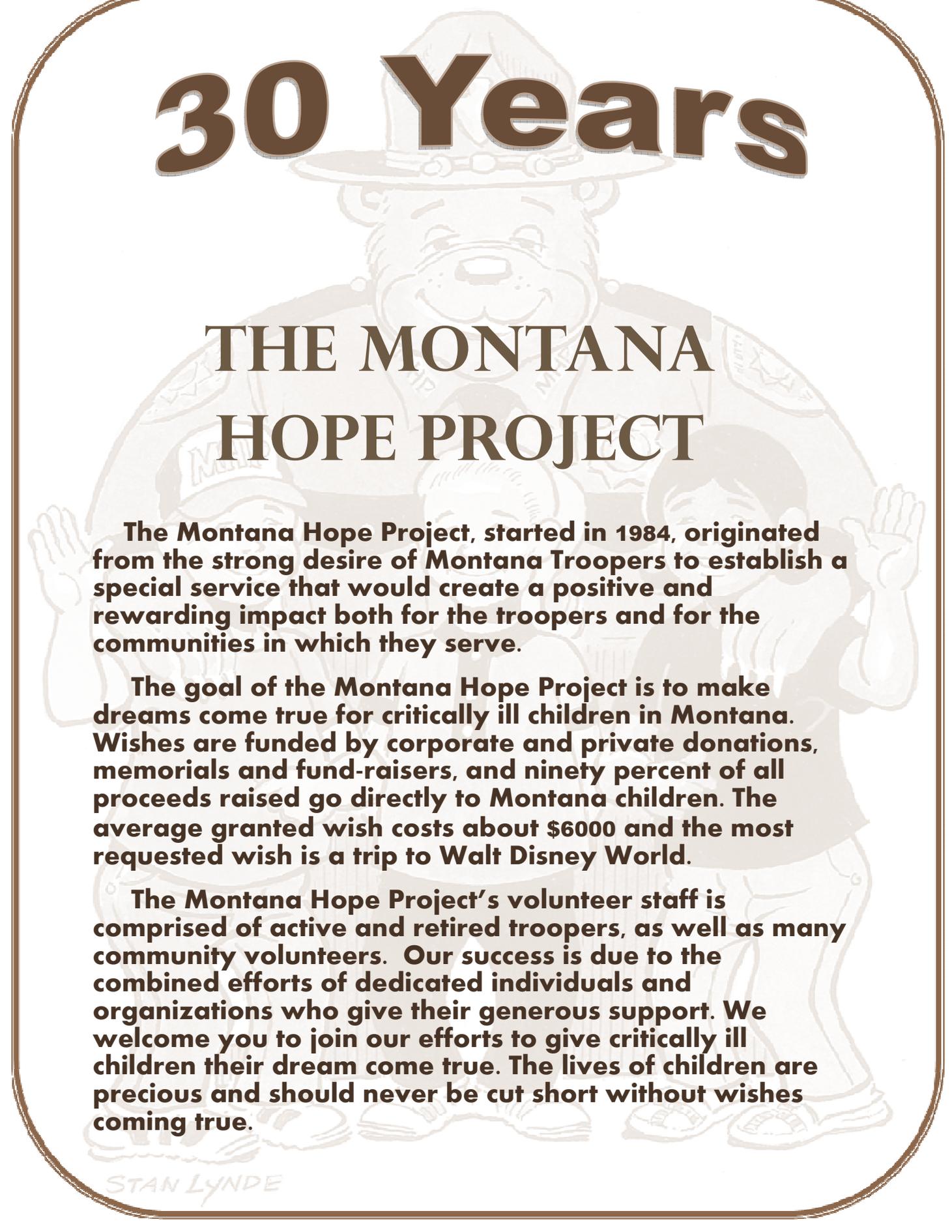
Also this year, my good friend and president of the Montana Hope Project, Richard Hader, stepped down from his position. Richard retired from the Montana Highway Patrol and is off to new adventures and I wish the best for him. A replacement will hopefully be found by the first of the year. The organization is looking forward to someone that is eager to move our Project forward and continue the positive path that has been demonstrated in the past.

I want to thank all individuals, businesses, and coordinators that have supported the Montana Hope Project. We couldn't continue to bring happiness to our Montana children without your generous support.

# 2014 WISHES GRANTED

Samuel	Helena	Disney World
John	Belgrade	Disney World
Madalyn	Missoula	Disney World
Heath	Missoula	Disney Cruise
Jade	Kalispell	Disney World
Caden	Bozeman	Blue Angels
Zierra	Roundup	Las Vegas
Aiden	Lame deer	Playground Set
Opal	Kalispell	Teddy Bear Factory
Braden	Clancy	Cruise
Joshua	Livingston	Camper
Caden	Butte	Restored Pick-up
Ashtyn	Lolo	Disney World
Rhoby	Belgrade	Disney World
Adam	Butte	Disney World
Easton	Havre	Disney World
Amber	Superior	Disney World
Hayden	Helena	Disney World
Lillian	Missoula	Disney World
Lucas	Chester	Playground Set
Micah	Missoula	Disney World
Emerson	Billings	Disney World
Aleisa	Missoula	Disney World
Jordan	Glendive	Hawaii

# 30 Years



## THE MONTANA HOPE PROJECT

**The Montana Hope Project, started in 1984, originated from the strong desire of Montana Troopers to establish a special service that would create a positive and rewarding impact both for the troopers and for the communities in which they serve.**

**The goal of the Montana Hope Project is to make dreams come true for critically ill children in Montana. Wishes are funded by corporate and private donations, memorials and fund-raisers, and ninety percent of all proceeds raised go directly to Montana children. The average granted wish costs about \$6000 and the most requested wish is a trip to Walt Disney World.**

**The Montana Hope Project's volunteer staff is comprised of active and retired troopers, as well as many community volunteers. Our success is due to the combined efforts of dedicated individuals and organizations who give their generous support. We welcome you to join our efforts to give critically ill children their dream come true. The lives of children are precious and should never be cut short without wishes coming true.**

STAN LYNDE

# HOPE PROJECT FACTS

We are NOT affiliated with any national organization.

We follow all federal guidelines to maintain our status as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit registered with the Secretary of State.

90 cents of every dollar raised benefits Montana children.

We have granted 385 wishes to date since 1984.

Every year wish recipients and their families are invited to join us for a summer and winter reunion.

Wishes are funded entirely by your donations & fund-raising.

## SUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER

CHANGE ADDRESS

ADD A SUBSCRIBER

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: MONTANA HOPE PROJECT

PO BOX 5927

HELENA, MT 59604

# BEARTOOTH *Fly Fishing*



Dan Delekta  
Glen Barcus MHP 245  
Jeff Sargent MHP 336  
& Nancy Delekta



Dan and Nancy Delekta, of "Beartooth Fly Fishing" on the Madison River in Cameron near Ennis, raised funds for the Montana Hope Project for the third year in a row. Started in 2012 in memory of Dan's father, John Delekta, better known as "Grandpa" to many, this benefit raised over \$22,000 in the first two years, and brought in nearly \$8,000 in 2014.



Highlights of the event this year were fly-tying and fly-casting clinics and Captain Marty's famous Louisiana Gumbo. For a \$25 donation, attendees enjoyed Dan and Mike's Special Steak, and delicious desserts by Elle of Elle's Belles and Vicky Noack of Country Bumpkin Bakery, along with authentic gumbo and Mardi Gras beads. All proceeds from the meal were donated to the Montana Hope Project, along with a percentage of retail and online sales.



Captain Marty  
and his Louisiana  
Gumbo

The Montana Hope Project extends a special thank you to the Delekta family and all those that supported this event in the Madison Valley.

# AMANDA'S CAR SHOW

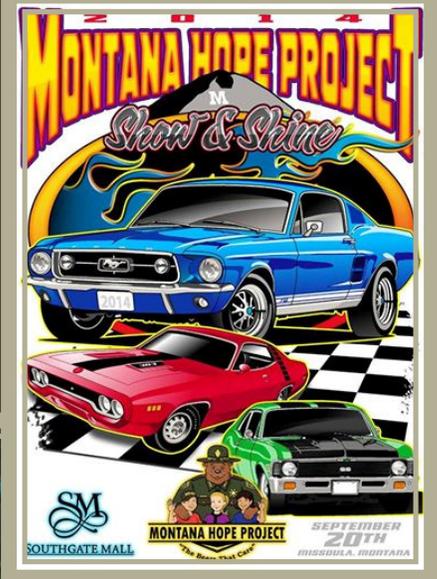
Amanda Knudson, a senior at Big Sky High School in Missoula, organized a car show on behalf of the Montana Hope Project for her senior project. To connect the benefit to the community, Amanda worked to raise enough funds to send Lillian, a 4-year old Missoula girl with leukemia, to Disney World. Amanda's goal of \$6,000 was far surpassed by raising over \$9,400! Not only will her efforts send Lillian and her family to Disney World, it will also go toward another child's wish.

On display at the event held at the Southgate Mall were various cars including classic cars from local Model A and Model T car clubs. Winners from the car show were determined by the amount of donations received in each car's donation box. Funds were also raised as attendees bid on silent auction items, including passes to area ski resorts, a gift certificate to Pro-Align auto shop, a skateboard, and many more items.

Many thanks to Amanda and Michelle Navarro (Missoula Hope Project Coordinator) for their efforts, along with corporate sponsors Kiwanis, Star Rental, Rhinoceros, Inc., and Action Auto Body.

**Event Sponsor:**

**Amanda Knudson**



Nick Navarro MHP 170,  
Rocky Bailey MHP 261,  
Michelle Navarro, Drew  
Novak MHP 208, Aman-  
da Knudson, and Child  
of Hope, Lillian with her  
Dad(Travis), Mom(Sarah)  
and her little sister



# Ride for Hope



**By Dave Evans,  
Ride for Hope  
Coordinator**

July 12, 2014 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Montana Hope Project Ride for Hope. Hamilton, in the beautiful Bitterroot Valley, was the final stop for about eighty-five riders from all over Montana and our faithful Canadian riders. The town rolled out a big welcome mat for us and, for the first time, we invited not only the riders but the general public for the banquet; a practice we intend to continue. Everyone from Hamilton was so accommodating to all of us. Thanks to Wish Coordinator, Tracy Bailey, we were fortunate to have two different wish families at the banquet; one had just returned from Disney World and another poised to head out to Mickey's magical Kingdom. This year's total raised was a little over \$72,800 and the Hope Project is on pace to grant twenty-nine wishes to Montana's critically ill children this year. Our riders, through their hard work raising money, are responsible for funding more than ten of those wishes. A great job by everyone!

Next year the Ride will end in Bozeman and we hope for a group of more than one hundred motorcycles to arrive and parade through town. The Ride for Hope has only raised more than \$100,000 three times in the past but we have plans to raise that amount as an annual minimum within five years. Bringing in new riders from each area will help with that and there are a few new ideas in the works to increase the monies raised for our Wish Kids. Justus Johnson, Highway Patrol dispatcher, designed the poster and donated a blanket with the design printed on it, which was a very popular item. Dave McCormack was the top earner with Wes Mattson and Royce Bird rounding out the top three.

My sincere thank you to all of the riders and donors who have been involved since my appointment as Ride Coordinator. I have started a page on Facebook, ***Montana Hope Project Ride for Hope***, to help keep everyone up to date not only with news about our Ride, but general news about other events and wishes granted. I am always available for ideas and suggestions on making this the premier motorcycle event in Montana. Please feel free to contact me by email at: [devans@montanahope.org](mailto:devans@montanahope.org) or 406-949-7433.

## 25 YEARS



By Glen Barcus, MHP 245

Several months ago I stopped by the Rainbow Ranch Lodge in Big Sky to hit them up for a stay package to send up to the Princess Ball fundraiser in Kalispell. The manager, Mollie Eckman, blew me away when she suggested we do a large fundraiser at their place. And just like that, Spring Hope was born. I was fortunate enough to quickly form a team

including my wife Jolene, Sally Vering, and Kevin and Christa Burns. We hit the ground running and were able to generate some really amazing silent auction and raffle items from the gracious greater Bozeman area.

The day of the event went spectacularly well, complete with a late spring snow storm. Lone Peak Brewery provided delicious microbrews, while PLONK Wines provided an assortment of fine wines for tasting. Karst Stage made a roundtrip sober ride available from Bozeman to the event. Rainbow Ranch Lodge provided all of the food, servers, and of course, an amazing setting for any type of event. All had a nice time bidding on items while rocking to the sounds of the Bozeman band "The Fog". Many local recipient families were in attendance and even shared their wish experiences at the microphone. Rocky Bailey, Doug Samuelson, and Dan Amundsen presented Rhoby, from Belgrade, with a wish to "Go to Minnie's house" (Disney World). There wasn't a dry eye in the house as the community got to see a bit of what we Troopers and volunteers do for Montanan's through the Hope Project. Special thanks to our Major Sponsors: Big Sky Western Bank, First Interstate Bank, The Emerson Grill, Yellowstone Riverbend Cabins, Firestone, Big Sky Resort, Attwell Associates, and Lonestone Lodgepole. A special thank you to my team mentioned above, along with Tracy Bailey, and Rhonda and Butch Huseby for their help at the event. Watch the website and Facebook for details on Spring Hope 2015.

## Spring Bulbs

By Glen Barcus MHP 245



Photo by  
Gordon Wiltsie

Don Heyden, a Bozeman resident, organizes an annual fundraiser to help various charities. This spring he decided to support the Montana Hope Project along with the Cancer Support Community of Bozeman. Don is a Master Gardener and his garden is home to several hundred varieties of flowers, including his favorites, irises. Each spring Don digs, separates and categorizes tons of bulbs to be sold at the weekly Bozeman Farmers Market. This is no small task for Don, who began the season finishing his own chemotherapy treatments. Don has several volunteers who come to his house to aid in the process. All of the proceeds go directly to the charities he supports. Don's efforts raised over \$1,000 for the Montana Hope Project from this year's sales. It's because of great people in our communities like Don that allow the Montana Hope Project to continue to do what we do for Montana children.

# SUMMER REUNION

By Cate Nelson  
Reunion Coordinator

I did it! I made it through my first Montana Hope Project summer reunion. I was so excited and nervous for the first day. The day we arrived and started setting up all the decorations I began to notice how amazing the people I work with really are. People that I just met started asking what needed to be done, and if I had no idea at the moment, they would just grab something and start working. Before I knew it the decorations were ready and the families started to arrive.

The families... I don't even know where to begin with our families. I knew I had big shoes to fill when I took this position and that made me so nervous to meet everyone. As soon as they started showing up I knew all was going to be great.

Our first night was spent having a fabulous dinner and getting acquainted with all the families. Everyone was pretty worn out from the day's travels and we all knew we had a big day of activities the next day.

The next morning after breakfast we all loaded into the Red Jammer buses and headed to the helicopter rides. Watching the kids get off the helicopters totally made my day. They were smiling from ear to ear and giggling! After that we headed to Lake McDonald for a beautiful relaxing boat tour. Then it was on to Eddy's for ice cream. When we arrived back at the Isaak Walton Inn we were greeted by the smell of BBQ! You guessed it, the Cut Bank Fire Department had been cooking for us all day long. The weather was perfect and the meal was even better. As I walked around the tables it was so fun to see families laughing and telling stories. As the night went on I got to talk to so many kids and to their parents. I got to hear stories of how



Cate and Jay Nelson, MHP 120



Cate Nelson, Rhonda Huseby, Rebecca Birket (Missoula SO) & Rocky Bailey MHP 261



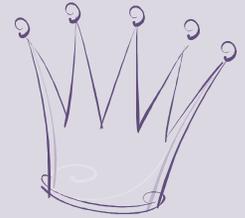
brave these kids were and how strong their families had to be. If you were to walk into the Isaac Walton Inn that night and not have a clue what this reunion was for you would have never known these kids had some type of illness. They were all so happy and playing like they had known each other for ever. Sunday morning was bitter sweet. I was happy that I made it through but sad to be saying goodbye to so many new friends. As the families left and I took a deep breath I realized one thing; these families didn't care if I made mistakes or if everything was perfect. They were all just so grateful for this time they had together.

There are so many people and places that made all of this possible! I would love to thank the Isaak Walton Inn, Glacier Haven, Montana Highway Patrol Honor Guard, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, motorcycle riders, Glacier Heli Tours, Glacier Boat Tours, Cut Bank Fire Department, Red Jammer Buses, Cold Stone Creamery, Missoula PD, Missoula SO, Dwayne with his Semi-truck, Gerald and Thales for the horse rides, Glen Photography, Glacier National Park and of course all the volunteers from the Hope Project. We could not have done it without all of you!

Thank you again for allowing me to have such a great job and I look forward to a bigger and better reunion next year!

# Princess Ball

By  
Josh  
Faith



*Princess Valicity*



*Prince Mikey*



*Candy & Josh  
Faith*

## Inspiration for the Ball

The first Princess Ball was held in March of 2009 as a homecoming celebration of life and the completion of treatment for four year-old Valicity Lee Faith. Valicity was diagnosed with Leukemia on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2008 -- just 1 week before her third birthday. She went through 13 long months of chemotherapy in Seattle before the cancer was considered to be in remission. Our family was able to return home, with treatment cycles of chemo medication spaced out to once a month. We chose to hold a homecoming celebration of life with friends and family. We always considered her a princess so it felt appropriate to have a Princess Ball in her honor.

In March of 2010 Valicity relapsed with Leukemia and received additional treatment in Seattle. On July 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 Valicity lost her battle with cancer, gaining her wings and joining the angels above.

In Valicity's five wonderful but short years here on earth, she proved that she had a gift, a gift of giving and bringing people together with her cheerful personality, contagious smile and laughter. This event is the perfect opportunity to celebrate her life and share with others some of the gifts that she gave us.

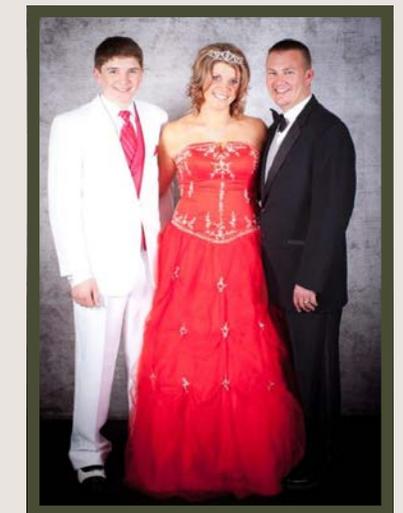
## History of the Ball

In March 2011, we hosted the 1st Annual Princess Ball in memory of our little princess Valicity. The Ball was created for kids of all ages to allow them to dress up and participate in fun games and events. The 2011 ball was a fundraiser for Angel Flight West -- a nonprofit organization that helped transport our family to and from Seattle for Valicity's monthly check-ups. The 2011 Ball surpassed all expectations with more than 400 attendees and raised \$15,000.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Princess Ball in January 2012 benefited "The Montana Hope Project." This organization made one of Valicity's dreams come true by sending her to Disney World. This event demonstrated Valicity's gift to bring people together with over 640 attendees and more than \$24,000 in funds raised that funded the dreams of at least 4 more children.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Princess Ball benefited "The Ronald McDonald house Charities of Montana." This event once again demonstrated Valicity's overwhelming gift to bring people together making it a huge success bringing together over 1,200 people and raising \$35,000.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Princess Ball in March 2014 benefited once again "The Montana Hope Project", in honor of our daughter and nephew Mikey Wilke, who lost his battle with Muscular Dystrophy in 2013, joining his cousin Valicity. One of Mikey's requests was that we have the Princess Ball for the Montana Hope Project as he was also a recipient of this great organization, also allowing one of his dreams to come true by visiting Disney World. This event demonstrated Valicity's gift once again with a sell out crowd of 1,500 and more than \$60,000 in funds raised.





Micah's wish granting in Missoula



Michelle Navarro promoting the Hope Project



Richard Hader warns, "There's just one rule, Easton.... You better have fun!"



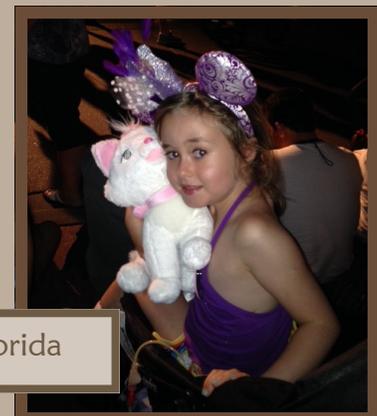
Jessica, Jake and Skylehr at Spring Hope at Rainbow Ranch Lodge



Opal with the Teddy Bears



Madalyn in Florida



Courtesy Photos



Braden cruising



Caden and Belle



Lucas and his Play House



Cate Nelson at the State Capital



Hope Project volunteers serve as "Angels" at Give Kids the World



USAF Thunderbirds entertain Hope Project families



Valerie, Jessica and Jake at MSU Bobcat Football game



Mike Tooley and Rhonda Huseby accept \$5000 from Blue Cross Blue Shield

Courtesy Photos

# Sam's Wish

*By Sam's Mom, Tammy*



It's so hard to put into words how grateful we are for the opportunity to take a trip like this. Not only were all of the details attended to, but all of the extra

special touches that made for such an amazing getaway.

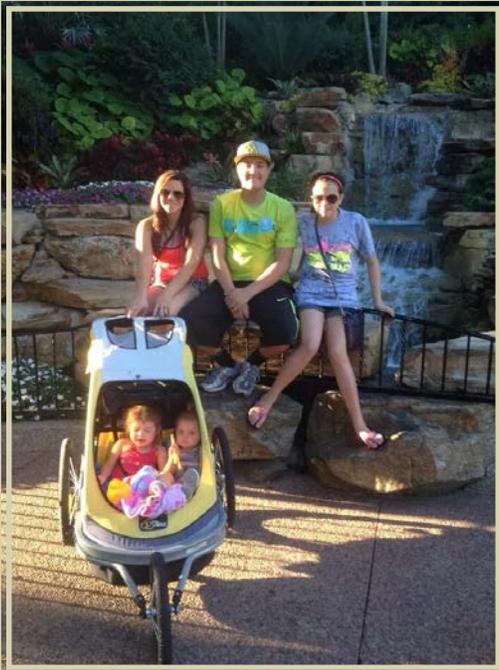
We will forever be thankful to the Montana Hope Project and Give Kids the World for creating this vacation. Truly the best we've ever had!

After entering the life-altering world of pediatric cancer, our perspectives have shifted. Things we once valued don't really matter. Things like daily time with one another, which we sometimes took for granted, began to take a higher priority in our lives. Every day we have together is truly a gift.

If asked what our favorite things were about the trip, it is hard to pin down just a few, but I'll give it a shot...

- ◆ Being offered first class seating by the Helena flight crew
- ◆ Sharing Disney memories with Sam and showing him its magic
- ◆ Not having a schedule of any sort, unless we wanted one
- ◆ Being treated special, shown unconditional love AND acceptance by complete strangers





## Family Fun in Florida

- ◆ Eating ice-cream for breakfast (and lunch, and dinner, and dessert...)
- ◆ Riding a horse
- ◆ Petting a dolphin
- ◆ Seeing the Space Shuttle Atlantis
- ◆ Watching the shows at Sea World
- ◆ Eating in the World's Largest McDonald's
- ◆ Watching with pride as Sam got up on stage and performed in Village Idol
- ◆ Spending hours in the Lego store and getting awesome new Lego kits
- ◆ Time on the beach with extended family
- ◆ Meeting the Star Fairy
- ◆ Lots of cool face painting
- ◆ Watching the sunrise on the beach
- ◆ VIP treatment at the parks, especially at Universal Studios
- ◆ Daily surprises
- ◆ Meeting Optimus Prime & Bumble Bee
- ◆ Several days without cooking or cleaning
- ◆ Experiencing the magic of Give Kids The World Village
- ◆ Being surrounded by other special families
- ◆ CELEBRATING SAM'S LIFE

As I said, it's hard to pin down just a few. We had a truly magical getaway, and we will be forever grateful to everyone who made it possible for Sam's wish to be granted.

Thank you!



## “Orlando Fanzies”

It was our first time flying, the night was still dark and the air was crisp as the plane was ascending into air. I fell asleep until we landed in Orlando and that's when it started, we were finally there. We were greeted by Bill, one of the friendliest people I've ever met. He took us to our baggage claim, then took us to our car rental, and helped us get situated and gave us directions to Give Kids the World. Give Kids the World was magnificent, it was like a mini-park inside a resort. There were: train rides, boat racing, spas, video games, tram system, food, all you can eat ice cream, a theatre, Disney characters, basketball court, a pool and waterpark, candy land, carousel, and a bungalow of fame.

In our Disney Parks adventures we had the “Genie Pass” which was amazing! We could ride any ride with little to no wait at all. We received front row seats to the Lion King show at Animal Kingdom. We rode “Everest” a countless amount of times. We were first in line for the Safari Ride which was a lot of fun and was as close to the real deal as you can get. The following day we went to the Magic Kingdom were my sisters and I could go to the front and meet the princesses. Ella's love with Cinderella's castle is a memory that I will never forget. We also rode countless amounts of water rides and other rollercoasters and watched the parade of royalty, following up the night with a sundae and some quality fun time at teen night. The next day we went to Cocoa Beach, and relaxed and had some fun. We went shopping, and walked around the ESPN Wide World of Sports and later that night my dad, Kenzie and I went to the Magic game, although they lost it was a blast. The following day we went to Sea World and watched the killer whales and went on the two rollercoasters countless times. The next day we ventured over to the Universal Studios which was the coolest of the parks. And then we flew home the next day.

By Koltin

# Adam's Wish

**By Joe Wyant  
MHP 315,  
Butte/Anaconda  
Coordinator**



Adam's wish was granted on September 8, 2014. The wish was granted during a dinner at Perkins in Butte. Attending the dinner were Adam's mother Beverly, brother Patrick and other close family members. MHP Troopers Ken Klapan MHP 327, Alicia Williams MHP 184, Derek Schuler MHP 271 and Area Coordinator/Trooper Joseph Wyant MHP 315 were present to assist in granting the wish. Adam's wish was to go to Disney World and Give Kids the World in Florida.



The ceremony went great and Adam showed much anticipation for the trip. Adam was excited about meeting movie characters, Flick ("A Bugs Life"), Rafikki the monkey ("Lion King") and Shrek the ogre ("Shrek"). Adam assured us he would take lots of photographs to bring back and show everyone. Adam and his family were excited about seeing the ocean and spending time on the beach in Florida.



After dinner, Adam was able to see the interior of a couple of local Trooper patrol vehicles as requested. Trooper Williams took Adam on a short ride around the restaurant parking lot. Adam was smiling and stated how "awesome" it was to ride in the patrol car. Photos of Adam and his family were taken with the Troopers. All the family members were so thankful for being granted Adam's wish and expressed so much gratitude for the Montana Hope Project.

# Joshy's Camper

By Glen Barcus,  
MHP 245



With the help of Josh Brown MHP 314, Jeff Sargent MHP 336, Shawn Fowler MHP 241, Pat McCarthy MHP 124, K9 Tommie, and Doug Samuelson MHP 222 on the grill, we were able to present Joshy of Livingston with a camper, all while saying thank you to Big Sky RV by hosting a BBQ at their place. Murdoch's threw in a generator and four camp chairs as icing on the cake. Please consider giving them your business when you are in need.

Sadly, Joshy passed away not long after the wish presentation. His family is extremely gracious and we hope they will continue to use the camper in his honor for many years to come.

# Caden's Truck

By Joe Wyant, MHP 315



Trooper Mike Williams  
MHP 271, Caden, &  
Joe Wyant MHP 315

A benefit to raise funds for medical expenses was held in Butte at the "Depot" for Caden, who is battling Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Hundreds were in attendance and a large sum of money was raised through silent and live auctions, a raffle, donation jars and games. At the event, twelve year old Caden, along with his family, were grateful to have his wish to restore a 1970's Ford pickup granted by the Montana Hope Project. The local businesses involved in the wish were as follows:

Butori Collision Center (restoration), 406 Motoring (stereo system), AFCCO (sandblasting), Auto Zone (chrome air cleaner), Franky Butori (window tint), Dan Lulich (painter), Highland Auto Parts-NAPA, Joe Wall (body technician), Lisac's Tire, Magnum Coatings (powder coating), Ultimate Linings (bed liner), Wayne Sterns-Butte GM Auto Center and Whalen Tire (mount and balance). A special thank you goes out to Frank Butori for spear heading this project.

# Amber's Wish

Montana State Trooper, Steve Gaston MHP 274, along with Hope Project President, Richard Hader, had the pleasure of granting Amber's wish to go to Disney World. Amber's wish was presented to her at Superior Elementary School on September 30<sup>th</sup> and by October 5<sup>th</sup>, Amber, her mother and grandmother were on their way to Florida for a week of fun. The Hope Projects grants many wishes to Disney World and works closely with the resort "Give Kids the World" (GKTW). Families stay the entire week in the fun, kid-themed villas while enjoying this magical resort that caters to wish families from all around the world. GKTW provides families with playgrounds, a swimming pool, nightly entertainment and extra special surprises that the kids love. There is even an arcade venue with huge model train, remote controlled boats, billiards and miniature golf, and there is an ice cream parlor that serves ice cream all day long.

The Montana Hope Project takes care of all the expenses for the week-long wish and also gives the family spending money, a camera and a special Hope Project bear to take on the trip. President Hader said, "We take care of each other. We are proud of our organization and we couldn't do it without the generous people of Montana. Whether it's individuals or companies who donate their time or money to help out, we couldn't do it without them."



## To Do List:

Ice Cream for:

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner



# Ashtyn's Wish

Ashtyn received her wish to “see lots of animals” when Jeremiah Snider MHP 279, Hamilton area coordinator, presented her and her family with a trip to Disney World, Sea World and Epcot Center in Florida. Eighteen friends and family joined Ashtyn at Pizza Hut in Hamilton to see her wish granted.

Ernest and Nancy, Ashtyn's guardians, joined her on this adventure. Nancy said that Ashtyn loves all kinds of animals, like pigs, lambs, hippopotamus, crocodile, and penguins. She loves the movie “Happy Feet”.

Ashtyn's kindergarten teacher at Lolo School recommended her to the Hope Project and she completed all the paperwork for the family.

Nancy was surprised Ashtyn qualified for a wish since her disabilities are not life threatening. She is autistic and has various medical issues and she will never be able to walk on her own. The mission of the Montana Hope Project is to grant wishes to children in Montana with critical or life-threatening illnesses, which includes children with medical issues that alter their life. Bringing a smile to the face of kids facing an illness or medical condition is why the Montana Hope Project exists and why so many people across the state invest in our efforts. It's all about the kids.



# Braden's Wish

Dear Montana Hope Project,

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity that you have given me.

When I was first diagnosed, I thought that the world was ending. But with the wish, I had something to look forward to. As you know, I picked the cruise because it was always something I wanted to do.

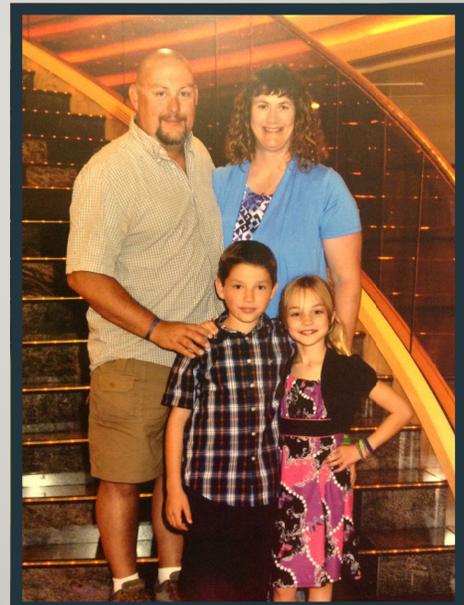
As far as the Cruise was, I loved it! They always had something to do. (And I mean always!) By far the most enjoyable thing on board was the ropes course. I freaked out at first but I got over it and had a blast!

Every night they would play movies at the pool. Every night they had a different theme (like kids night), so every night wasn't a bore.

Off the ship we went on "excursions" which was exploring the ports we stopped at. One of the stops we explored was a place where we could scuba dive. Diving has been an interest of mine since my Mom got certified. While there I got to touch a sea turtle! At another stop we explored Mayan ruins and I got a jade knife!

Thanks again and I hope to see you guys helping more kids.

From Braden



# Caden's Wish

By Pam, Caden's Mom



Dear Montana Hope Project,

First, our apologies for how long it has taken us to write this thank you, it is embarrassingly so, but something this meaningful could not be rushed. How do you put into words the meaning behind seeing your child's wish come true? It's not something that can be easily written down. It's a wide range of emotions, but mostly, it's gratitude that people, our fellow Montanans through your organization, care enough about children like our son Caden to grant their wishes.

During the most intense 17 months of Caden's treatment for stage IV, high risk neuroblastoma, we would dream of doing something special for him. We somehow wanted to make up for the childhood he had lost - the days, weeks, and months spent far from home, in pain, afraid, and uncomfortable; he went through so many things that children should not go through. For his entire age of four, Caden was in cancer treatment. That is not how four year olds should live. But somehow, Caden focused on the simple things that could bring him joy. And one day, when the Blue Angels were flying over Seattle, Caden heard them from our RV parked in the hospital parking lot. He wanted to see more. So we did our best to find a spot, in the shade and away from people that could get him very sick following his recent round of chemotherapy. In hindsight, it wasn't the greatest viewpoint, but Caden just loved what he could see and hear - those powerful jets soaring and performing stunts across the blue Seattle sky.

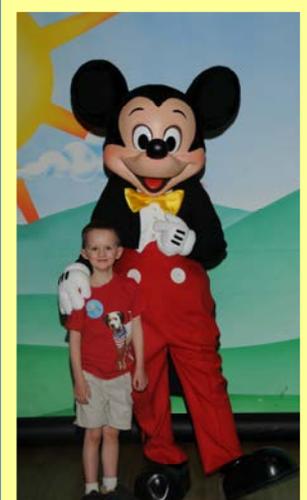
From that day forward, the Blue Angels became a source of inspiration and joy for Caden. During difficult inpatient stays, we'd talk about how great it would be to meet them. He taped a picture from a magazine to the ceiling above his camper bed. His Transplant Day poster featured a blue and gold colored plane and he could often be seen with his tiny Blue Angels flight jacket on.

So when the day came when we met with Trooper Barcus to talk about what Caden might wish for, the answer from his little mouth was clear - meet the Blue Angels. And despite challenges on our end for relapse treatment, frequent trips to Seattle, and virtually no time off from work, you not only made his wish happen, but made it a special time for our entire family.

For the first time in over two years, our family was traveling for something enjoyable, and Caden's wish came true. He relished from his VIP seating area along the Vero Beach runway every moment we were there. From the large C-130 aircraft affectionately named "Fat Albert" performing, to the arrival of the pilots and their ceremonious entrance into the aircraft, to the amazing stunts meticulously executed above our heads, Caden was enthralled. This experience was completely above and beyond the glimpses of aircraft he caught view of in Seattle. Following the practice show, Caden was invited on the runway to stand with the pilots for a photo in front of an impeccable aircraft that had just landed. His wish come true!!

It's a smile and feeling we'll never forget. Thank you. But the gratitude does not end here, we are also extremely thankful for the efforts to house us at Give Kids the World for the week in Florida; this made Caden's wish trip even more memorable and amazing. A place where you eat ice cream for breakfast, order pizza to your villa, with swimming pools with fountains, where gifts are left on your table each day, and where there are squirrels that you can appropriately name "Friendly", a place that was our little boy's dream resort. We thoroughly enjoyed the Magic Kingdom, Legoland, Hollywood Studios, SeaWorld, and the beach. Thank you for each and every wonderful moment we enjoyed from the wish presentation at Caden's favorite pizza place until we landed back home.

While giving our son a wish due to the life-threatening nature of his disease is not something we would have ever wanted, it was a silver lining in an otherwise very difficult journey. It was a week where our little boy smiled and laughed and was given the opportunity to experience the joy that childhood should be. It was healing and humbling for us as his parents. Thank you to each and every person that was a part of making this happen, from the Troopers, to the coordinators, to the donors and supporters. It means more to us than you will ever know, most especially to Caden.



# Santa at the Sweets Barn

For the fourth year in a row, Del Ruggles, AKA Santa, will visit the Sweets Barn in Lolo to ask children what they wanted for Christmas.

The Sweets Barn, owned by Kirk Martin and Dave & Bonnie Aicher, welcomes Santa each year, while families are encouraged to bring their own cameras and make a donation to the Montana Hope Project.

Free candy canes and cookies are furnished to the participating kids. Over the years, an average of 150 kids a day have come to see Santa. Including parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, about 200 people visit the Sweets Barn each day of the event.

Every year there are numerous families that utilize this opportunity to have family portraits taken of their entire family with Santa. Many are multi-generational and some become Christmas cards, or gifts for family and friends.

Hope Project recipient families have also joined in the fun and had their pictures taken with Santa. This creative, kid-focused event has raised over \$3500 during the first three years. The sparkle in the children's eyes and the smiles on their faces are so honest. Thank you to Santa, Kirk, Dave and Bonnie for creating the fun.



*Santa patiently waiting*

## Overheard at the Sweets Barn:

"Santa, you are looking good, but you are kinda skinny."

Santa was asked what he would like left under the tree for a treat?

Santa replied, "Diet Coke and Chocolate Chip Cookies."

His little friend replied, "What's the matter Santa, are you lactose intolerant?"

# Winter Reunion

The Winter Reunion at Fairmont Hot Springs resort brought together over 50 Hope families along with coordinators from across the state. The turkey dinner with all the trimmings was a big hit, as was the coordinator snowball fight, door prize drawings throughout the evening, and visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The pools were packed with joyful children and many got their exercise for the week by repetitively climbing up the water slide tower.

Every winter the Hope Project hosts the Winter Reunion for any Hope family that wants to come. Our new reunion coordinator, Cate Nelson, did a terrific job creating a memorable weekend. She was assisted by a multitude of eager helpers that pulled it all together behind the scenes.

The Greeter Table was staffed by Chris Brown, Julie Riddle, Jocelyn Snider, and Tracy and Rocky Bailey throughout the weekend. The energetic bellhops were Glen Barcus and Dave Evans. Cookie bakers extraordinaire were Art and Audrey Collins, who pulled an all-nighter to make certain fresh Christmas cookies were ready to enjoy. A fast, efficient cookie plate assembly line consisted of: Chuck and Connie Lee, Audrey Collins, Deb Butler, Justus Johnson, Gabrielle Broere, Rebecca Birkit, and Kathy Sangray. Cookie and gift basket deliveries were made by: Cal Janes, Joe Wyant, Brad Sangray, Rocky Bailey and Art Collins. Joining in the spirit of helping others, and sacrificing some time that could have been spent in the pool, the following children of volunteers assisted with assembling and delivering cookie plates: Sadie Mauk, Michael and Nichole Navarro, Ramsey and Emma Snider, and Payton and Cameron Fyffe.

The weekend went off without a hitch as everyone pitched in wherever needed. A big thank you to the Fairmont Hot Springs staff as well, they are always a big help making sure everything runs smoothly.

# Follow us on the Web

Please go to [www.montanahope.org](http://www.montanahope.org) for more information. Find stories on events, wishes granted and a calendar of upcoming events. Contact information is also available for all the coordinators. If you would like to help with an event or organize your own, please contact the coordinator in your area to get involved.

Please submit website & newsletter stories, letters, photos, ideas, information and updates to the editor:

Kathy Sangray

1975 US Highway 287 N

Cameron MT 59720

or email [ksangray@montanahope.org](mailto:ksangray@montanahope.org)



# Give the Gift of Hope

Help make a wish come true for a critically ill Montana child. Make a donation to the Montana Hope Project in the name of a family member, friend or recipient. A donation to the Montana Hope Project directly benefits Montana children.

This gift is made in **honor/memory** of : \_\_\_\_\_

It is being given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Send confirmation card to: \_\_\_\_\_

(name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(mailing address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(city)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(state)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(zip)

Complete and send to: The Montana Hope Project, P.O. Box 5927, Helena, MT 59604

# HOPE PROJECT GEAR

Order at [montanahope.org](http://montanahope.org), or mail your check and order form to:  
 Montana Hope Project PO Box 5927, Helena, MT 59604

	\$	Quantity	Total		\$	Quantity	Total
	\$15.00	_____	_____		\$5.00	_____	_____
10" Thermos				3 Golf Balls			
	\$10.00	_____	_____		\$20.00	_____	_____
100% Cotton T-Shirt				Hope Bear			
	\$12.00	_____	_____		\$20.00	_____	_____
Baseball Cap				Polo Shirt			
	\$10.00	_____	_____		\$15.00	_____	_____
Coffee Mug				Tall Mug			
	\$10.00	_____	_____		\$30.00	_____	_____
Fanny Pak				Vest			

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ORDER TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

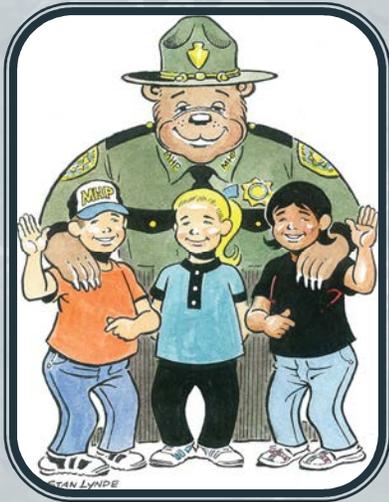
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

# The Bears that Care

Montana Hope Project  
PO Box 5927  
Helena, MT 59604

Non-Profit  
US Postage Paid  
Helena, MT  
Permit #243



[www.montanahope.org](http://www.montanahope.org)



## RIFLE RAFFLE

Remington Model 700 300 REM SA Ultra Mag with a 3 x 9 variable Leupold scope and a soft scabbard.

The Christian Motorcycle Association has donated a rifle to the Montana Hope Project to be raffled off June 30, 2015 to raise funds for wishes. Only 100 tickets will be sold for \$10 each.



For Tickets contact: James Handy at 406-599-5538 or  
Cal Janes at 406-949-3330