

We are... MONTANA HOPE



Montana Hope Project Newsletter

Sponsored by the Association of Montana Troopers



"I can't express the gratitude I have for helping us give my son what we couldn't. You are all truly amazing!"

- Casey J.

Montana Hope Project
Children of Hope

Summer Reunion 2015
Essex, MT



Montana Hope Project
Staff, Volunteers, and Children of Hope

Summer Reunion 2015
Essex, MT

In This Issue

- Meet the New President
- Meet the New Coordinators
- 2015 Events and Fundraisers
- Inspirational Stories
- 2015 Wishes
- Meet our Children of Hope ("Wish Kids")
- Get Involved

MONTANA HOPE PROJECT

EDITOR/DESIGNER:

Michelle Navarro

Submit your stories to:
16781 Packer Court
Florence, MT 59833
mnavarro@montanahope.org

JOURNALISTS:

Richard Hader
Glen Barcus
Joe Rehbein
Shawn Ostberg
Zach Miller
Cate Nelson
Tammy Thompson
Zane and Janelle Fulbright
Dave Evans
Jennifer (Elisheba's Mom)
Jeannie (Lena's Grandmother)
Jamie (Eli's Mom)
Katie (Child of Hope)
Jeff (Phillip's Dad)
Kati (Raelynn's Mom)
Anastasia Burton
Hayden (Child of Hope)
Kara (Hayden's Mom)

PHOTOJOURNALISTS:

Troy Meikle
DA Imaging

Many courtesy photos from coordinators,
volunteers, wish families, and other various
supporters of the Montana Hope Project

President:

Glen Barcus, MHP 147

Vice President/Secretary:

Cal Janes, MHP 244, Retired

Treasurer:

Deborah Butler

Wishes:

Tracy Bailey/Cate Nelson

Bears:

Audrey Collins

Media Coordinator:

Kathy Sangray/Michelle Navarro

Chaplain:

Chuck Lee, Retired

Merchandise:

Rhonda Huseby

Billings:

Dave Evans

Bozeman:

Joe Rehbein

Butte/Anaconda:

Joe Wyant, MHP 315

Eastern Montana:

Zach Miller, MHP 247

Great Falls:

Shawn Ostberg

Helena:

Rhonda Huseby

Kalispell:

Steve Lavin, MHP 106

Missoula:

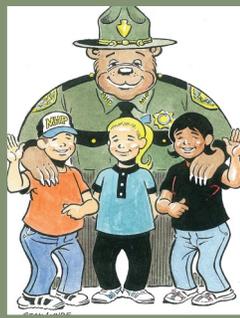
Michelle Navarro

Hamilton:

Jeremiah Snider, MHP 279

Reunions:

Cate Nelson



2015 EVENTS



Hope Project Reunions

Cate Nelson

Ride for Hope

Dave Evans

Santa at the Sweets Barn

Del Ruggles, Dave & Bonnie Aicher

Eat Wings, Raise Funds: Buffalo Wild Wings

Michelle Navarro (Missoula)

Joyce Arms Memorial Barrel Race

Tammy Thompson

Beartooth Fly Fishing Benefit

Dan & Nancy Delekta

Town Pump and Miller Golf Tournament

Town Pump and Miller Brewing

Spring Hope

Rainbow Ranch Lodge

Wear Jeans to Work Day

American Bank Centers of Montana and North Dakota

Test Drive Event: Billion Auto Group

Joe Rehbein (Bozeman)

Annual All-Staff Meeting: Department of Justice

Rhonda Huseby (Helena)

Your event/benefit not listed here?

Please consider submitting your story to the editor at
mnavarro@montanahope.org.

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

Farewell

Richard Hader– The President Retires



Richard and Marcia: Go
Seahawks!

So there I was, sitting at the bar in the Emerald Grill in downtown Seattle on a Saturday night, when I received a text from Glen asking if I would consider writing a piece for the newsletter about my time as President. My first thought was to decline; I had been enjoying my newfound freedom for the last year, and I really didn't want to do it. However, the key to me saying yes was in fact due to me sitting in the bar at the Emerald Grill. You see, the Holiday Inn at the Seattle Space Needle had for years been a sponsor of the Project. They've provided rooms at a huge discount, free rooms for our fundraisers, and when one of our MHP dispatchers needed a place to stay with his kids as his wife underwent surgery, they once again took care of us.

My wife and I were sitting there visiting with our favorite Seattle bartender when that text came in. I showed her and we talked about it and she reminded me that when it came to the families we served, "no" had always been an unacceptable answer for me. So I started to think about what I would write. I thought about all of the great and kind people that helped the Hope Project during my tenure and beyond. Whether it was a limousine service in Orlando, Florida that provided a wish family more than ten hours of free service for an emergency wish on three hours notice; the generous anonymous donor of their corporate jet to fly a wish kid to Colorado to pick up a cat; all of the Ride for Hope motorcycle riders, who every year bust their butts to raise funds for the Hope Project; the owners of the Izaak Walton Inn and Glacier Haven Inn, who provide a location for the wonderful summer reunion at a deep discount; Glacier Heli Tours, who provide free helicopter rides to wish kids at the summer reunion; the famous Red Jammer Buses, who provide transportation into Glacier Park; the Cut Bank Volunteer Fire Department, who provide a BBQ dinner at the summer reunion; Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, which provides a location for the winter reunion; and the many people who would approach Hope Project personnel throughout the year to ask what they could do to help. All of these people and businesses, and countless others, are what make the Hope Project everything it has become. The Hope Project is truly only as good as those kind and wonderful individuals who open their hearts and make it happen.

Finally, and most important, I thought of the families and wish kids. I learned so much from each and every one of them. I will be forever grateful for the kindness they've shown me, and to the Patrol during the times when we lost a trooper in the line of duty. The roles really changed during those times. I have never met such strong, independent kids and families as I have during my time with the Project, and so many of them have become life-long friends. I had my "go to" kids and families, who I could always call on at the last minute for help. Jason Armstrong, Anitra Schmid, Thomas and Jessica Beers, and Justin Tulberg in Missoula, Rachel Kane in Manhattan, and Skylehr Stiles in the Bozeman area never let me down. All of "our" families were awesome to deal with, and I truly enjoyed every minute with them. I have said so many times that I got more in return from the families we served than they ever got from me or the Hope Project. I mean that from the bottom of my heart. I will end this letter with a reminder to the next generation of Project volunteers, many who came on while I was president, "If you're helping someone and expecting something in return, you're doing business, not kindness." Remember, it is all about THE KIDS!

Thank you,

Richard Hader MHP 160, Retired

2015 WISHES GRANTED

1. Raelynne	Disney World	Helena
2. Grant	Disney World	Deer Lodge
3. Eli	Disney World	Billings
4. J'Da	Disney World	Anaconda
5. Angelo	Cleveland Cavaliers Game	Butte
6. Peytyn	Disney World	Billings
7. Dakota	Camper/Tent	Florence
8. Josiah	Camper/Tent	Florence
9. Elisheba	Disney World	Florence
10. Christopher	X-Box	Deer Lodge
11. Lucy	Disney World	Pompeys Pillar
12. Kasey	Disney World	Anaconda
13. Andrew	Disney World	Billings
14. Brandon	Florida- Fishing	Billings
15. Victoria	Disney World	Victor
16. Cole	Mall of America	Billings
17. Jordan	Disney World	Deer Lodge
18. Sarina	Disney World	Missoula
19. Reese	California	Bozeman
20. Greyson	Disney World	Big Timber
21. Sheena	Disney World	Belgrade
22. Katie	Disney World	Helena
23. Braydon	Disney World	Glendive
24. Leena	Hot Tub	Belgrade
25. Phillip	Wheelchair Accessible Van	Billings
26. Charley	Disney World	Belgrade
27. Taggart	Pickup Restoration	Roundup
28. Macy	iPad/\$500 iTunes Card	Hamilton

THE MONTANA HOPE PROJECT WELCOMES A NEW PRESIDENT



Association of Montana Troopers



The Montana Highway Patrol, Association of Montana Troopers, and the Montana Hope Project are proud to announce the appointment of a new President for the Montana Hope Project. Glen Barcus will effectively take the position starting April 1, 2015. Glen became a Trooper in January of 2006 and has served in Baker, Kalispell, and is now stationed in Bozeman, Montana (update: Glen is currently a Sergeant in Lewistown, MT.). He has been instrumental in the Hope Project with wish granting, fundraising, event organization, and social media coordination. We look forward to his enthusiastic spirit and the future growth of the Project. The Hope Project was established in 1984 and has been granting wishes to children with serious, critical, and life-changing illnesses. To date the Hope Project has granted over 390 (update: 417) wishes to children in Montana and looks forward to steadily increasing that number. We would like to thank all the past Presidents that helped pave the way to the success of the organization. Please follow the Montana Hope Project on Facebook and check out the renewed website- www.montanahope.org for more information.



MONTANA HOPE PROJECT

Granting wishes for Montana's critically ill children.

...One child at a time.

www.montanahope.org



From the President

Glen Barcus, MHP 147



Glen and Wish Kid, Skyluhr,
supporting the MSU Bobcats

Meet the President

As if a wife and 4 kids isn't enough to keep this guy busy, Glen was promoted to President of the Montana Hope Project and Sergeant of the Montana Highway Patrol all in 2015. He has been with the Montana Highway Patrol for 10 years and 4 years have been spent with the Montana Hope Project. His work as the Bozeman Area Coordinator is what inspired him to apply for the President position when Richard Hader retired. He had this to say about our past president, "He is responsible for growing this organization into what it is today. He's always a phone call or text away, and has been instrumental in helping me get my feet underneath me." As for the wonderful families we serve, he feels he gains far more from them than they gain from him or the Montana Hope Project. Glen welcomes your questions and looks forward to his new responsibilities as President; just don't bother him on Sunday if his Patriots are playing!

Year in Review

It has been a year of change for us administratively. Not only did our President, Richard Hader, retire, but we said goodbye to several coordinators as well. Kathy Sangray retired as our Media Coordinator, and Michelle Navarro, our Missoula Area Coordinator filled that position. Tracy Bailey resigned as our Wish Coordinator, and our Reunion Coordinator, Cate Nelson fulfilled that role. Our Chaplain, Chuck Lee, and his wife moved to Vermont to be closer to their grandchildren. We thank them all for their hard work during their time with the Hope Project, and wish them luck in future endeavors! Also, Cal Janes stepped down as Merchandise Coordinator, but will continue in his positions as Vice President and Secretary. Rhonda Huseby, Helena Area Coordinator, has filled that position. We welcome Zach Miller, a Trooper in Wolf Point, as our new Eastern Montana Area Coordinator, Joe Rehbein as our new Bozeman Area Coordinator, and Shawn Ostberg as our new Great Falls Area Coordinator. Please help me welcome our new additions, and introduce yourself when given the opportunity. For more information about our organization or to learn more about all of our coordinators, visit our new and improved website—www.montanahope.org. If you have any stories or pictures you'd like to share, please send them in! We'd love to add them to our website or next year's newsletter.

We have granted 417 wishes to date, and 28 of those occurred in 2015! We would like to thank the many Montana businesses who aide in our mission, making our wish ceremonies and annual reunions special for our wish kids and their families!

To all of our new families, welcome to the Montana Hope Project!

Sincerely,

Glen Barcus

The New Coordinators

Meet Joe Rehbein:

Bozeman Area Coordinator

I first heard of the Montana Hope Project when my son was attending the Law Enforcement Academy on his path to becoming a Montana State Trooper. I learned more about it and became interested in helping out after spending time with current President, Glen Barcus, when he would stop in at my place of business. His enthusiasm for the Hope Project is infectious, and I innocently asked if there was anything that I could do to help out. A few days later I found myself saying, "Yes," when asked if I would take on the Coordinator position. My wife, Kathy, and I feel blessed to be a part of such a wonderful organization whose goal is to make a difference in the lives of those in need, and we look forward to assisting the Montana Hope Project families create many fond memories that will last for years to come.



Joe Rehbein

Meet Shawn Ostberg:

Great Falls Area Coordinator

I started out as a deputy sheriff for the Teton County Sheriff's Office in the summer of 1994. After 4 years there, I moved to Havre, where I continued my law enforcement career for another 4 years with the Havre Police Department, and then Hill County Sheriff's Office. During that time, I got involved with Special Olympics Montana, and was the leg leader for the Torch Run for a couple years. When I left Havre and moved back home, I continued as a part time deputy for Teton County, which I still do today. I have ridden in the Ride for Hope for a number of years, and through that and the Blue Knights organization met Dave Evans. One day I called him and said if he ever needed help, I would really like to be involved a little more. Little did I know that I'd get the job as the Area Coordinator in Great Falls. I am very proud to be working for an organization that cares so much for Montana kids. I can't begin to know what it is like to be in the shoes of some of these families, but I will do anything that I can to put a smile on their faces, and help them create lasting memories.



Shawn Ostberg

Meet Zach Miller:

Eastern Montana Area Coordinator

My name is Zach Miller. I grew up in Ronan and have lived in Montana my entire life. I am a Trooper for the Montana Highway Patrol. I started my career stationed in Sidney; I am now stationed in Culbertson. As I grew up, I watched my mother spend time volunteering for different causes. It instilled in me a desire to help people. I'm excited and extremely grateful to be a member of the Montana Hope Project, and am looking forward to helping out any way I can.



Zach Miller, MHP 247

Summer Reunion

By Cate Nelson

Reunion Coordinator

Summer Reunion 2015 was a blast! This was a very special reunion for the Montana Hope Project, as it was our 30th summer reunion. This year was again filled with helicopter rides, boat tours, ice cream, even a magician! The weather was absolutely perfect, and the kids were able to enjoy all of the events and outside play area. We are all so blessed to be able to reunite each year for a weekend of fun and happiness. It is always so much fun for me to watch our families meet up with old friends and in turn get to meet all of our new families!

I have already started to plan next year's summer reunion, and I am looking forward to seeing all of our past recipients, as well as those that are new to the Hope Project family!

A Very Special Thanks

The Montana Hope Project would like to thank the Izaak Walton Inn and Glacier Haven Inn for their continued hospitality and support, the Montana Highway Patrol Honor Guard, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, motorcycle riders, Glacier Heli Tours, Glacier Boat Tours, the Cut Bank Fire Department, Red Jammer Buses, Missoula PD, Missoula SO, Dwayne with his semi-truck, Gerald and Thales for the horse-drawn carriage rides, magician Ken Avison, Troy Meikle for the beautiful photos, Glacier National Park, and of course the countless number of volunteers, who continue to support our organization and make events like these unforgettable! We couldn't do any of this without you!

Photos by Troy Meikle

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



Glacier Heli Tours



Red Jammer Buses



Do you believe in magic?



Glacier Boat Tours

Safety First



Can I get a s'more?

Carriage Rides
Bringing
Families Closer





Joyce Arms on her favorite mare, Sassy

Arne's Bears

Zane and Janelle Fulbright

Arnold Fulbright, "Arne," passed away on April 24, 2015. At the birth of each of his 8 grandchildren, he purchased a MT Hope Project bear. For our 4 children, each month of their first year, we took a photo with their "birthday bear," as we've come to call them.

Now, every year on their birthday, half birthday, and other special days, they get their picture taken with their bear.

When our children graduate from high school, they will get a picture in their cap and gown, with their bear. Upon their wedding day, we will again take a photo of our children with their special bear.



Montana Hope Project "Hope Bear"

Inspire:

The Joyce Arms Memorial (JAM) Story

My mother was killed in a barrel racing accident on April 4, 2009. Her horse bucked her off during her run, and my mom hit her head. She never woke up due to her brain injury. I decided to host a barrel race in her honor as barrel racing was my mom's life passion. I decided to donate most of my proceeds to those in need. My mom was a very loving and caring person. She loved horses and the outdoors. I feel honored to give to others in her memory.

Thank you for doing what you do for Montana's youth, and thank you for letting us be a part of helping a child's wish come true.

Fondly,

Tammy Thompson

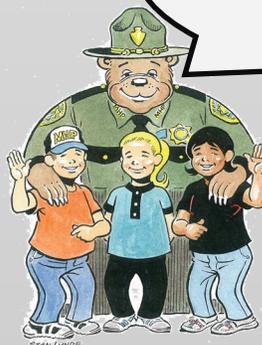
Thank you for making wishes come true by supporting the Montana Hope Project!

For More Information

www.joycearmsmemorial.com

Make a Donation

www.montanahope.org



All merchandise is listed at the end of this newsletter, including our infamous Hope Bears (\$20)! Place your order today, and start your own family tradition!

Ride for Hope Facts

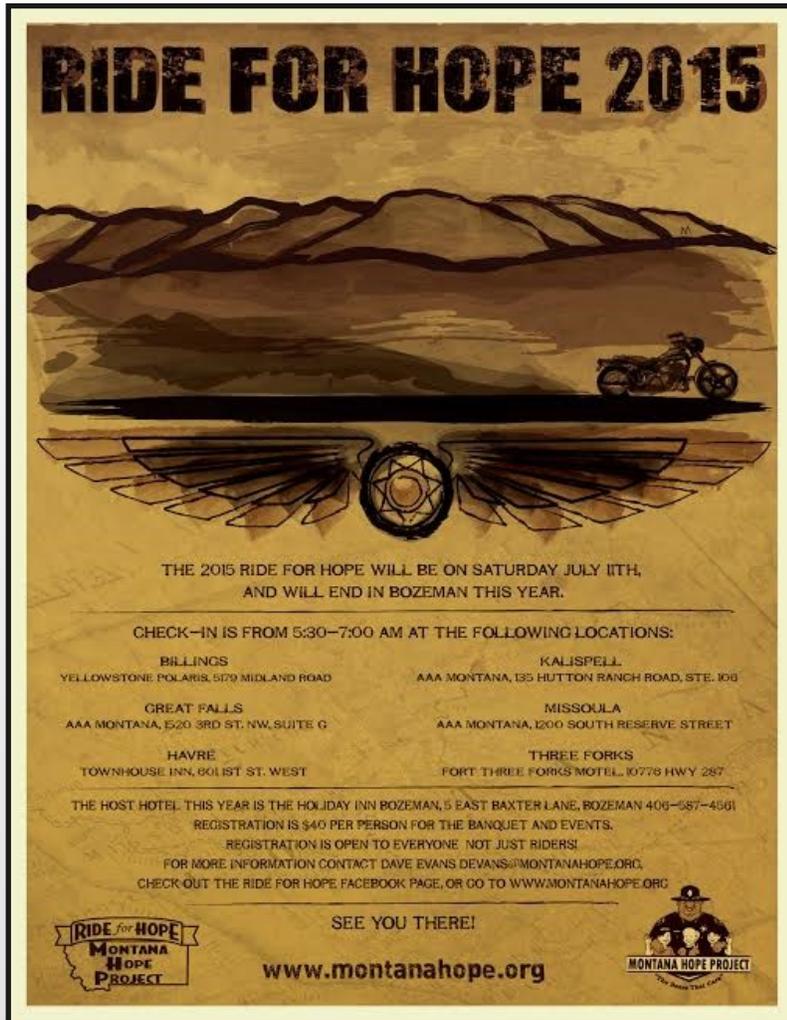
2015

- ◆ This was our 26th year doing the Ride for Hope.
- ◆ The Ride is held in a different MT town every year. On the upcoming schedule are Polson in 2016 and Billings in 2017.
- ◆ We have an average of 50 riders per year.
- ◆ We raise roughly \$50,000-\$60,000 each Ride, making it our biggest fundraiser every year.
- ◆ The most we've ever raised was over \$100,000!
- ◆ The Ride for Hope is always held on the 2nd Saturday of July.
- ◆ If you're interested in joining this FUNdraiser next year, or for more information, contact Coordinator Dave Evans.

devans@montanahope.org

or

(406) 672-6585



RIDE FOR HOPE 2015

THE 2015 RIDE FOR HOPE WILL BE ON SATURDAY JULY 11TH, AND WILL END IN BOZEMAN THIS YEAR.

CHECK-IN IS FROM 5:30-7:00 AM AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

BILLINGS YELLOWSTONE POLARIS, 510 MIDLAND ROAD	KALISPELL AAA MONTANA, 135 HUTTON RANCH ROAD, STE. 100
GREAT FALLS AAA MONTANA, 520 3RD ST. NW, SUITE G	MISSOULA AAA MONTANA, 1200 SOUTH RESERVE STREET
HAVRE TOWNHOUSE INN, 601 1ST ST. WEST	THREE FORKS FORT THREE FORKS MOTEL, 10778 HWY 287

THE HOST HOTEL THIS YEAR IS THE HOLIDAY INN BOZEMAN, 5 EAST BAXTER LANE, BOZEMAN 406-587-4561
REGISTRATION IS \$40 PER PERSON FOR THE BANQUET AND EVENTS.
REGISTRATION IS OPEN TO EVERYONE! NOT JUST RIDERS!
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DAVE EVANS DEVANS@MONTANAHOPE.ORG
CHECK OUT THE RIDE FOR HOPE FACEBOOK PAGE, OR GO TO WWW.MONTANAHOPE.ORG

SEE YOU THERE!

www.montanahope.org

RIDE for HOPE MONTANA HOPE PROJECT

MONTANA HOPE PROJECT

2015 Ride for Hope Poster

2015 Ride for Hope

Dave Evans: Ride for Hope Coordinator

This year's Ride for Hope ended in Bozeman at the Holiday Inn. Threatening weather held some riders at home, and an unfortunate accident near Eureka prevented four Canadian riders from making it to the end of the ride. The crowd was very enthusiastic, and around \$50,000 was raised in pledges from our faithful riders. The parade through Bozeman was interesting in that the weather was good until about five minutes before we rolled out! It rained on the intrepid group through downtown, and cleared just as they returned to the parking lot. We said goodbye to one of our greatest supporters, Dave McCormack, who has decided to move on to other endeavors. Dave has been in the top three money raisers for several years, often bringing in more than \$20,000 from his donors!

Thanks for all you have done!

Troopers and Bozeman PD
escort riders through
downtown Bozeman



ELISHEBA'S WISH

By Wish Mom, Jennifer

Wow! Words are not able to fully express the gratitude our family has for the Montana Hope Project, but I shall try! Our Elisheba was granted a wish to go to Disney World to see her princesses!!!!!!

Our home, having several children with critical issues, normally has a feeling of running on a schedule of doctor visits, therapy visits, and though we try, doesn't leave much time or money for fun. With that type of life comes the rushed, hurried feeling that normally accompanies families that are in our situation. It is high stress, to say the least, and everyone feels it. After receiving news that we were getting a wish granted, things changed! My five kids ALL began to do something they never really had the chance to do before...they began to look forward to a vacation!!!! Paying for medical bills had always prevented us from being able to afford even a day away. The excitement grew as the time drew near. The conversations in our home were no longer medically based. They were now conversations of our upcoming vacation! We had the suitcases packed three weeks early, and the kids wanted them in the living room. I think this was their reminder that it was really happening.

The day finally came!!! On a cold day in late February, we woke the children to get to the airport. It was not a struggle, even though it was super early! The thrill began at the airport, as most of the kids had never even been inside an airport, much less on a plane. Elisheba, dressed in her pretty, pink princess dress and sparkling crown, glowed with an energy that all around her felt. She told anyone asking why she was dressed up- that she was going to Disney World! She then would show them her Montana Hope Project bear (that also was wearing a sparkling crown), and said, "The police are sending me there." She watched out the plane window the entire flight, and was smiling the whole time. I think if that is where it ended, she still would have had the time of her life! But...that is NOT where it ended...it is only where it began.

Upon arrival in busy Orlando, Florida, we were whisked away by the sweetest guy to get our vehicle rental. He loaded our vehicle, and gave us directions to the best place in the whole wide world (which is really hard to say as we LOVE our Montana)...GIVE KIDS THE WORLD!!!!!!

Give Kids the World is truly an accurate description of the resort. All children are treated extra special, and they have created a child's dreamland! We were shown to our villa, which was to be our home for the following week, where special things would happen (not spoiling anything here for anyone who hasn't been there yet). We went off to explore the resort. Elisheba, still dressed in her princess dress, was treated like royalty. The volunteers that are at GKTW...well...all I can say is that they all have hearts bigger than the world, and I began to look for the wings that they MUST have somewhere on their backs! These individuals are like angels sent from heaven!

The next day, it was time, time for our Elisheba to finally get to see her dream fulfilled! Upon arrival at Disney World, we were just in time to see the show performed at Cinderella's castle. Elisheba couldn't have had a bigger smile if she tried. I didn't watch much of the show...I was too busy seeing the happiness on her face, along with the rest of the kiddos. It was magical! After the show, we rode a few rides. We marveled at the sights. Then we meandered over to meet the princesses. Elisheba was treated extra special when seeing them, even getting more time to talk with them than normal. She got to meet Cinderella (whom she was dressed alike), Rapunzel, Elsa, and Anna. They did a ton of photos, and she even got a lesson in how to hold a frying pan from Rapunzel! Anna (Elsa's sister) did a photo shoot where she was positioning all of us...and is quite the beginner. The giggling was contagious, as were all of the smiles. These princesses knew why we were there, and Elisheba had the time of her life. She will never forget! Neither will any of us.

We spent the rest of the afternoon at Disney taking in a few more rides and sights, but the kids actually began to ask if we could just go back to Give Kids the World. Seriously...who wants to leave DISNEY? I am telling you, I think GKTW MUST employ angels, as only a super special place could drag kids away from Disney! They spent the rest of their evening enjoying the rides at GKTW.

The rest of our week was spent going to SeaWorld, Universal Studios, Epcot, LEGOLAND, Kennedy Space Center, and the beach. My kids came home with tons and tons of Legos, and Elisheba got a special Cinderella's Castle Lego set to remember her time!

One of our most memorable times that week was Elisheba putting her star in the box for Stella the fairy to put up on the ceiling of the Castle of Miracles. It brings me to tears once in awhile to realize the severity of our children's issues, and this was one of those times. Gazing at all those stars up on the ceiling, I had the realization that while all of those stars are symbolizing a child who has an illness that threatens their lives, every one of those children got to have a special time in their lives to forget their troubles, to be as free from doctors and hospitals as possible, and to just be a kid for awhile. That is what my hubby and I took from this trip...a special gratitude to the Montana Hope Project for sending us to a special place that took our worries, our pains, our medical visits, our fears all away for a week, and replaced those with memories, laughter, fun, excitement, and JOY!!!! We are eternally grateful!



Elisheba is ready to meet the princesses!

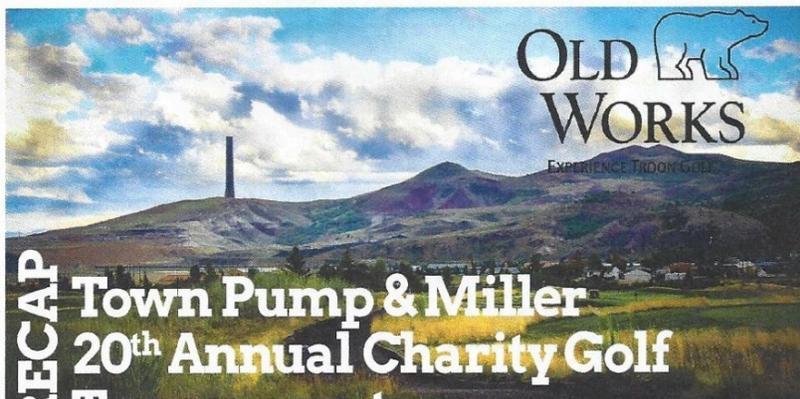
Rapunzel and Elisheba



Elisheba, and her family, getting to know Cinderella

Elisheba and Elsa





RECAP **Town Pump & Miller 20th Annual Charity Golf Tournament**

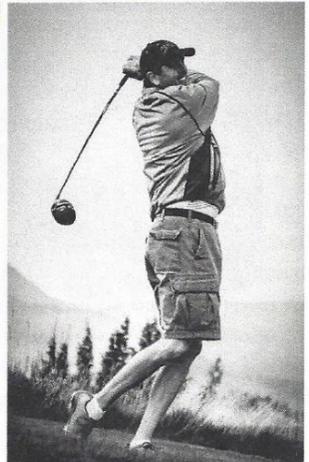


Photo Credit: Michelle Focken & Brittany Rauch

Another year, another great experience. The annual Town Pump and Miller Golf Tournament was organized to support the Montana Hope Project, Multiple Sclerosis Association of America (MSAA), and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Montana.

The Montana Hope Project grants wishes to critically ill children in Montana. The MSAA is a leading resource for the entire MS community, improving lives through vital services and support. CASA partners with local nonprofit programs in Montana to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children.

This year's tournament had 346 players with three flights over two days, and raised approximately \$11,000 for each charity. Town Pump would like to thank all of the participants and the incredible staff that made it another success!

More photos and information can be found on facebook or by going to: <https://goo.gl/5fcus5>

PEOPLE ARE TALKING....

"The caliber of men and women making these children's wishes come true is no less than amazing! It makes me so proud when I tell people that I am Montana born and bred. My children and I refer to it as God's country, and this is one of the reasons why."

- Paula B.

"Amazing! We love this amazing organization!"

- Karla A.

"This is a great organization filled with an amazing group of people. I fly for Glacier Heli Tours in West Glacier, MT, and I get the privilege of meeting these wonderful kids and their dedicated and caring families during my favorite time of year, when we all take a helicopter ride up through the park! It is truly an honor to be a small part of the Montana Hope Project every June, and I am looking forward to this year! A big thanks to all of you who dedicate so much time to this organization to make sure all the kids have such a great time!"

- Joe M.

"Awesome charity for children with struggles in their young lives."

- Lela M.

"The Montana Hope Project will be one of the things we will miss about Montana. The troopers that have made this great service possible deserve a lot of credit. The Hope Project demonstrates all the things that are good and right about the MHP and the citizens of Montana. Their willingness to work, give, and interact with the families of these critically ill children exemplifies the heart of compassion that makes this state such a great place to live. Just being associated with all of you has enriched our lives and inspired us to greater service to those around us going through difficult times with their children. Thank you for allowing Connie and I to serve. We will truly miss you."

"Helping kids is always a worthy cause!"

- Jan C.

- Chaplain Chuck Lee (Retired 2015)

MONTANA HOPE PROJECT

"Having been personally blessed by the Hope Project, I just want to say this is an amazing group and keep it up! It's honestly amazing the memories you are giving kids."

- Megan B.

"What an awesome organization! Keep up the good work!"

- Zach B.

"I have nothing but praise for your caring hearts, and I want to help others have an incredible experience like our family is having. Bless you for all you do."

- Sharon P.

Lena's Wish

By Wish Grandmother, Jeannie

Lena is my beautiful 7 year old granddaughter (who I've adopted), who happens to have complex medical issues and faces incredible challenges every day. Lena was born without her corpus callosum (the middle part of the brain that integrates the left and right sides). When you have your corpus callosum, you have about 200 million pathways between both sides of the brain. When it is missing, you have about 50,000. Missing your corpus callosum can have different effects on your body. In Lena's case, she has cortical blindness (her optic nerve is healthy, but she cannot see). Lena has catastrophic epilepsy. She has seizures every day. She has cerebral palsy, which kicks on and off all day long. She either has low tone or high tone, mostly high tone. This means she gets all kinds of knots in her legs, and I can only imagine how sore her muscles are. Lena has microcephaly (she has a small head). As she continues to grow, her head stays the same. At some point this may cause new and unknown issues.

Last winter, she started to have circulation issues with her feet and calves. Her feet feel like popsicles most of the time. Even in the summer, she has to have wool socks on. She has other medical diagnoses, but these are the main ones that have the most impact. Lena must be stimulated to help grow the pathways in her brain (so she can sit-up, learn to crawl, learn to walk), but she cannot be over stimulated as this increases seizures. Life is always a balancing act for her.

Lena does not communicate like you or I, but she does have her own unique way of communicating with sounds, laughs, and an incredible smile. I know she loves music, loves her personal care attendant, loves her snuggle time, loves being touched a certain way, and she has always loved water.

I always thought that the Montana Hope Project was for kids with cancer. When I found out that Lena could qualify, I had to think about what she would want the most, and what would give her the biggest amount of pleasure. It was a hot tub! This hot tub not only gives Lena freedom, it warms her cold limbs, soothes her aching muscles, and will give her many years of pleasure. Lena's stretching exercises can be done in the hot tub after her muscles have warmed up (less stress for her and less stress for me). She loves to have her neck ring on and let the jets spin her in circles. If she gets hung up on me, she will use her arms or legs to push off, so she can continue to spin. It is so nice to see her just be able to relax. The sheer look of pleasure on her beautiful, little face is amazing. We not only received this beautiful hot tub, but we also got an amazing outdoor lift- to safely get Lena in and out of the hot tub. This keeps her safe, and keeps our bodies safe.

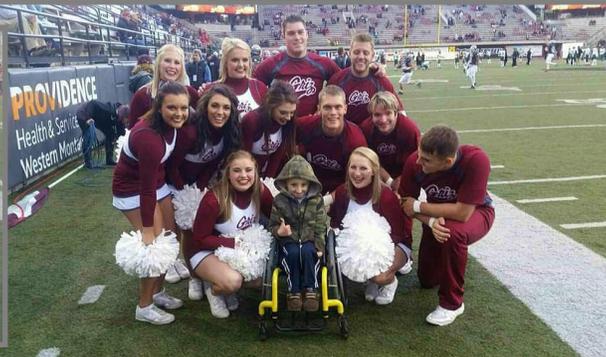
THANK YOU Montana Hope Project! THANK YOU Mountain Hot Tub! THANK YOU to the officers (and wives) who donate their time and money to such a wonderful cause! THANK YOU to the individuals/businesses who donate money/time to help these children like my beautiful Lena! Please know that your efforts have brought so much joy to her, and I am eternally thankful.

Welcome to the Montana Hope
Project family, Lena!



Lena enjoying all her new hot tub has to offer!

University of Montana



#32 Indianapolis Colts

Colt Anderson



Thank you to the U of M for their generosity!



Go Griz



**University of Montana
Homecoming Parade and
Football Game**

Montana State University

Go Cats!



Montana State Governor, Steve Bullock, cheering on the Bobcats with Wish Kid, Aspen!



Colonel Butler and Wish Kid, Katie, ran into each other at this year's Brawl of the Wild!

Thank you MSU Athletics for your generosity!



A special thanks to Sara Green for making this possible, and for always going the extra mile for our families!

Eli's Wish

By Wish Mom, Jamie

I would like to start out by saying thank you to the Montana Hope Project for providing families with wishes that give both the wish child the chance for their dreams of their lives to come true, but also gives the families of the wish child time to enjoy life and forget about the daily routines that they live.

My son, Eli, was chosen to have his wish granted to visit the happiest place on earth, Disney World. Upon arrival in Orlando, FL, we were greeted by a wonderful lady representing the place we would call home for the next week- Give Kids the World. She assisted us in receiving our luggage and then made sure we got the rental car that would meet all our needs. She gave us great directions and helpful hints to get us to Give Kids the World. Once we arrived at Give Kids the World, we were greeted with open arms, even at the driveway entry check-in. Then when we entered the main building at GKTW, we were greeted with more open arms and treated like we were family. Eli, Gavin, and Tanis were all presented with gifts at this time.

After a small orientation, we were escorted to our villa that we would call home for the next week. Upon entering our villa, the boys were again surprised with gifts, and we began to settle in to our home. We then proceeded to the Ginger Bread House for dinner. There we were treated like royalty by all of the volunteers. This was to become the norm for the next week every time we ate at the Ginger Bread House. Also, anytime we were walking around this amazing place, we were greeted with smiles and waves, asked how we were doing, and if we needed anything to make our stay more enjoyable, and this was all just from the volunteers! The regular staff was even more amazing with their courtesy and passion for making our family feel at home, as if we had always been family. Any time we had a question, they would do all that they could to answer them promptly or find someone who could.

Staying at GKTW was like staying at an amusement park in itself! There was always some type of activity to do or game being played. Also, the amount of characters that would come, so that the families were able to get pictures with them was amazing. But our most favorite part was helping Eli with his star that would forever hang among the many kiddos that have had the opportunity to come to GKTW. What a blessing that was.

When we took in all of the theme parks, the park employees were all very polite, even when Eli was unable to ride the rides. They would express their deepest regret, and make sure we were still enjoying the park and all they offer.

During our whole stay at GKTW, we were able to forget our daily routine and enjoy life, as if there were no issues that had to be dealt with; we didn't feel out of place when going to eat, out walking around, or enjoying the pool at GKTW. The wish that was granted to Eli allowed us to enjoy a vacation as a family, and not catering to just one member at a time, we were all able to have fun no matter what activity or park we were at.

The whole family would really like to thank the Montana Hope Project for making this happen. I know that there were a lot of individuals involved in this wish, and we can't thank them enough for giving us this opportunity to enjoy life worry-free for a week. It made the last four and a half years disappear, and we were able to breathe and embrace life like never before.

Once again, Montana Hope Project, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Eli, and his whole family, enjoyed Mickey Mouse!



Who doesn't love Goofy?!



Belle is always sweet!

Beartooth Fly Fishing

By Dave Evans, Billings Area Coordinator

For the fourth year, Dan and Nancy Delekta, owners of Beartooth Fly Fishing in Cameron, MT, held a fundraiser for the Hope Project. Dan dedicates this event to his dad, an event where fly fishermen from all over the country, who rely on Beartooth Fly Fishing for their expert guidance on the Madison River, donate to the cause. I (Dave Evans) had the opportunity to interact with the Delektas and their guests that weekend, which brought in over \$10,000! Dan tells me that he would love to have a wish kid come enjoy a weekend on the river with him, and we will definitely take him up on that offer! On behalf of the Montana Hope Project, thank you and your family for your continued support!



Visit Beartooth Fly Fishing in person or online at
www.beartoothflyfishing.com



Good company always equals a good time!

United Motorcycle Club International

MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA CHAPTER

DICE RUN

By Dave Evans, Billings Area Coordinator

Warning the Canadians are coming!!

International Ride Day
and
Shake, Rattle and Roll Dice Run

Havre, Montana
August 22nd 2015

Leaving Murphy's Pub at 10:30 AM

In Support of
MONTANA HOPE PROJECT
www.montanahope.org

All Riders Welcome
Cash Prizes
Food
Fun



Thank you for your support!

Daniel McGee, International Representative of the United Motorcycle Club International, attended this year's Ride for Hope with other members of his club. He was impressed with the mission of the Montana Hope Project, granting wishes to children who are critically ill in Montana, and offered to have a charity ride on behalf of the organization. On August 22nd, forty Canadian riders roared into Havre for the 250 mile Dice Run through Fort Benton, Belt, and Great Falls, ending back in Havre for a dinner at the local Eagles Club. Being the Ride for Hope Coordinator, I rode to Havre to join the Canadians and about 25 members of the Eagle Riders Group from the Eagles Club. It was a beautiful day for a ride, and the event brought in more than \$2,000 for the Montana Hope Project!

Katie's Wish

By Wish Kid, Katie

In the middle of winter in Montana, my family was granted the opportunity to trade snow suits for wet suits, frostbite for sun tans, and snowfall for sunshine.

But the cold wasn't all we were getting a break from.

I'm just your average 15 year old Montana girl. I love my friends, hunting, fishing, painting, clothes, riding, showing my horses, and playing guitar. The only major difference between myself and many other girls my age? Marfan Syndrome. Marfan is a rare and life threatening genetic connective tissue disorder, characterized by a mutation in the fibrillin-1 gene. Marfan affects your eyes, lungs, blood vessels, bones, joints, spinal sac, heart, and various other parts of the body, perhaps the most dangerous being an enlarged aortic root, prone to dissection. The first time the word entered my vocabulary was about a year ago, and the world that I used to feel was at my feet, now felt as though it was laying in shambles around it. I had to quit sports I loved, become more cautious about activities I enjoyed, and undergo various tests, monitors, and medications. During this chaotic year of diagnosis and treatment plans, the Montana Hope Project was there for me and my family. They offered me a wish; a wish that gave us all a chance to escape the reality of Marfans for a week. My wish was to go Disney World, and swim with dolphins. It was granted, along with so much more.

We spent a week in Orlando at Give Kids the World village, which was arguably one of the most magical experience of my 11 year old sister and my lives. It was a place where time felt frozen, worries were forgotten, and everyone, regardless of age, was given the green light to just let go and be a kid. The village was filled to the brim with activities like life sized board games, amusement park rides, a waterpark, a carousel, Disney characters, endless ice cream, and black light miniature golf, not to mention nightly gatherings in the game room, where we were given the opportunity to bond and connect with other wish kids and their families from all over the world, including another Montana Hope Family that we are close friends with to this day!

Other experiences included a beautiful night at Cocoa Beach with another MHP family, endless rides on Space Mountain, and a visit to NASA.

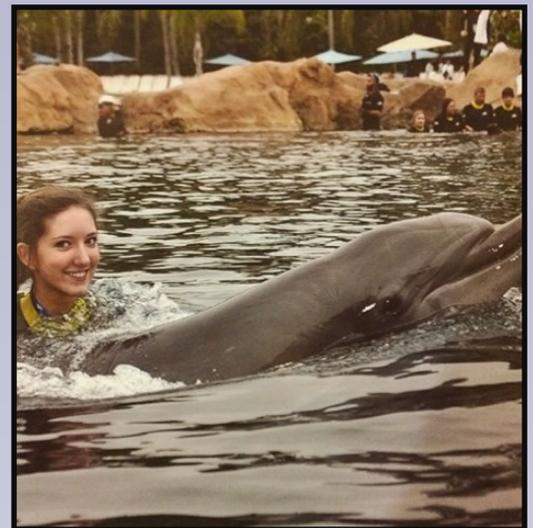
The absolute highlight of my trip was our experience at Discovery Cove, a resort where visitors are given the opportunity to swim with dolphins, snorkel among marine life, and get up close and personal with exotic birds. I have a passion for the ocean and aquatic life, and hope to one day work as a marine veterinarian or biologist. The experiences I had there with movie star dolphins, six foot rays, and a rainbow of other fish, mammals, and birds was one I will never, ever forget.

This week was one of the best experiences of my life. I made memories I will never forget, and friends from all across the country that I will cherish forever.

Making Friends



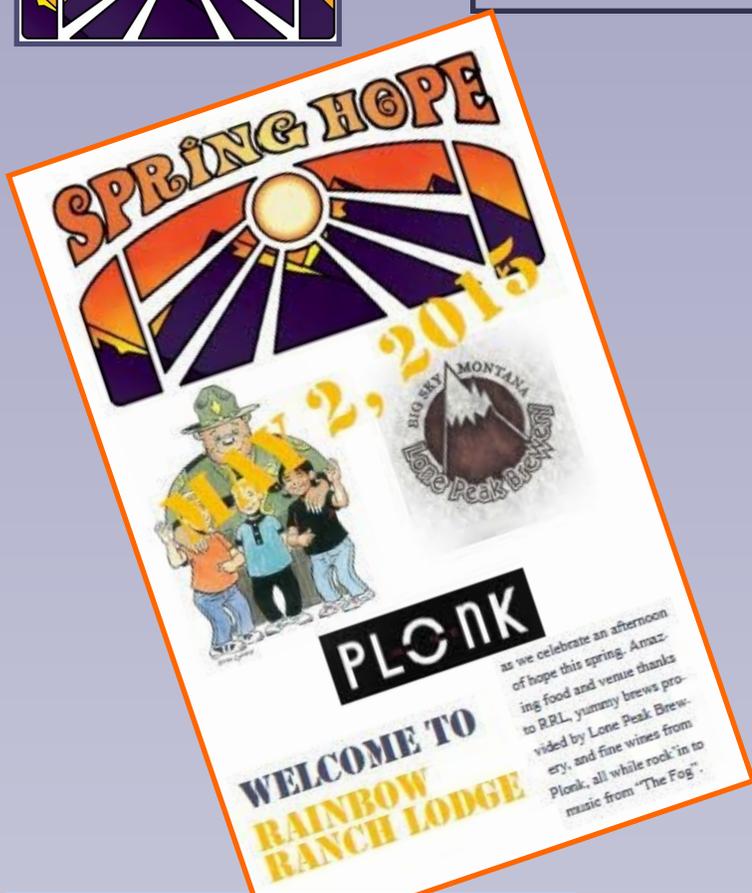
Swimming with Dolphins



Met Another Wish Family While on the Beach



Spring Hope 2015



On May 2, 2015, over 60 people gathered at the beautiful Rainbow Ranch Lodge to raise money for the Montana Hope Project. Delicious, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, courtesy of Rainbow Ranch Lodge, beer tasting provided by Lone Peak Brewery, and wine tasting from Plonk combined with music from "The Fog" ensured a good time was had by all in attendance. As if food, beverages, and music weren't enough, there was also a silent auction and raffles! Thank you to everyone who supported this event; we hope to see you all next year!

For tickets to Spring Hope 2016 or to sponsor the event, please contact Glen Barcus at gbarcus@montanahope.org.

Thank you!

OUR SPONSORS



The Knight Foundation Inc.,
Big Sky

ATWELL & ASSOCIATES - FIRESTONE

COMPLETE AUTO CARE - MONTANA

TROUTFITTERS - BIG SKY RESORT

Bozeman Intermountain Opera, Backroads of Montana, Bozeman Radio Shack, Bozeman Stampede, Townshend's Bozeman Tea House, Montana Photography, Sweet Pea Festival, Café Zydeco, Country Bookshelf, Cold Smoke Coffee House, Blacksmith Italian, The Food Studio, Oboz Footwear, Verge Theater, Grizzly Wolf and Discovery Center, SOBY's Café, JDMT Photographs, Yellowstone Art Museum, Montana Rib & Chop House, Bobcat Club, The Food Studio, Element Tattoo, Bohart Ranch, Conlins Furniture, Canyon River Spa, Wild Heart Images, S. Conley Sales Inc., Millers Jewelry, The Pour House, The Ellen Theatre, Bozeman Hot Springs, Café M, Baskin Robbins, Little Bear Interiors, Arts on Fire, Bozeman Spirits Distillery, Bob & Pam Arnold, Mystery Ranch, 14 North Gastropub

SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO MADE THIS EVENT HAPPEN

Mollie Eckman

RRL Staff

Jolene Barcus

Sally Vehring

Christa Burns

The Gracious Businesses of the Gallatin Valley and Beyond

Spring Hope Logo and Poster Art

Justus Johnson





Andrew and Brandon are going to Disney World!



Eli is on his way to Disney World!



Rae's favorite restaurant, Buffalo Wild Wings, is the perfect place to celebrate a trip to Disney World!



Andrew and Brandon, with their family, getting to know Mickey



Eli and his family enjoying Disney World



Cole and his family received a warm welcome at the Mall of America!



Greysen is headed to Disney World!



Greysen and his siblings getting cozy with Mike and Sully

When you wish upon a star....



Peytyn is on her way to Disney World!



Hayden, pack your bags! You're going to Disney World!



Kasey is going to Disney World!



Trooper Oliverson wishing Kasey a safe trip



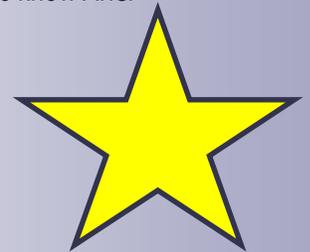
Lucy and her sister getting to know Ariel



J'Da can't believe she's headed to Disney World!



Lucy is going to Disney World!



J'Da will take her family on her trip, but the Troopers have to stay home.



Katie is on her way to swim with dolphins!

The Montana Hope Project welcomes all of our new wish recipients! Welcome to the family!



"Surprise!" Macy, you're getting an iPad, and more!

Photo by Michelle McConnaha, Ravalli Republic

WELCOME



Jordan is off to Disney World!



Moose Creek Barbeque in Hamilton is the perfect place to celebrate Victoria's Disney World wish come true!



Sarina is ready to meet the princesses at Disney World!



Grant and his family are off to Disney World!



Sheena, you're going to Disney World!



Braydon, get ready for Disney World!

A New Ride for Phillip By Wish Dad, Jeff

The Montana Hope Project's donation to finish up funding a wheelchair accessible van for our son was simply extraordinary. We had raised about 20% of it through Tami's (Phillip's mom) efforts utilizing GoFundMe, and by selling coupon books. Phillip's grandmother made the generous decision to grant another 43% out of her limited funds. It appeared our fund-raising would easily take another year to get to our goal, until the Montana Hope Project stepped in and amazingly finished it off.

This means we no longer have to risk another winter of loading and unloading Phillip and the heavy wheel chair in slippery conditions.

The effect on our family's dynamic is already apparent. We are much more able to take Phillip on short trips to the hardware or grocery store. Taking him to his various appointments has now become much easier and faster. We did not realize previously the additional time this took, taking him and the chair in and out 4 times per trip! His wheelchair is heavy enough that it takes 2 people to load it into the vehicle, and Tami would have to seek a helper wherever she went.

Now we just wheel him in and go! He noticeably enjoys riding in his new whip. We think he loves the sounds. Conversion vans are a lot more hollow and rattle-producing, which delights Phillip! Maybe he is just joyous regarding the generosity of people, grandmas, and the Montana Hope Project, that they have reached out and helped him and his family in such a generous and unexpected way.

We are forever grateful.



Phillip will be riding in style with his new wheelchair accessible van!

Raelynn's Wish

By Wish Mom, Kati



First off, thank you so much for this vacation! We had an amazing time! Raelynn absolutely loved the whole experience, and was pretty spoiled down there! Give Kids the World is such a wonderful place. Rae's favorite things at GKTW were the princess/pirate party and riding her first horse! That was so special for her, and now of course she wants a horse.

Rae's favorite Disney World place was definitely the Magic Kingdom. Her favorite princess was Princess Tiana, who spent probably a good 7 minutes with Rae and walked around the park with her. It was awesome! Closely followed by Mickey Mouse dancing with her! Rae's favorite ride was without a doubt Splash Mountain. We went on it 6 times, although she was just barely tall enough! She was definitely a little thrill seeker this whole trip! She loved meeting all of the princesses and almost filled up her autograph book!

At Universal, Rae's favorite was meeting Princess Fiona and Spider Man (her favorite super hero)! Rae's favorite ride was the Woody Woodpecker Roller Coaster. She also loved the Dr. Seuss World.

Rae also loved that Grandma was there to share in all of the fun! Grandma is definitely not a rides kind of person, but this trip she was, even the roller coasters! Grandma's thoughts were, "If Rae can do it, I can do it!"

Ryan and my favorite thing about the whole trip was seeing Rae at the parks. Every princess/character she met, she was just absolutely ecstatic. Seeing her that happy just made the whole trip truly magical. She was spoiled with all kinds of princess souvenirs that she plays with EVERY day! Our house is also covered in glitter from the princess dresses she got!

Rae's least favorite thing (funny to us)- The star that we wrote her name on that GKTW puts up on the ceiling, Rae was so upset that she didn't get the star back! We just point to the sky and say, "There's your star!" and for some reason she just cannot get over the fact that she didn't get her star back. It's super cute when she talks about it!

Thank you so much to the Montana Hope Project for blessing us with this much needed vacation! We cannot thank you enough!



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 417 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 & fundraising.

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER

CHANGE ADDRESS

ADD A SUBSCRIBER

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE #: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAIL TO: MONTANA HOPE PROJECT

P.O. BOX 5927

HELENA, MT 59604



Donations

American Bank Centers of Montana and North Dakota:

Wear Jeans to Work Day

This employee fundraiser raised \$337 for the Montana Hope Project in only 1 day! Next year's fundraiser is planned to be a week-long event, and we have Lee Ann Loucks to thank for coordinating everything. Lee Ann works for American Bank Centers, and is the wife of late, retired Trooper, Skip Loucks.



Market President, Jarrod Steffan, presenting the check to Captain Ed Hilbert

Department of Justice By Anastasia Burton

Rhonda Huseby of the Montana Hope Project was invited to speak at the Montana Department of Justice's annual All-Staff Meeting in Helena on November 12th. Nearly 100 DOJ employees attended; the meeting was also available via desktop livestream to all 800 agency staff statewide. A video recording of the meeting, along with a link to the Montana Hope Project's website, will be made available on the DOJ's intranet website.

Prior to the meeting, all dept. employees were emailed flyers with information about the mission of the Montana Hope Project, as well as descriptions of Hope Project merchandise, available for purchase at the meeting.

Eagles

Becky Matthews is pictured presenting Trooper Samuelson with a check for \$1,238.50, while Bozeman Area Coordinator, Joe Rehbein observes. The FOE Auxiliary #326 raised \$738.50 and the FOE Aerie #326 added an additional \$500.



Bridger Public Schools

Several years ago, a student from Bridger received a wish from the Montana Hope Project. Every year since then, the schools have included the Hope Project in their annual fundraising event for Valentine's Day. This year the school presented a check for \$1,000 to Area Coordinator Dave Evans.



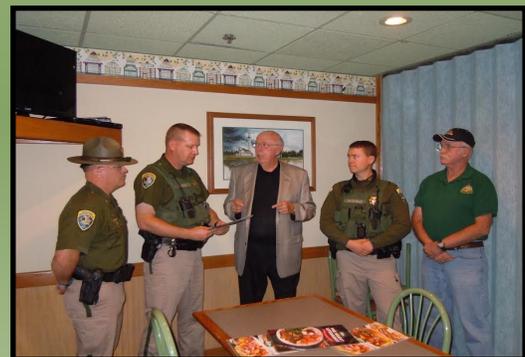
Students of Bridger Public Schools present \$1,000 to Dave, Billings Area Coordinator

Fichtner Family

Mr. Leonard Fichtner retired as the owner of Fichtner Chevrolet in Laurel, MT, and is an Ambassador for the National Automobile Dealers Charitable Foundation (NADCF). NADCF Ambassadors can donate grants to charitable organizations, and Mr. Fichtner has chosen the Montana Hope Project twice as the recipient of \$2,000. He presented a \$2,000 check to Montana Troopers, David Munson and Zachary Grosfield, in late 2014. An Ambassador for NADCF may make a grant donation once every three years, and both Mrs. Jeanne Fichtner, Leonard's wife, and Leonard's father Ted, who has passed away, are permanent Ambassadors. This year Leonard chose to have his father remembered through this grant in Theodore Fichtner's name.

Thank you for supporting the Montana Hope Project!

Because of you, wishes come true!



L-R Sgt. Beehler, Trooper Munson, Leonard Fichtner, Trooper Grosfield, Dave Evans

Billion Auto Group: Test Drive Event

Test drive your dream car while donating to your favorite charity, sounds like a win-win! That's exactly what Billion Auto Group in Bozeman did October 2,3, 9, and 10th. Simply test drive a vehicle, pick the charity of your choice from the list of represented charities, and Billion Auto Group would donate \$25! Thank you Coordinator Joe Rehbein for representing the MT Hope Project during this event!

Hayden's Wish

By Wish Kid, Hayden

Thank you for surprising me at my school! It was cool to have the Troopers bring lunch and hang out at my school.

The trip with my family was really fun and something I will always remember. The best part of the trip was the time we spent at Give Kids the World. Everyone there was really nice. They made me feel special.

Other things we did on my trip were- Disney World (The rides were so fun!); Sea World (I got to feed dolphins and pet stingrays!); went to the beach (I found seashells and got knocked over by a wave!); went to Mid-Evil Times (I loved the jousting and sword fights, and eating great food with my hands). I ate so much ice cream while I was there. The best was the banana split loaded to the top! The bacon was phenomenal! Mayor Clayton was hilarious!

Our family tuck-in was one of my favorite things! Thank you for the camera you gave me to capture my memories. I hold them close to my heart. Because of you guys, my family got to spend an amazing week full of fun, laughter, surprises, and love.

You guys are the best! Thank you for the trip, and making me feel special!

Love,
Hayden



Hayden's Wish

By Wish Mom, Kara

I have sat down many times in the last (almost) year, and tried to put into words the feelings in my heart....each time I feel like I can't get it right. Our family is so incredibly blessed to be part of this group...a group that has felt like family from the very first phone call. The trip was just the beginning for us- even if we didn't know it at the time. From the time of Hayden's going away party at his old school, which was such a special time for him (once he figured out it wasn't another D.A.R.E activity! LOL...inside story). Getting to be the reason everyone got pizza for lunch that day, and the reason to celebrate, he has felt special- our whole family has.

Our trip was beyond words- Give Kids the World is a place everyone should have the honor of witnessing in life...a place where no one thinks about themselves, instead filled with making others feel special and welcome....you truly feel like your family is the most important family in the world! We took so much more than roller-coaster rides away with us from this trip. You leave knowing much more about what really is important in life. You learn your place in this world of helping others and making everyone feel special in life- whether it be with a smile or offering kind words. You see how much good there still is in a world filled with ugliness. You learn so many little things in life should be celebrated with ice cream and sprinkles...you leave with hope.

Then you have the Hope Project- an even more amazing group...a family. Two reunions a year where your family gets to continue to feel special and enjoy new friendships- which I have a feeling turn to old friendships! You witness your children learning compassion and acceptance, lessons in life that seem to have been forgotten. This is a place where Hayden can feel comfortable with the question, "What's wrong with you?" because he knows the person asking truly cares, and will be following it up with their own story; where everyone is different, but you all belong; where an unkind word would never be said; a place where you can be YOU. It's something to look forward to when life is hard, and you're feeling down; a place you know you can always turn; a place you become part of, or maybe it becomes part of you; a place of hope....

Thank you for all you guys do, each and every one of you....you are amazing....you are special....you are a blessing.



Santa

at the Sweets Barn

For the 5th consecutive year, Del Ruggles, AKA Santa, visited the Sweets Barn in Lolo to ask children what they wanted for Christmas. This event occurs the last 2 weekends prior to Christmas every year, which was December 12-13 and 19-20 this year.

The Sweets Barn, owned by Dave and Bonnie Aicher, is a local favorite for homemade fudge, baked goods, candy, teas, and a variety of Montana gifts! Every year, Santa is welcomed with open arms, and families are encouraged to bring their own cameras for pictures. A donation to the Montana Hope Project is much appreciated during this event, and all money collected goes directly to granting wishes through our organization.

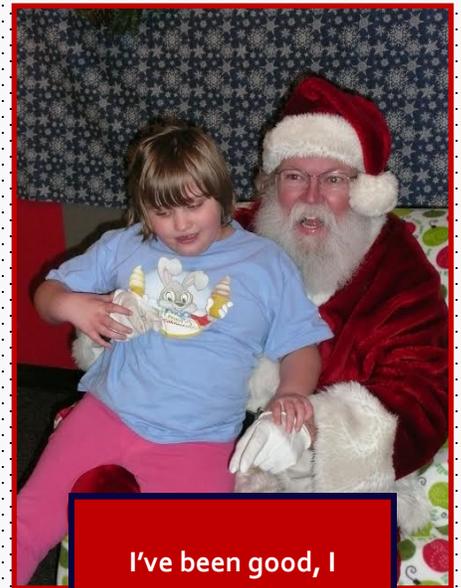
In 2014, participants enjoyed free candy canes and cookies, which was on average, 150 kids per day. Approximately 200 people visited the Sweets Barn each day of the event, including parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles.

The Sweets Barn added a Christmas tree lot to this year's event, and a portion of every tree sold went directly to the Montana Hope Project. Available for purchase prior to Thanksgiving until Christmas were a variety of wild trees, as well as farm trees in various sizes for \$25-\$50.

Thank you "Santa," Dave, and Bonnie for keeping the magic of Christmas alive, all while making wishes come true through the Montana Hope Project! We appreciate your continued support, and look forward to many more years to come!



Everyone wants to sit on Santa's lap!



I've been good, I promise!



Del ("Santa"), handing over the \$1,451 raised to Missoula Area Coordinator, Michelle Navarro, with owner Dave



"Don't pull me over for driving the reindeer too fast, Trooper Panas!"

Photos courtesy of Dave and Bonnie Aicher

2014 Santa at the Sweets Barn

2015

Winter Reunion

Alllllll Aboard!!!!



President Glen Barcus made an excellent train conductor!



Montana Hope Project Coordinators and Volunteers



If you visited Fairmont Hot Springs Resort on December 5th, you may have seen over 400 people running around in pajamas and other silly costumes! This was all in celebration of our Polar Express themed Winter Reunion.

Families were invited aboard the Polar Express where they enjoyed dinner, a hot chocolate bar, door prizes, and of course Santa, Mrs. Claus, and their trusty elf! We appreciate Santa and his crew coming all the way from the North Pole for this event!

Tommy the Train Builder, as he's affectionately known, made this year's theme come to life with our very own Polar Express train. We thank Tommy Comer for the exceptional craftsmanship shown in this amazing art piece!

We want to thank everyone who participated this year, and all the volunteers who dedicated their time to make this reunion extra special for our wish kids and families. To all the people who donated prizes, food, drinks, and went above and beyond our expectations, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Thanks to JC Denton of DA Imaging for providing our families with beautiful portraits and documenting this event. A special thank you to Fairmont Hot Springs Resort and all the staff, who continually made sure all needs were being met! We appreciate their continued support and hospitality ensuring a successful reunion every year!

Photos by DA Imaging



Approximately 62 wish families attended this year's reunion!

Stay Connected

Visit www.montanahope.org for more information on the Montana Hope Project. There you will find stories about events, wishes granted, and a calendar of upcoming events. Contact information is also available for all coordinators. Contact the coordinator in the area closest to you to refer a child, request additional information, or volunteer during an event or to organize your own.

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

Michelle Navarro
16781 Packer Court
Florence, MT 59833

mnavarro@montanahope.org



Help make a wish come true for a Montana Child battling a life-threatening illness or condition. 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



A

Multiple Color Options!



B



C

Mail Orders To:
Rhonda Huseby
5663 Derby Dr.
Helena, MT 59602



T-shirts Also Available!

D

DD



E

EE



F



G

Contact Rhonda with questions!
rhuseby
@montanahope
.org
(406) 461-9197



Multiple Color Options!

H



Youth Sizes Also Available!

I



Multiple Color Options!

J



K

A. **Hope Bears Shirt Colors:** Blue (Royal, Navy, Light), Red, Green, Pink, Purple, Orange, Yellow, Maroon, Black, Gray *Bear Styles Vary* \$20

B. **Baseball Cap Colors:** Black; One Size Fits Most \$12

C. **Coffee Mug 12 oz.;** Colors: Stone \$5

D. **MT Highway Patrol "Love" Hoody Colors:** Gray; Unisex Sizes: S-XXXL \$35

DD. **MT Highway Patrol "Love" Tee Colors:** Gray, White; Unisex Sizes: S-XXXL \$20

E. **MT Highway Patrol "Saving Lives" Hoody Colors:** Gray; Unisex Sizes: S-XXXL \$35

EE. **MT Highway Patrol "Saving Lives" Tee Colors:** Gray, White; Unisex Sizes: S-XXXL \$20

F. **Fleece Vest Colors:** Black; Unisex Sizes: S-XXXL \$25

G. **Fleece Jacket Colors:** Black; Unisex Sizes: S-XXXL \$35

H. **Hoody Colors:** Orange, Pink, Blue, Yellow; Unisex Sizes: S-XXXL \$35

I. **Long-Sleeved Tee Colors:** Blue, Gray, Green, Pink (women's); Unisex Sizes: S-XXXL; Youth Sizes: S-XL \$15

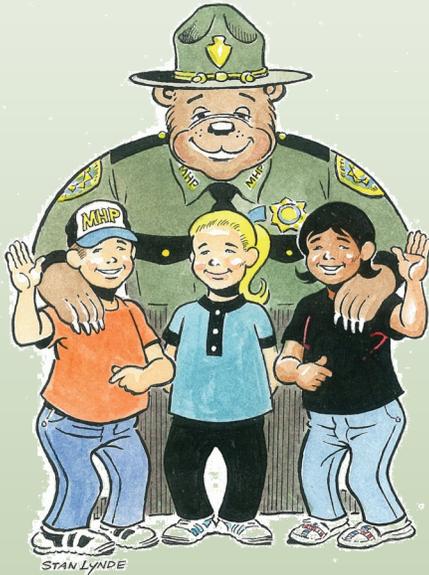
J. **Women's Polo Colors:** Gray/Purple, Gray/Pink; Sizes: S-XXXL \$25

K. **Men's Polo Colors:** Gray/Yellow, Gray/Green, Gray/Light Blue; Sizes: S-XXXL \$25

When ordering, please specify size and color options!

Ordering Options:
1. Visit www.montanahope.org to place your order online.
2. Mail your order and a check or money order to Rhonda Huseby at the address listed above.
Please include your **name, address, and phone number** with all orders.
Prices and availability subject to change. Please contact Rhonda with questions.

The Bears That Care



www.montanahope.org



Show your support with a new license plate!



Find us on Facebook

Contact Us

Contact us for more information about our organization and the families we serve.

Montana Hope Project
P.O. Box 5927
Helena, MT 59604

(406) 949-HOPE (4673)

gbarcus@montanahope.org

Visit us on the web at
www.montanahope.org

Like us on Facebook

Montana Hope Project— Making wishes come true for over 30 years!

Montana Hope Project
P.O. Box 5927
Helena, MT 59604

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GREAT FALLS, MT
PERMIT #66

