

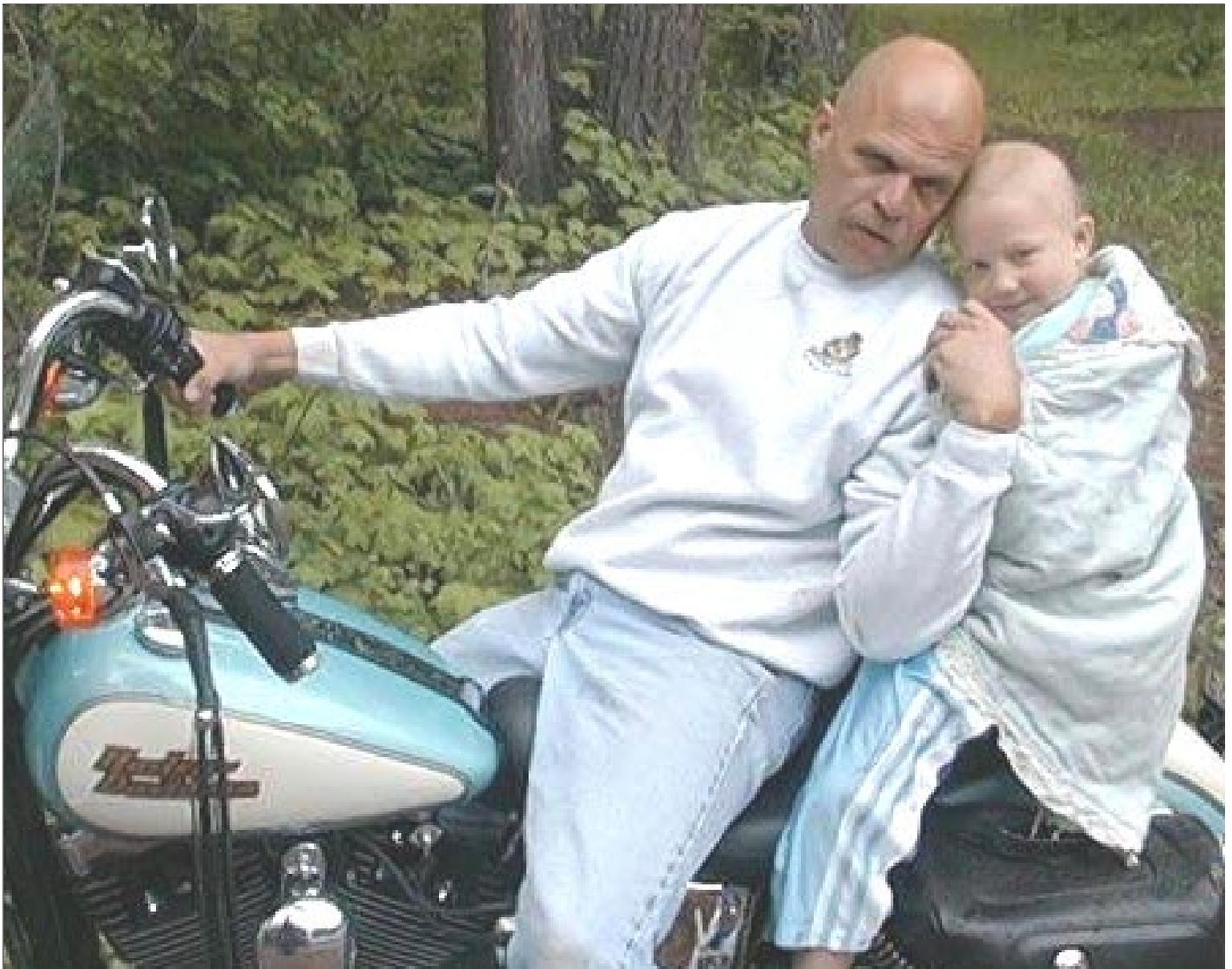
# Montana Hope Project



Sponsored by the Association of  
Montana Highway Patrolmen

December 2000

Volume 3, Issue 2



*Photo by Leanne Smith*

**Jeff Douglas, Montana Highway Patrolman from Helena, poses with wish recipient Dusti Voeller of Colstrip. Douglas rode and gathered pledges in this year's Ride For Hope 500. Dusti and her entire family visited Disneyworld, courtesy of fund-raising efforts such as the Ride For Hope 500.**

# From the President's desk.....



**Brooke Darfler and Kelly Mantooth**

If you could have or do anything in the world what would it be?

This is what we, as the Hope Project, are able to ask kids who have applied for a wish. Now you might think that, "Look out, you don't know what may happen". And you are right we do not know just what each wish may be. However, are we going to try to grant it? Yes!

This past year has been phenomenal for the Hope Project. So far, to date we have granted 14 wishes! We have several others that have travel dates planned or are in the application process that will have their wish granted before the year's end! Wow!!! I am proud to say, and you should be proud too, that we continue to be able to grant these wishes.

There are numerous people and companies that come to mind that I want to thank but I know that if I start writing names I basically would not be able to put them all in this letter and of course when you attempt to thank a bunch of people you inevitably leave someone out. So "THANKS", to all of you!

One family that I must make mention of and thank, Mitch Tuttle and his wonderful family. Mitch "handed down the reins" of the Hope Project to me this year. I have found out there were a few things that he left out when I was asking him what this job would entail. Mitch continues to be a driving force for the Hope Project, and I continue to call on him for advice. I now see all the work involved that years ago I just took for granted as I knew the

Hope Project existed and I helped with some wishes in my local area, but I never knew what went on in the Hope Project besides granting wishes. So when you see Mitch, tell him thanks! Tell other folks that are involved in the Hope Project, both now and in the past, THANKS!

So where do we go from here? Thanksgiving is now over, and by the way, did you give thanks? We take for granted what the wonderful things we have. I have found out that we need to look at how we "compare." Do you compare your current house and car with the fancy new house up on the hill or the new car in the dealership window? Why don't you compare your home to the homeless person downtown or compare your car with the mom and kids that have to walk to the store and school since the husband has to have the car to get to work? Comparisons, switch your thinking around and give thanks for what you do have.

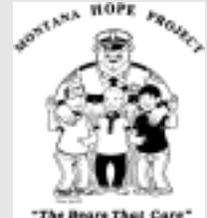
Do you want to be part of giving a wish? Do you want to see a child receive a computer, connect to the world, go see places where he/she can't go due to their illness? Want to see a little girl arrive at Wal Mart, see her wish, a pink Barbie car with its battery all charged up, and be able to drive the Barbie car around the inside of Wal Mart buying whatever she wants? (This consisted of most every Barbie item there was) Just think of the two uniformed patrol officers trying to follow her around in the store, she probably had to fight them away from trying to drive it themselves! Want to see a boy go out and sand on his favorite dream car, watch him plan on how he is going to rebuild it, watch him dream about "his" dream? Do you want to listen to the bubbly chat from a child and family that has went to Disneyworld, to hear them say, "been there done that." Want to hear the family say that for just a short while we were able to forget about our child's illness and have a fun, close family time?

The Hope project could not do these wishes without your support. We look forward to Christmas, a time of giving. I hope all of you will continue to give and to be a part of granting wishes.

The goal remains to provide **Hope** to Montana children with a chronic life threatening illness by giving them access to the one thing we all live for, **OUR DREAMS**. We as adults may never reach them, but then we have had the time to try.

Want to hear someone say thanks?

Thanks!



**MONTANA HOPE PROJECT**  
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# Dear Hope Project...

*Story and photos by Stacey Warburton  
Belgrade*

The words "Thank You" hardly seem to be enough to express our gratitude in granting Danielle's wish to go to Disneyland. We had a fantastic time and



it was such an awesome experience to see Danielle's reaction to everything. We are extremely grateful and are very proud to live in a state that has such a wonderful program for children!

We have enclosed numerous pictures from our vacation and as you can see from the pictures, you made one little girl very happy. She had the opportunity to experience so many "firsts". Her first plane ride, first time to Disneyland, her first time to swim in the ocean, and her first time to not only see a whale close up but to also have the wonderful opportunity of touching him. Needless to say, she was totally awed by the entire experience.

Danielle was also very excited when her cousins from North Dakota showed up and surprised her at Disneyland. Her aunt, uncle, four cousins and great-aunt met up with us for part of the trip. They

were able to join us for one day at Disneyland and the other at Sea World. It was wonderful that she got to experience all the fun and laughter with her family.

Again, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone at Montana Hope, all of its sponsors, and most of all to the Highway Patrolmen.

From one happy little girl and her family... Thank You!

Sincerely,

The Warburtons

Kim, Stacey and Danielle

## ***Thanks for making Hope Project possible***

We just returned from our second year of participation in the Montana Hope Project Reunion in Essex, Montana.

I want to publicly thank the volunteers and donors, especially the Montana Highway Patrol, who make this event possible. For one precious weekend, families of sick children could feel normal. There were no obstacles for the handicapped; willing arms helped those who could not help themselves. Recipients were running around as children should, enjoying the various activities and each other.

The reunion was a renewal, with hugs and laughter that will carry us through to next year.

Tara, Katie and Bo Olson

Helena

# HOPE from a mother's standpoint

By Vicki LaFond-Smith  
Speech given at Helena Golf Tournament

My twin sons, Christopher and Matthew Smith were granted their wish in June 1999 by the Montana Hope Project. Their wish was a four-day trip to Montana's Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. Christopher and Matthew enjoy many things like fishing, adapted down hill snow skiing, camping, basketball and playgrounds, but their absolute favorite thing is swimming!

Their wish came true and they were able to swim from dawn 'til dusk (and later!) and enjoyed feeding the ducks and seeing all the animals for four great days. Fairmont Hot Springs was "Disneyland" for Christopher and Matthew.

We wish we could be here tonight to meet you and tell you ourselves what the Montana Hope Project means to us, but are unable to because Christopher had surgery on both of his legs last week. While the surgery was successful, the recovery process has been painful and difficult—and of course to an active almost 10 year old boy who is now completely

immobile—I'm sure he could think of a few other words to describe this whole deal other than "difficult"!

So, instead of being with all of you in person, we're here in spirit. And instead

of our voices telling you about the joy and happiness the Montana Hope Project has brought to our lives, we'll use our friend

(Please see **From a Mother's Standpoint** page 5)



Photo by Leanne Smith

**LaFond-Smith family and friends.** Pictured from left to right (back row) are Doug Sparrow, Vickie LaFond-Smith, Maynard Lafond, Dan Rooney, Tom Lafond Jim Mirand, (front row) Matthew Smith, George Buehler, Timothy Smith, Christopher Smith, Marv Hubbard and Robert Rule.

## 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.*

HOPE - always the perfect gift

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

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

## *From a mother's standpoint.....Cont'd from page 4*

Perry's (Brown) voice.

Not only did the Montana Hope Project grant the twins' wish, they also invited our family to the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion at the Izaak Walton Inn in Essex this June.

This was the first time we attended a Hope Project Reunion, and from a mother's standpoint, I saw things that I haven't ever seen in my life!

I saw a mischievous young boy, who while sitting in a wheelchair, steal the hat right off of (MHP) Colonel Bert Obert's head and get to keep it!

I saw two young boys tackle and wrestle on the ground a Royal Canadian Mounted Police Constable—whose last name I can't pronounce but I'm sure he'd rather be called "Paul" anyway. I saw two delighted young boys flirt with Miss Montana and Miss Teen Montana. And even talked the beautiful ladies out of a couple autographed pictures! I saw two young boys loaded with strength and tenderness into a helicopter for the ride of their lives over a piece of Glacier National Park. One man even saw to it that their little brother got to go on a helicopter ride too. Nothing prepared me for the absolute joy and excitement I saw on their faces. I saw a magician work his magic on all the children producing jokes, giggles and goofy rabbits from his hat.

I witnessed on numerous occasions Highway Patrolmen and other men—whose names I didn't know but who were

friends by their smiles—gently carry a young boy in a wheelchair up and down the stairs of the Inn over the course of two and a half days.

I saw children get as many rides on motorcycles as they wanted, rides in a shiny new semi-truck, and rides in a wagon drawn by a team of horses.

And you know what else I saw? I saw a single mother with three young boys who needed help carrying luggage, pushing a wheelchair, holding a child's hand, carrying four plates through the BBQ line, a cup of coffee on a rainy evening—and she was overwhelmed some times by the needs of her children, and I know she'd hate for me to tell you this, but I even remember she had tears in her eyes a time or two.

And you know what? There was always help given to her by Highway Patrolmen, their wives and their children to help her do all these things. She wasn't alone.

These were all wonderful, memorable things to see. These things I've just told you about happened to me, my twin sons Christopher and Matthew, and my youngest son Timothy.

If we were with you right now, you'd see Christopher's bright smiling face, while sitting in his wheelchair, reach out to shake your hands and tell you "Hi". And you'd see Matthew literally jumping up and down, clapping his hands and giggling,

enjoying all of this attention very much!

To have Christopher and Matthew honored by the Montana Hope Project—deserving because of their special challenges, courage and determination—it is a wonderful tribute to them. They face their challenges every day with courage and a smile, despite pain, surgeries, physical and cognitive limitations. We all have so much to learn from them and their ability to enjoy the small wonders of life.

I am so proud of them and the beautiful children they are. We think it's even extra special that the word "hope" is in your name, because that word is definitely etched in the hearts and souls of Christopher and Matthew. They never give up hope and therefore, neither can I.

So, with tears in my eyes as I write this letter, with all of our hearts, we thank each one of you for all that has been given to us. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event this weekend; to everyone who contributes their time, energy and money; to everyone who helps plan and prepare for all of the events the Montana Hope Project sponsors. Thank you for the fun! To quote our friend Mitch Tuttle, "It's all for the kids"! And it truly is a wonderful program for children—granting wishes—making dreams come true. It is cool to see children, who often times have to be so brave, have the opportunities to just be silly ole' kids and just do what kids do.

# Wondering what to do with your old license plates?



Turn those old plates into your County Treasurer's office when you pick up your new plates or take all those old plates gathering dust in your garage to your local Montana Highway Patrol office.

The license plates are recycled and the Montana Hope Project receives a monetary donation.

# Dear Hope Project.....

*During Vacation Bible School at Devon Lutheran Church, the students voted to give their daily offering and the free-will offering at the program to Project Hope, so we are enclosing our check for \$141 which is the amount collected.*

*We wish you continued good luck with your commendable efforts and hope that we may be able to contribute again in the future.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jan Albright*

*Galata Lutheran Parish*

# The Perfect Place To Be

The Montana Hope Project held a dinner and silent auction benefit September 15 at the Perfect Place, Billings.

The event featured a fabulous dinner with all the trimmings, entertainment and a

silent auction.

The auction featured Montana art work, products and gift certificates as well as several entertainment and travel packages.

The event raised more than \$25,000.



The Montana Hope Project held its inaugural "Cruisin' for Hope 350" car ride June 24, 2000.

Once the drivers arrived in Helena, they displayed their vehicles at show-n-shine at Dr. Zooms. A banquet and dance followed.

The event raised more than \$8,300.

www.montanahope.org



Please bear with us while our website is under construction.

# Corner Store

Corner Store



To place an order:  
Call: (406) 538-4673  
Write: Hope Project  
P.O. Box 5927  
Helena, MT 59604  
email: mthope@lewistown.net

*\*Add \$3.50 for shipping per order*

- T-shirts (silk screened).....\$10
- Polos (embroidered) .....\$20
- Sweatshirts (embroidered).....\$25
- Glass etched mugs.....\$10

# *Ridin' For HOPE 500*



*Photo by Victoria Wojciechowski  
Creative Vision Photography, Kalispell*

**End of the Tour.** Motorcycle riders from the 11th annual Ride for Hope 500 gather in front of the KwaTaqNuk Inn, Polson. This year's event brought in \$57,792; enough to fund approximately 8 wishes!

The Montana Hope Project held its 11th Annual Ride for HOPE motorcycle ride July 22, 2000.

The 500 mile, single day adventure started from six different points and converged in Polson at the KwaTaqNuk Inn. The End of Tour party included dinner, awards and prizes galore. Riders had an

opportunity to meet HOPE Project recipients and their families.

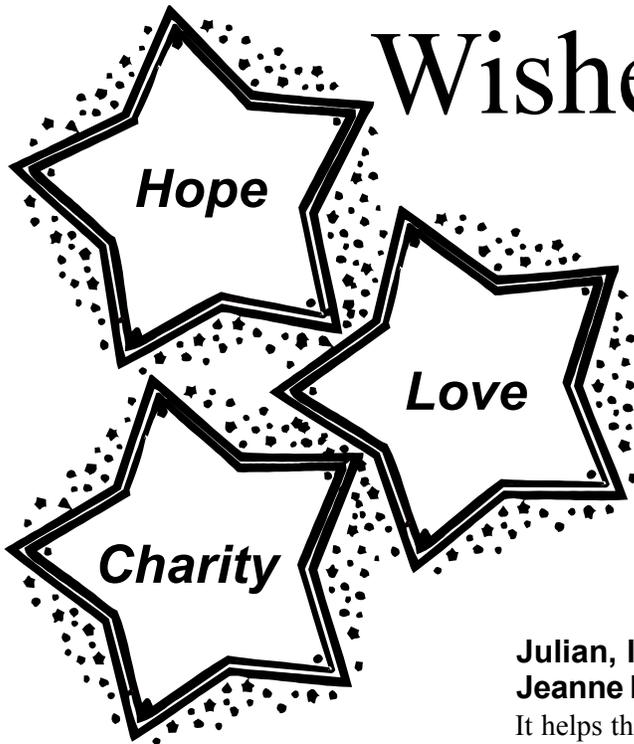
This year's event brought in \$57,792; enough to fund approximately 8 wishes!

To become a sponsor, join the ride or for more information on the Ride For Hope 500, call Cal Janes at (406) 266-3330 or e-mail him at [bacon244@hotmail.com](mailto:bacon244@hotmail.com).

The planning, anticipation and memories of the ride are a source of emotional and psychological support. Each child's dream becomes a ray of hope, a joyful memory and a source of comfort during times of medical intervention and uncertain crisis.

Join us next year as we ride to beautiful Chico Hot Springs.

# Wishes come true



*Photo by Adrienne Gump, Great Falls Tribune*

**Julian, left front and Terrin Shinnick, with Great Falls Coordinator Jeanne Devereaux, her son Phillip and MHP Officer Crystal Johnson.**

*By Rosanne Radcliffe  
Great Falls Tribune*

Terrin Shinnick was only 3 when he went to Disneyworld with his ailing older brother, so when it came time to make his own wish come true, he knew what he wanted to do – return to fantasyland.

Terrin and his 12-year-old brother, Julian, were born with Duchennes Muscular Dystrophy, a degenerative muscle disease that commonly strikes children.

Thanks to Montana Hope Project, the Sun Prairie boy was one of 12 critically ill children who traveled to Disneyworld in May with their families, free of charge – his second trip, because Julian had the same wish fulfilled when he was 6.

“We went to Sea World – the polar bears were fun to watch, the sharks were cool, and we played with boats and trains,” Terrin said, remembering just a few of the things he and his family did during their six-day stay at Kid’s Town in Disneyworld.

Parents Patti and Gene Shinnick said the Helena-based Hope Project is a wonderful program that gave their boys a chance to experience something they probably never would have been able to otherwise.

With yearly reunions and activities, Gene said the program also helps the boys, his wife and himself gain strength from other families and children with similar diseases.

“It gives kids an outlook on life,” Gene said. “This program lets the boys see they are not the only ones in the world like that.

It helps them see that it’s O.K.”

The Hope Project is funded entirely by donations and fund-raising events. The average cost of a wish is \$7,000.

As of November 15, 2000, the program had granted 154 wishes to children statewide since its inception in 1984.

“The children benefit from these gifts because it gives them a moment of happiness, a moment of hope,” said Jeanne Devereaux, Great Falls-area coordinator. “These trips give time to the families to bond. It’s almost a kind

of healing process.”

The Montana Highway Patrol Association created the Hope Project and it’s major source of support.

“Without the Montana Highway Patrol (Association) there would be no Hope Project,” Devereaux said. “They are the Hope Project.”

For more information on the program or to donate, write to Montana Hope Project, P.O. Box 5927, Helena, MT 59604, visit their website at [www.montanahope.org](http://www.montanahope.org) or call (406) 538-4673.



**MHP Officers Alex Betz and Micheal Burman are pictured here with recipient number 154, Tyler Stenson of Lolo. Tyler will be traveling to Disneyworld later this year.**

**The Children of the Montana Hope Project at annual Essex reunion**



MONTANA HOPE PROJECT



"The Bears That Care"

## Project area coordinators

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[spjahaze@home.com](mailto:spjahaze@home.com)

**Kalispell Area Coordinator**

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**Missoula Area Coordinators**

Richard Hader, Missoula  
Tiana Weaver, Missoula  
(406) 721-7490

# Help bring HOPE to MT kids

If you know of a child who could benefit from a gift from the Montana Hope Project, contact one of the officers listed above.

## A note of thanks

Just a note to let you know how much Lizbeth is enjoying her new toys. She drives all over in her Barbie car every day. She really likes it and the other toys and blanket. Thank you so much. That's a wonderful thing you people do. God bless you and the MT Hope Project  
The Gwins  
Lizbeth, Emelia and Robert



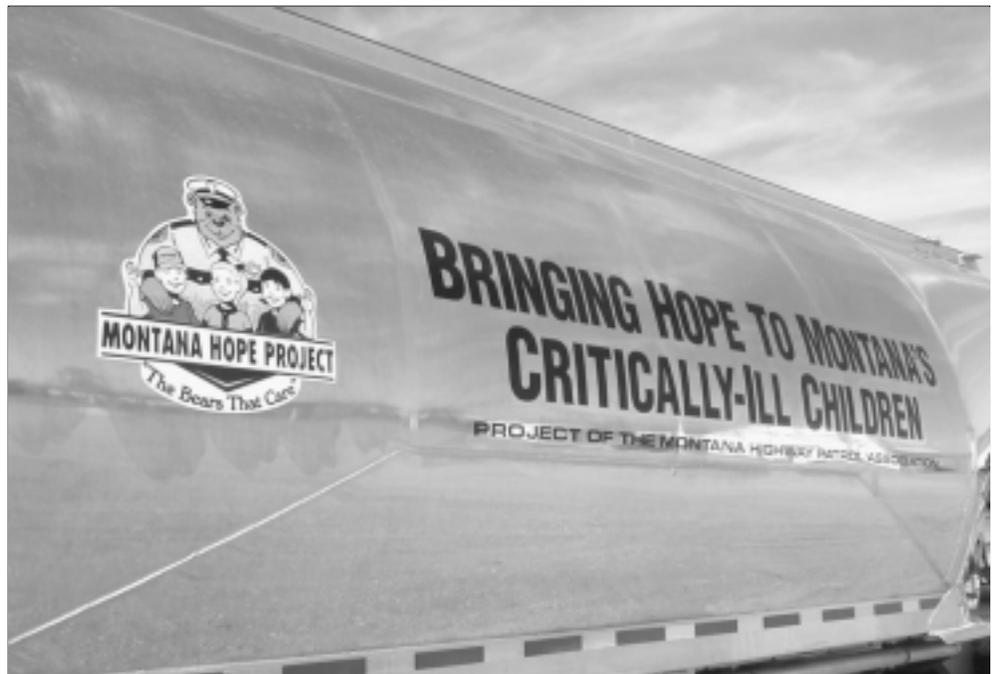
Lizbeth Gwin, with the help of officers Troy Muri (pictured) and Cal Schock, walked into Wal-Mart of Miles City to find her pink Barbie car parked at the front of the store, inside no less, waiting for her. Wal-Mart employees and the two officers helped her drive the car around the entire store and allowed her to buy anything she wanted. Lizbeth bought pretty much every Barbie item there was along with a doll house. The officers left unhurt.

## Dick Irvin truck carries message of Hope

*Reprinted by permission from  
The Shelby Promoter*

The Montana Hope Project now has a motorized advertisement thanks to the local trucking firm, Dick Irvin, Inc. The company recently had the Montana Hope Project logo painted on the side of a shiny stainless steel tanker that's takin the message over the interstates of Montana.

"The logo is now on a traveling billboard," said Montana Highway Patrolman Kelly Mantooth, president of the Montana Hope Project. "It's a great way to get our name and mission out not only just for funding. We know there are kids out there and their families who don't know about the project and that their wishes can be granted. We're always looking for support and the chance to grant wishes. We don't want any kids to slip through the cracks."



*Photo courtesy of the Shelby Promoter*

**The Hope Project logo on a Dick Irvin Truck. "Dick and Dwayne Irvin have been strong supporters," Montana Hope Project president Kelly Mantooth told the Shelby Promoter.**



# Olson bags car with hole in one

Doug Olson of Helena won a 2001 fully loaded Chevrolet Cavalier from Power Chevrolet at the Montana Hope Project Charity Scramble Golf Tournament held Aug. 18 at Fox Ridge Golf Course in Helena. Olson won the car on first drive of the day. The drive was a 141 yards on hole 14.

Members of Superbowl XI Oakland Raiders team George Buehler and Marv Hubbard. Buehler, an offensive guard, wore number 64 and played from 1969-79. Hubbard played from 1968-1977 and wore number 44. As a fullback, Hubbard rushed for more than 1,000 in a single season. While much more common these days, it was an accomplishment which landed him in the Football Hall of Fame record books. Buehler and Hubbard are both members of the NFL Alumni Association whose motto is "Caring For Kids".

The event was organized by Robert Rule and Mitch Tuttle.

This year the tourney grossed more than Last year the tournament netted more than \$13,400 for the Montana Hope Project.



*Photo by Leanne Smith*

Members of Superbowl XI Oakland Raiders team (l to r) George Buehler and Marv Hubbard are shown with Doug Olson of Helena and Glenn Boles of Helena Power Chevrolet. Olson won a 2001 fully loaded Chevrolet Cavalier from Power Chevrolet at the Montana Hope Project Charity Scramble Golf Tournament held Aug. 18 at Fox Ridge Golf Course in Helena. Olson won the car on first drive of the day. The drive was 141 yards on hole number 14.



*Photo by Leanne Smith*

Marv Hubbard (l) and George Buehler (r) let Mathew and Christopher Smith of East Helena try on their Superbowl XI rings. Hubbard and Buehler played for the Oakland Raiders who beat the Minnesota Vikings for the title in 1976. The former team mates were in Helena for the Montana Hope Project Charity Scramble Golf Tournament. The Smith twins were granted a wish June of 1999 by the project.

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Published bi-annually by the Montana Hope Project. The Montana Hope Project is a non-profit organization registered with the Secretary of State. It is a 501(C)(3) organization and follows all Federal guidelines to maintain its status.

Please send all photos, letters, ideas, information, updates and articles to the editor at:

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P.O. Box 5927, Helena, MT 59604  
or e-mail them to [mtride@centric.net](mailto:mtride@centric.net)

Visit our website at:  
[www.montanahope.org](http://www.montanahope.org)



### Community Partnership program opportunity

The Montana Hope Project has joined the Albertsons Community Partners Program. Albertsons donates 3 percent of the sales made to the project when shoppers present this card.

Call Perry Brown at 227-9287 to request a free card.

## Town Pump selling logos in February

The Town Pump Bear Logo Sale will kick off February 1. Proceeds from the sale are donated to the Montana Hope Project.

More than 64 Town Pump facilities state-wide will display and sell the logos.

Support The Montana Hope Project by purchasing a logo. Help us bring hope to Montana's children.



## Year 2001 Calendar of upcoming events

**Essex Reunion**

**June 8, 9, 10**

**Cruisin' for Hope car rally**

**June 23**

**Ride For Hope Motorcycle Tour**

**July 25**

**Helena Golf Tournament**

**August 17**

**Billings Dinner Fundraiser**

**September 21**

## Hope Project Facts

90 cents of every dollar raised directly benefits Montana children.

The Montana Hope Project is NOT affiliated with any national organization.

The average cost of a wish is \$7,000.

The Hope Project is funded entirely by your donations and local fund raising events.

The Hope Project has granted more than 154 wishes since 1984. The project granted 14 wishes in 2000.

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