

Montana Hope Project

There is always



2016 Winter Reunion Fairmont Hot Springs Resort
 Coordinators, Montana State Troopers See more on pg. 47



What's Monte up to? Pg. 13
 Photos by DA Imaging



What's so special about this truck? Pg. 20

Sponsored by the
 Association of
 Montana
 Troopers



Making wishes come true since 1984!

Inside This Issue

- Meet our Children of Hope ("Wish Kids")
- 2016 Wishes
- 2016 Events
- 2016 Fundraisers
- Inspirational Stories
- From the President
- Get Involved

Newsletter

2016-2017

MONTANA HOPE PROJECT

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Jen <i>(Emily's Mom)</i>	Natalie <i>(Greysen's Mom)</i>
Amanda Shoemaker	Cate Nelson
Melinda <i>(Shay's Mom)</i>	

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DA Imaging

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

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Cate Nelson

Bears:

Audrey Collins

Media Coordinator:

Michelle Navarro

Merchandise:

Rhonda Huseby

Eastern Montana/Billings:

Dave Evans

Bozeman:

Joe Rehbein

Butte/Anaconda:

Joe Wyant, MHP 315

Kalispell:

Zach Miller, MHP 247

Great Falls:

Shawn Ostberg

Helena:

Rhonda Huseby

Missoula:

Michelle Navarro

Hamilton:

Jeremiah Snider, MHP 279

Reunions:

Cate Nelson



2016 EVENTS



Hope Project Reunions

Cate Nelson

Ride for Hope

Dave Evans

Santa at the Sweets Barn/Trees of Hope

Chet & Janice Hill, Dave & Bonnie Aicher

Christmas Quilt Raffle

Melaney Madsen (Quilt Donor), Dave & Bonnie Aicher (Sweets Barn)

Axmen's Freedom Bonanza

Amanda Shoemaker (Axmen), Michelle Navarro (Missoula)

Beartooth Fly Fishing Benefit

Dan & Nancy Delekta

Show and Shine Car Show

Amanda Knudson, Michelle Navarro (Missoula)

Butte's Adult Prom

Megan Bentle, Joe Wyant (Butte)

Poker Run Motorcycle Ride

Eagle Riders, Shawn Ostberg (Havre)

CMYRYD Car Show

Duane DeMars, Dave Evans (Shepherd)

Montana Harley Owners Group Rally: Yellowstone Harley Davidson

Dick Dowdell, Dave Evans (Belgrade)

Helena High Dodgeball Tournament

Becky deMontigny, Rhonda Huseby (Helena)

Knights of Columbus Convention

Shawn Ostberg (Lewistown)

Helena Ghost Busters

Rhonda Huseby (Helena)

Run 4 the Pits

Polson Running, Zach Miller (Polson)

Nomad Convention

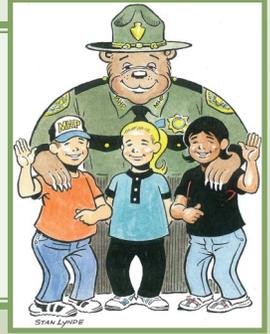
Chevrolet Nomad Club, Dave Evans (Billings)

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!

From the President



Glen Barcus
MHP 147



“In this time of an apparent national scrutiny of law enforcement officers and practices, I feel it is a great time to think of the Highway Patrolmen that started all of this back in 1984. With a strong desire to help their communities in more ways than just the highways, they took it upon themselves to do something special. Those Patrolmen provided us with an amazing

opportunity, to continue their mission, and I hope we are honoring their wishes. I am humbled to be able to represent the Montana Hope Project as president.

Much like last year, 2016 has been a year full of opportunities. My beautiful wife won't allow me to call them, 'challenges,' but, 'opportunities for growth.' I'm tickled to think that some day I'll be able to tell my grandkids about the Montana Hope Project and some of the things we have been able to accomplish.

I am most proud of our renewed involvement with Troopers in the field. It's great to see so many green shirts at our wish presentations and events. I am very thankful for the support of the Association of Montana Troopers, and particularly the board members that have faith in me to make decisions to lead our organization.

As we look forward to 2017, we have a lot to be excited about. We already have more than 20 children's pending wishes to grant, which means our Hope family will continue to grow. We are working on a special project due in the summer that I would love to share with you, yet I won't. 😊

Thank you to all of the donors, big and small, who provide support. Although I'm the one who does most of the talking, it's really our great team of coordinators that allow us to do the things that we do. Without the graciousness of Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, Glacier Haven Inn, and Izaak Walton Inn or reunions wouldn't be.

Lastly, I want to thank each of our wish kids, past and present, for giving me the opportunity to be inspired by you.

May your 2016 be memorable, and your 2017 be bright."

2016 Wishes Granted

Child of Hope	Wish Granted	Location
1. Trinity	Disney World	Missoula
2. Signe	Disney World	Three Forks
3. Tana	Hawaii	Helena
4. Darren	Disney World	Florence
5. Delanie	Hawaii	Fort Shaw
6. Ryanne	Hawaii	Harlem
7. Josh	Hawaii	Billings
8. Shay	Celtics Game	Culbertson
9. Mandy	Disney World	Helena
10. Kelly	Bear Lake, Utah	Missoula
11. Charley	Disney World	Belgrade
12. AJ	Disney World	Harlowton
13. Aiden	Disney World	Billings
14. Malachi	Disney World	Billings
15. Glenn	Disney World	Anaconda
16. Elijah	Disney World	Billings
17. Emmalee	Disney World	Helena
18. Cash	Disneyland	Browning
19. Alex	Hawaii	Lewistown
20. Emily	Hot Tub	Missoula
21. Taggert	Truck Restoration	Billings
22. Michael	Tracked Wheelchair	Shepherd



Montana Hope Project



Deb Butler

Treasurer

I learned about the Hope Project through my ex-husband who was a trooper. I thought it was a very worthwhile organization and wanted to do what I could to help grant wishes for Montana children.

I have continued to work with the Project because I get great satisfaction from the good work done by the great people that volunteer their time for the Project.

I love working with the coordinators and seeing what we do reflected in the smiles of the children and their families.



Rhonda Huseby

*Helena Area/
Merchandise
Coordinator*

I became involved with the Montana Hope Project over 20 years ago when my husband was a trooper stationed in Circle and then in Sidney. He helped connect kids with wishes and was often part of wish granting events. Our kids and I accompanied him.

As a family, we helped with our first reunion when our kids (now 27 and 25) were in elementary school. The reunion experience hooked us! After many more years with the Montana Highway Patrol and several additional moves, I became the Helena Area

Coordinator approximately 5 years ago, and currently also the Merchandise Coordinator.

I enjoy being part of an organization with such a positive mission. Witnessing deserving kids and their families enjoying their wishes and annual reunions keeps me involved. It is truly a rewarding and fulfilling experience.



Michelle Navarro

*Missoula Area/
Media Coordinator*

I wanted to get involved with a meaningful organization when I moved to Missoula in 2013 because it was a new area, and the only thing I had an abundance of was time, time that could be used to make a difference within my new community. My husband, who is a Trooper, first told me about the Montana Hope Project. When I contacted the Project about volunteering, it just so happened they needed a Missoula Area Coordinator, and while I didn't know exactly what that meant at the time, I happily accepted the position.

The past 3 years, I have coordinated fundraisers, participated in events, and met some of the most amazing people! These families have made a lasting impression on my soul, and I am so happy to be even a small part of bringing joy and smiles to these kids through the work of the Montana Hope Project!

I have also made lasting friendships, not only with these families, but with the other coordinators and officers of the Montana Hope Project. This organization became a part of my life when I needed it the most, and for that, I am forever grateful.

The Coordinators

The Coordinators

Continued



Cate Nelson
*Reunion/Wish
Coordinator*

I was first interested in the Montana Hope Project because it originated from law enforcement. I am such a huge supporter of law enforcement, and I knew the Hope Project would be a natural fit.

I've continued my work with the Hope Project because of our families, no question! To hear the excitement in their voice when coordinating their wish arrangements and the pure joy they feel is amazing! Their positivity is infectious!

I also love organizing the reunions. Our families truly benefit from the support of one another, and our reunions allow them this opportunity. The fact that I get to create such a fun, creative, and supportive environment for these annual get-togethers is just icing on the cake!



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 some time with current President, Glen Barcus, when he would stop in at my place of business. His enthusiasm for the Hope Project was 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.



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 four years there, I moved to Havre where I continued my law enforcement career for another four years for 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, I met Dave Evans. He really has a passion for the Montana Hope Project, and one day, I called him and offered my help. Little did I know, 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 I can to put a smile on their faces and help them create lasting memories.

The Coordinators

Continued



Jeremiah Snider
Bitterroot Area
Coordinator

What does being a Montana Hope Project Coordinator mean to me? To be honest, it has given me more rewards than I would have ever imagined. I have lived through what so many of our families have to live through.

When I was 11 years old, my older brother was diagnosed with Acute Leukemia. Our family was turned upside down, literally. There were 5 kids in our home, including me and my twin, yet somehow my parents managed to maintain some form of family within our walls.

There were school activities, sporting events, church functions, not to mention, daily household necessities.

My parents, they were super heroes. You all, our Hope Project family members, are *super heroes!*

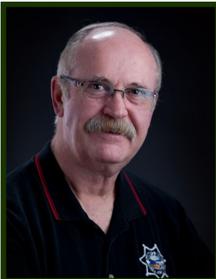
I will never forget the Thursday evening when friends of my parents picked me up from football practice and took me and my sisters to Hardees for dinner. When we got home, a friend stopped by and I got lost in the music in my brothers room; I'm not sure if we were listening to the Monkeys or Herman's Hermits. I just dated myself, I know, but it still seems like yesterday. Then my mother came in and told my friend to go home, and I could see that look in her eye.

"Your brother is gone."

I didn't know what to do; I was in shock. The next few days are still a blur; hard times for sure, but we pulled through as a family because no matter what happens, there is always family.

I learned that during these hard times, family takes on a whole new meaning. I am still grateful for the outpour of "family" that came in to help pick up some of the pieces during that difficult time.

That is my personal gift to all of you, *my* Hope Project family.



Dave Evans
*Billings Area/
Ride for Hope*
Coordinator

Like many Montanans, I had not heard of the Montana Hope Project until Clay Creek, a Billings Trooper at the time, and two fellow Blue Knights in my law enforcement motorcycle club, invited me on my first Ride for Hope in 2005. When we arrived at Fairmont Hot Springs, the destination that year, I met several other riders who were also on their first adventure with the Hope Project, and I was introduced to some of the amazing wish families. I have missed only one Ride since then.

As a former coach for Little Guy sports, a law enforcement officer for more than 38 years, and an Adopt A Cop in Yellowstone County for twenty years, my heart has always been with our youth, and the Montana Hope Project seemed like a great fit.

I was asked in 2012 by then president, Richard Hader, if I would be interested in a position as coordinator for the Ride for Hope, and I gladly accepted. When the Eastern Montana Coordinator position opened the next year, Richard tapped me again to accept that position, which I immediately did. Since my first introduction to the Hope Project, I have been impressed by the volunteer coordinators' passion and commitment to our Wish Kids and their wonderful families. There is no better feeling than to be able to help put a smile on a child's face, especially at a time when they are facing adversity, and I am proud to be a member of an organization that does just that.

The Coordinators

Continued



Joe Wyant
Butte/Anaconda
Coordinator

Upon arriving at my first Trooper duty station in Butte many years ago, I was fortunate to meet Alice O'Donnell. Ms. O'Donnell was the Anaconda/Butte Area Coordinator at that time. Upon being introduced to Ms. O'Donnell, she informed me of my responsibilities as a new Trooper to get involved and assist her with carrying out the mission of the Hope Project. Ms. O'Donnell was very clear in her conversation to ensure I understood that my involvement in the Hope Project was not a choice. I listened attentively and agreed to everything she told me concerning my responsibilities. During our conversation, I experienced the same thoughts and uneasy feelings I felt when meeting with my Sergeant for the first time a few days earlier!

I remember Ms. O'Donnell calling me and giving me the date and time to pick her up, so we could present a recipient their wish. I wasn't too excited and asked myself, "Can't someone else help with the wish; what's the big deal?" I picked up Ms. O'Donnell, as scheduled, and I drove her to the wish recipient's house to present the Hope Bear, camera, and expense check. On our way to the residence, Ms. O'Donnell provided lots of conversation, but I didn't hear a word as I was trying to figure how long this would last and when I could get back to the important things I had to do.

We arrived at the recipient's house and I helped Ms. O'Donnell inside the residence. The recipient and his family were so very excited, and the joyous atmosphere was compared to that of Christmas morning before opening gifts. The feelings were contagious and my little "scrooge" heart began to grow. This atmosphere was wonderful, but I can clearly recall the exact moment I decided to dedicate myself to the Montana Hope Project's cause. It was when I looked into the tearful eyes of the recipient's mother as she stated, "It is nice to see him smile; it has been a long time since we (the family) have had such a happy time." The mom also expressed that the trip would most likely be the only family vacation with their son, and they would treasure the memories forever. I witnessed the profound impact the "wish" had on this family and made a vow to be active in the Hope Project to give other families the same experiences.

For many more years after my first wish granting event, I continued helping Ms. O'Donnell with her continued hard work and dedication as a Hope Project Coordinator. In late 2010, the cancer Alice had once battled returned and sadly took her away in January 2011. I initially had no intentions of filling Alice's vacant coordinator position until she told me it was her wish that I be her successor.

Thank you, Alice O'Donnell, for getting me involved in the Montana Hope Project, and for all the joy and satisfaction I have experienced throughout the years because of it.



Zach Miller
*Eastern MT/
Kalispell*
Coordinator

I got involved with the Hope Project because I like helping people and it sounded like a really great opportunity to give back to Montana. Sgt. Jeff Kent also helped talk me into it.

I continue to work with the organization because it's awesome! I love all the families and other Hope Project coordinators. Not to mention, it just feels good to help people. Like I said before, I really do enjoy helping people. The Hope Project is an awesome opportunity to do just that and get to meet new, awesome people at the same time.

I think the real question is, "What's not to love?"

The Coordinators

Continued



My first experience with the Montana Hope Project was as a guest at the Winter Reunion. My husband was a board member for the Association of Montana Troopers, and we were invited to attend the weekend event. It didn't take long to see what a special organization the Hope Project is.

Audrey Collins

Our involvement grew from there, from attending some fundraisers, to volunteering to help with some projects, to referring a wish recipient. When the Bear Coordinator position was advertised, I saw it as a great fit for me. I could contribute to the Project in a positive way *and* fill a room in my house with teddy bears!

Bear Coordinator

I continue to work with the Montana Hope Project because of the families. The Montana Hope Project is unique in its long-term commitment to and from our families of the Project. You see families over the years and get to know them and share hugs with them. It is such a gift to see their joy and the connection they make with other families, volunteers, and Hope Project personnel. They are grateful for wishes granted, but I don't think they realize how much they give back to us!



Cal Janes

In 1987, I went to the Law Enforcement Academy and they gave a small presentation on the Hope Project, and I fell in love with it immediately. I loved what it did for these children and their families.

I moved to Townsend in 1989, and my partner at the time was a coordinator for the Hope Project, so I was able to get involved at that time. I sold as many Hope Bears as I could! We also made and sold candy bars and lollipops back then! Things sure were different. We worked really hard to find recipients, and were lucky if we granted a few each year!

**Vice President/
Secretary**

I love being a part of the Hope Project, and have enjoyed seeing the organization grow and change over the years, through all its ups and downs! Hearing the success stories from our wish kids, and witnessing first hand their milestones has kept me involved all these years!



Glen Barcus

President

As a kid, I enjoyed volunteering with the Special Olympics and coaching and officiating Little Guy Wrestling. My parents were involved with different acts of volunteerism, and I was raised with the notion that all of us are responsible to participate in our communities.

When I was hired by the Highway Patrol in 2005, becoming involved with the Hope Project was a natural progression. And now, of course because of our amazing team and families, I am hooked.

As the president, I feel like I have an obligation to continue to keep the Hope Project spirit alive, while allowing us to continue to grow as a professional organization.

 **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 to volunteer during an event or 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



Jim's Generosity

By Jeremiah Snider, MHP 279

Bitterroot Area Coordinator

During our Fall annual Association of Montana Troopers/Montana Hope Project meeting, I had the pleasure of meeting with some of Jim Brouelette's family. They included Barbara Weishaar, Jim's Sister, and Vicki Weishaar, Jim's niece. Also present was Jerry Koon, a very close friend of Jim's. They were asked to attend our meeting in appreciation for all that Mr. Brouelette did for the Montana Hope Project through his many years of charitable contributions. During our time together, I was able to gain a little more insight into Jim Brouelette.

Mr. Brouelette was a proud, hardworking man of Montana, who lived in the Bitterroot Valley for many years. He worked as a Human Resource Manager for the Washington Corporation, and one of his responsibilities was to oversee donations. The Washington Corporation has contributed to many causes over the years, but the needs of children and young adults has always been an area of interest. Mr. Brouelette also served on the board of directors for Montana State Fund.

In the 1980s, Mr. Brouelette took an interest in the Montana Hope Project and chose to ride in our annual Ride for Hope. The Ride for Hope is a yearly motorcycle event where people from all over the state gather donations and participate in a rally. Riders travel an outlined route on the 2nd weekend in July, and everyone convenes at a predetermined venue. Here we have a banquet and share stories of the ride and the events over the last year since we were all together. Back in the day, the Ride for Hope was known as a 1,000 mile ride. It has been shortened a bit over the years, but it is still our largest fundraiser that we host to this day. The last Ride that Mr. Brouelette was on occurred in 1997.

Mr. Brouelette's passion for the children of Montana who are critically ill continued long after that last Ride, and upon his death, Mr. Brouelette remembered these children and their needs. Mr. Brouelette willed the Montana Hope Project \$300,000.00. This generous donation has been wisely invested and will be a vital part of many, many wishes for future Montana Hope Project Children of Hope.



During the meeting, Glen Barcus, the President of the Montana Hope Project, presented Barbara and Vicki Weishaar with a Montana Hope Project bronze.

Thank you, Jim Brouelette!

2016

Summer Reunion



Recap

This year's summer reunion was a massive success, as usual! It featured a sports theme, and all of our wish kids looked amazing in their Team Hope vintage baseball tees.

Our families participated in the usual fun- red jammer bus transportation to and from activities, helicopter tours, boat rides, ice cream, s'mores, food, and fun, all accompanied by beautiful sunshine!

We had a surprise guest during our visit at Glacier Heli Tours--- Monte from the University of Montana was up to his usual shenanigans, making everyone laugh and join in his fun! He definitely made waiting for turns in the helicopters a little more BEAR-able!



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 Royal Canadian Mounted Police, motorcycle riders, Glacier Heli Tours, Glacier Boat Tours, the Cut Bank Fire Department, Red Jammer Buses, Dwayne with his semi-truck, Gerald and Thales for the horse-drawn carriage rides, Monte, JC Denton of DA Imaging for capturing these memories flawlessly in his 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 DA Imaging

Darren's Wish

Darren, a first grader, and his siblings were surprised with their upcoming trip to Disney World by the Montana Hope Project during a school assembly, facilitated by Missoula Area Coordinator, Michelle Navarro, and Florence-Carlton Elementary School principal Chrissy Hulla. Darren's classmates pulled off the surprise nicely by creating a banner that read, "You are going to Disney World!"

School staff, family, friends, and other Hope Project supporters all showed up for the surprise, making Darren feel like a true VIP!



"Remember, Mrs. Navarro, you have to say, 'cheese,' when you get your picture taken!"



"Surprise!" You are going to Disney World!

L to R: (back) Trooper Janes, Trooper Navarro, Trooper Snider, Captain Burt, Trooper Winchell, Officer Ludeman, Sgt. Bennett, Deputy Birket, Officer Houppert; (front) Coordinator, Michelle Navarro, Darren, Darren's dad, Steve



Darren, his family, teacher (Mrs. Crawford), and his classmates

Local area Troopers and other law enforcement officers wish Darren and his family a safe trip!



INTERVIEW: 9/25/16

1. What was your most favorite part of your trip?

I liked the Tower of Terror ride and seeing Hope and Winter, the dolphins.

2. What was your least favorite part?

The airplane ride was too long.

3. What was something that surprised you?

We had our own house at Give Kids the World!

4. If you did it all again, what would you change?

I would go for 2 years, not 1 week. I would make Mayor Clayton have floppy ears, not straight, stick-up ears.

5. What would you tell other wish kids who are taking a trip to Florida?

You can ride any ride you want! They treat you like a super hero there! You get a lot of stuffed animals and presents!

I have more to say, but my brain is clogged up right now....

6. What do you want others to know about the Montana Hope Project?

I want other people to know that the "policemans" sent me on my wish trip. Thank you to everybody who sent me on my wish!

7. What would you like to tell the Montana Hope Project?

You're the best, and you ROCK!



Sarah, Darren's mom, and Darren meeting Hope, the dolphin



The Magic Kingdom

Name:

Darren

Age:

7

Wish:

Disney World



Everyone loves Mickey!

Coordinators in the Community



Michelle Navarro (Missoula Area/Media Coord.) and Wish Kid/Volunteer, Gabby, at Axmen's Freedom Bonanza; Missoula, MT

Below: Billings Coordinator, Dave Evans, the Gregg family, and Trooper Meskimen at the HOG Rally in Belgrade



Above: Dave Evans representing the Montana Hope Project at this year's Nomad Convention; Billings, MT

Emma, Wish Kid, Mason and his family, Trooper Snider (Bitterroot Coord.), Michelle Navarro, Nichole, Michael, Trooper Navarro, and Jocelyn Snider in the Memorial Day Parade in Corvallis, MT



Sgt. Nelson, Cate Nelson (Wish/Reunion Coord.), Michelle Navarro (Missoula Area/Media Coord.), Emma, Trooper Silvan, Trooper Navarro, Deb Staley, Jocelyn Snider, Michael, Stefanie Silvan, Samia, Alarik, Lauran Parks, Hope, Alexa, Nichole, Adam, Aaron, and DJ aboard the "Granting Wishes Under the Big Sky" float in the University of Montana homecoming parade; Missoula, MT



To all involved with the Montana Hope Project,

Our family would like to thank you for all you do for families such as ours! To be granted a wish was more than awesome; to be gifted with two reunions sends it over the top. When in a world that you can easily be overcome with a terrifying stress, it is nice to know that there are "bears that care!"

It means more than I hope any of you ever need to know.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Love,

The Fitch Family



**KINDNESS
IS
CONTAGIOUS**

Beartooth Fly Fishing

By Dave Evans, Billings Area Coordinator



5th Annual
**MONTANA HOPE PROJECT
FUNDRAISER**

In Memory of John "Grandpa" Delekta

**COME JOIN US AT
BEARTOOTH FLYFISHING!**

**2925 HIGHWAY 287 NORTH IN
CAMERON, MONTANA (406-682-7525)**

Sat. July 23 & Sun. July 24

Fly-tying and fly-casting clinics all weekend along with **Captain Marty's famous Louisiana Gumbo**, Dan's Special Chili & Elle of Elle's Belles and Vicky Noack of the Country Bumpkin Bakery will be preparing desserts for a **\$35** donation!

Food Served NOON-6:00 P.M. Both Days

All proceeds from food sales go towards Montana Hope Project in addition to a percentage of retail and online sales.

This marks the 5th year that Dan and Nancy Delekta of Beartooth Fly Fishing in Cameron, MT have hosted a fundraiser for the Montana Hope Project in remembrance of Dan's Dad, John "Grandpa" Delekta. Their 2016 weekend was July 23-24, and featured food prepared by Dan and Captain Marty. Dan made an awesome elk chili and Captain Marty, a Louisiana native who guides in Louisiana in the winter and spends his summers guiding on the Madison River, made his signature gumbo.

The \$35 for meals, all donated by the Delektas and local businesses, 10% of all sales and guided trips, as well as many large and small donations, went directly to the Hope Project during this weekend fundraiser. Both the business' clients and the locals look forward to this event every year and strongly support our "Wish Kids."

Dan and Nancy have hosted some of our wish kids on fishing trips for an unforgettable day on the Madison River. Trooper Ashlin O'Connell stopped by after her duties in Butte at Evel Kneivel Days to show support on behalf of the Montana Highway Patrol, and to express their appreciation for all the Delektas do for us.

Thank you Dan, Nancy, and your crew for another great weekend in a beautiful Montana setting!



The Delekta Crew

www.beartoothflyfishing.com

Kasey's Wish

By Wish Mom, Alicia

Dear Montana Hope Project,

Thank you seems so insignificant when we think about the last year and all of the fantastic memories made possible by your organization. We are still reeling from the amount of happiness, laughter, togetherness, and joy our family has felt, all thanks to you!

We took a trip to Disney World at the end of May (2015), thanks to you. When I say, "we," I am referring to Kasey (4), Kaleb (7), Jonathan (18), Alicia (mom), Kevin (dad), and Debra (grandma). When Tracy called to tell us that Kasey's wish was being granted, I thought we would spend a nice weekend in Yellowstone or somewhere nearby. When she explained about Give Kids the World, I was in shock. Our family gathered around the computer that night and looked at their website. Our little guys were chatting excitedly while my husband and I imagined this once in a lifetime opportunity for our boys.

The trip was amazing. It is hard to say what anyone's favorite part was because there were so many. What I can tell you is that the opportunity to just be a family and enjoy each other was the best thing about this trip for all of us. Even traveling was enjoyable because we got to talk about things that usually get pushed aside in the hustle and bustle of our lives.

Give Kids the World is such a wonderful place and we feel so lucky to have been able to experience it and the people there. Disney World claims to be the happiest place on earth, but I think Give Kids the World has them beat! We met so many fantastic people between the volunteers, employees, and other families who were staying there. It was a blessing to have that experience.

Of course we really enjoyed the parks. We felt like VIPs everywhere we went because of the wish pass provided. We were able to do so much more than we would have without that pass. In the short time we were there, we enjoyed all four Disney parks, Universal Studios, and Sea World! It was busy, but definitely a once in a lifetime experience.

We still talk about our trip like it happened yesterday. The boys are constantly reminded of the trip, and talk about the parks and Give Kids the World all the time. Still today, the trip you provided brings us closer all the time.



Kasey's Wish continued



This fall, I noticed a posting on Facebook asking if families would like to attend a Griz game. Our family absolutely loves the Grizzlies! My stepson was with us for the summer and would be leaving soon, so I put in for the first game against NDSU, so we could have a great memory with him before he left. We got the tickets, and purchased 2 more, so we could all attend. What a game! It was the best one all year! Laith met with us and was so great about showing us all around the stadium, ensuring that we all had a great time. Kasey took pictures of everyone on the field with his camera that he got for the trip from the Montana Hope Project. He loved every minute!

Once again, the Montana Hope Project brought us together as a family.

Lastly, we attended the reunion at Fairmont Hot Springs this year (2015). What a fantastic and heartwarming experience! It was so wonderful to see all of the families that were able to attend, and it's just unbelievable that the Montana Hope Project has touched so many lives! We are so grateful that you have been in ours.

Thank you for everything. Most of all, for bringing our family closer together and giving us the opportunity to step away from the craziness of Kasey's medical needs and our every day. We were able to focus on what is truly important- loving and enjoying every moment with each other!

Love always,

Kevin, Alicia, Jon, Kyle, Kaleb, and Kasey



Montana Hope Project

Show and Shine Car Show

Goal: \$6,000

Raised: \$8,040.22

Amanda Knudson, sophomore at the University of Montana and mastermind behind the car show, worked tirelessly for 8 months planning this event. She collected corporate sponsorships and donations, and reached out to local car clubs encouraging participation in the show.

Each vehicle that was registered in the event had a donation box associated with it. Voters put change, dollars, and even checks into their favorite's box, and the ones with the most money collected earned 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place plaques respectively.

When visitors were finished voting for their favorite vehicle, they could take part in the silent auction, buy an official Montana Hope Project Show and Shine Car Show tee, visit Michelle, Kathy, and Gabby at the Montana Hope Project booth, or simply listen to the amazing music provided by the DJ.

Amanda's goal was to raise enough money to grant one wish through the Montana Hope Project, so we were thrilled to present Kelly with his dream vacation to Bear Lake, UT during this event! Kelly's family, friends, caregivers, and other Hope Project supporters came to help him celebrate his wish coming true! He is our 429th wish kid, and the 13th wish for the year.



1st Place Winner

Collected \$1,001.40!



Trooper Navarro, Area Coordinator, Michelle Navarro, Braydon Grant (Grant's nephew), Bette Gull (Grant's mom), and car show organizer, Amanda Knudson, pose in front of the winning truck.

FUN FACT: *The winning truck originally belonged to Grant Simpson, our 100th wish kid, who gave it to his nephew, Braydon Grant, when he was only 1 year old (as pictured to the right)!*



"I can't even imagine what these families go through on a daily basis, so anything I can do to help, I think I should." Amanda Knudson

A special thank you to Missoula Broadcasting Company for advertising this event, Art by Pan for designing our t-shirt, and DJ Donald Monaco, who kept everyone dancing with lively music!

A huge thank you to all of our corporate sponsors, donors, and volunteers! The success of this event is because of your support!

Flashback to 1996

100th Wish— Grant Simpson

MICHAEL GALLACHER/MISSOULIAN

100 wishes granted

Grant Simpson was so happy Friday night that he had a party at the Grant Creek Inn in Missoula for 100 of his favorite people, complete with 50 pizzas and all the pop you could drink.

The wish-granting program gives seriously ill children and teen-agers something to look forward to and to focus on besides their chronic problem.

■ *Frenchtown junior with cystic fibrosis gets wish; Hope Project celebrates service*

By **SHERRY DEVLIN** of the Missoulian

When the Montana Hope Project asked Grant Simpson to make a wish, his first thought was: "I'll learn how to fly."

Which was a bit much for his mom's nerves.

So she suggested an alternative that would guarantee years of on-the-ground enjoyment: a computer. He quickly agreed.

"This is something I have wanted for a long time," Simpson said at a Friday night party celebrating not only his

new IBM Aptiva, but the 100th wish granted by the Montana Hope Project.

A junior at Frenchtown High School, Simpson has cystic fibrosis, an inherited disease that affects growth and causes chronic lung infections. For Simpson, it means three or four stays in the hospital a year, most recently at Childrens Hospital in Seattle.

He loves math and computers and the black cowboy hat he got for eighth-grade graduation.

And he is, as his friends and family testified Friday, much loved.

"Grant is a great kid," said Dr. Daniel Combo, his physician since birth and one of those who suggested he make a wish to the Hope Project.

The wish-granting program gives seriously ill children and teen-agers "something to look forward to and to focus on besides their chronic problem," said Combo. "A disease like cystic fibrosis is every day, every day, every day. It doesn't go away."

But neither does Simpson's optimism and good humor, said Combo.

See **WISH**, Page A10

"This is something I have wanted for a long time." - Grant Simpson



Grant Simpson, our 100th wish kid, was the focus of this Missoulian Newspaper article, printed January 25, 1997.

Photo by Michael Gallacher Missoulian

Wish

Continued

The Hope Project is coordinated through the Montana Highway Patrol and funded by the Lawman 1000 – an annual 1,000-mile motorcycle ride that draws not only Highway Patrol officers, but big-hearted motorcycle enthusiasts from throughout Montana and the Northwest.

In seven years, the Lawman 1000 has raised \$503,000.

The computer given Simpson on Friday marked the project's 100th wish granted, "a goal we never imagined reaching," said Mitch Tuttle, a Highway Patrol officer and volunteer chairman of the Hope Project.

"We started out paying for everything out of our own pockets," Tuttle said. "But we couldn't reach enough kids that way."

With the success of the motorcycle ride, "we have never had to say no because of lack of funds," Tuttle said. "And it's all by word of mouth. We have no paid directors. All the money goes to the kids. All the work is for the kids."

Betty Simpson, Grant's mom, knew of the Lawman 1000 from co-workers at Stone Container Corp. who ride in the fund-raiser each June. "But we had never really pursued anything or really thought about asking for a wish until Dr. Combo suggested we apply," she said.

The pizza, cake and pop party at the Grant Creek Inn was an added bonus – to which Grant was told to invite 100 friends and family members. He gladly obliged, inviting also volunteers from the Montana Hope Project and Lawman 1000.

"I have been so excited about this," he said at party's start. "I've got my desk all cleared off at home for the computer." There are papers to be typed for school, Simpson reported. And computer games to be mastered. And the Internet to be surfed.

Computer programming is an interest, too, Simpson said, possibly as a career or college major.

"Or maybe," Simpson said, his mom safely out of earshot, "maybe I'll meet some pilots on the Internet. And learn how to fly."

Grant is ready for cake, and so are the 100 friends he invited to the party!

THE FACTS:

- ◆ Grant's wish of a new computer was approved December of 1996
- ◆ He was presented with his wish January of 1997
- ◆ Because he was the 100th wish kid, he was instructed to invite 100 friends to his wish presentation— pizza, cake, and pop at the Grant Creek Inn
- ◆ Grant was 1 of 9 wishes granted in 1996



Kelly's Wish



Kelly's friends, family, and caregivers gathered with other Montana Hope Project supporters during Kelly's wish presentation



Kelly, a senior at Big Sky High School in Missoula, MT was presented his wish, a dream vacation to Bear Lake, Utah, during the Montana Hope Project Show and Shine Car Show on August 13, 2016. Amanda Knudson, organizer of the car show, graduated from Big Sky High School two years prior, and was excited to grant the wish of a fellow classmate during her event!

Kelly's mom, Jill, explained during the wish presentation that they came up with the code name, "Panda," for the trip because if they even mentioned the words, "Bear Lake," Kelly headed straight to the truck! They even made a countdown calendar for him leading up to the big trip!

Kelly enjoyed swimming in the hotel's pool, the Idaho Falls Zoo (the Zebras were his favorite), go karts, a trampoline park, and of course relaxing, swimming, and boating on Bear Lake. Kelly and his family stayed in a beautiful cabin up on the mountain during their time on Bear Lake, which offered a relaxing atmosphere and gorgeous views!

"Thank you, Montana Hope Project, for an AMAZING time! Kelly was so happy (and the rest of us too!)!"

Kelly's Mom





Ride for Hope

Dave Evans, Ride for Hope Coordinator

The Ride for Hope celebrated twenty seven years on July 9, 2016. We did it in style at the beautiful KwaTaqNuk Resort on the shores of Flathead Lake in Polson, MT. Riders from all over Montana and western Canada joined us for the annual banquet, auction, and fundraiser. This year we welcomed two new groups to the Ride; the 406 Riders from Bozeman and Eagle Riders from Havre joined us for what they said will be an annual outing for them.

We raised close to \$60,000 thanks to our dedicated fundraisers. Wes Mattson and Dave McCormick continue to be the largest fundraising heroes, but others are now biting at their heels!

The weather threatened a bit on Saturday, but cleared up for our parade, escorted by the Montana Highway Patrol. Unfortunately, the skies poured rain on Sunday, making the journey home for our intrepid riders a wet one.



Polson, MT is painted with a variety of beautiful motorcycles during this year's event!



People from all over showed up at this year's Ride with the same goal- support Montana's children through the mission of the Montana Hope Project!

Thank you all for your continued support!

- ◆ Contact Dave Evans at devans@montanahope.org or (406) 672-6585 to find out more information.

Facts

- ◆ The Ride is held in a different Montana location each year.
- ◆ The Ride for Hope is always held on the 2nd Saturday of July.
- ◆ July 8, 2017 will be our next Ride, ending in Billings, MT at the Red Lion Inn Billings; its colors are purple and pink.
- ◆ No motorcycle? No problem! Supporters have the option to drive to the ending location and participate in the banquet and other festivities!

Sarina's Wish

By Wish Mom, Tammy

May 3, 2016



Dear Montana Hope,

This thank you has been more than a few months in the making! I've racked my brain trying to come up with the words to thank each and every one of you for making Sarina's wish come true.

Sarina won't remember the majority of her treatment, as she was so tiny when she was diagnosed, but she will remember each new poke, each scan, and each new trip back to make sure the cancer hasn't returned. On the other hand, her daddy and I will remember all of it.

We didn't expect a trip to happen because of her young diagnosis, but y'all thought she deserved one! The day we walked into Disney World and she saw Daisy, she got the biggest smile on her face and ran up and hugged her; this was one of the moments in her short life that I was so thankful she fought the "beast" and won!

Sarina loved each and every minute of her trip to Disney World. Each and every new Mickey and Minnie she saw, she kept that big smile on her face. She still talks about going on "her" trip, and keeps asking me if we can do it again!

I'm not sure this adequately expresses the thanks in my heart, but we thank you for making our little girl's wish come true.



Hope Project Facts

- We are NOT affiliated with any other national wish-granting organizations.
- We follow all federal guidelines to maintain our status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, registered with the Secretary of State.
- Because the Hope Project is operated primarily by volunteers, nearly every dollar raised directly benefits our Children of Hope.
- We have granted 438 wishes since our start in 1984!
- Every year, wish recipients and their families are invited to join us for a summer and winter reunion.
- The Montana Hope Project is funded through corporate and private donations, as well as fundraising efforts.

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P.O. BOX 5927
HELENA, MT 59604

Emily's Wish

Michelle Navarro, *Missoula Area Coordinator*

Emily's hot tub wish is the first wish I have done that wasn't a trip, so I wasn't quite sure where to begin. Axmen in Missoula was highly recommended, and seemed like a fitting place to start. I immediately understood why they came so highly recommended by previous customers and other professionals! Amanda Shoemaker, my point of contact, not only helped line out every detail to fulfill this wish, but she also coordinated a fundraiser to help offset the cost of the hot tub and lift.

I think a common misconception regarding the Hope Project is the mindset that businesses "donate" the wishes to our wish kids. They don't understand that the Hope Project actually purchases whatever is needed to successfully grant each wish. Having a local business immediately say they want to help offset the total cost is a big deal to say the least!

Needless to say, Axmen and the Missoula community made pulling off my first non-traveling wish a piece of cake!

Once the details were ironed out and the hot tub was installed, Emily's family was kind enough to host friends, family, and Hope Project supporters for a backyard BBQ at their residence. The amount of love shown that night was incredible, and made me so happy to be a part of such a beautiful wish come true!



Above:

Emily, enjoying the first of many dips in her new hot tub during the wish presentation at the family's home on July 7, 2016.

Jen, *Emily's Mom*

There really aren't words to express a parent's joy in seeing their child, who lives a life of mostly anger and sadness, smiling, content, and truly at peace.

Since Emily was gifted the hot tub from The Montana Hope Project this last July, we have gotten to enjoy so much more of these positive and precious moments!

The team at The Montana Hope Project, with Michelle Navarro in the lead, made our experience a truly magical and easy one. From the very beginning of the project, we felt we were a part of something bigger – honestly, a family of hope!

In April I received an email from Michelle, the Missoula Area Coordinator for the Montana Hope Project. In her email she detailed a wish for a hot tub from a beautiful Missoula girl. After meeting with Michelle later that week and learning more about Emily, her family, and her needs, I immediately knew this was something the Axmen would love to help with. The Axmen has been locally owned for nearly 50 years, and we are always looking for ways to be involved in our community.

We immediately went to work creating a silent auction to help raise the funds to install a hot tub and handicap lift for Emily. After speaking with the owners of the Axmen, Guy and Grant Hanson, we agreed we wanted the Hope Project to have to foot as little of the bill as possible.

The response from the Missoula business community was astounding. Within a month we gathered over \$10,000 worth of items for the auction that was to be held at our Freedom Bonanza event on June 25th. Thanks to Aqua Creek Products discounting the price of the lift and the Axmen discounting the price of the tub, the auction and cash donations nearly covered the entire cost of the hot tub and lift, a \$13,000 retail value!

Emily's family was kind enough to invite us over to witness Emily using her hot tub for the first time. There was not a dry eye in the yard, as we watched Emily's grin as she was lowered into the water for the first time. Watching her splash and play with her friends and siblings was an experience I will never forget. Knowing that we contributed to her and her family's happiness and well-being is a feeling I can't begin to describe.

The Axmen is so thankful that Michelle approached us to be a part of this experience. In retail we don't often get to help make a wish come true, and it is an experience we will never forget. Emily, her family, and the Montana Hope Project will forever be a part of the Axmen family and we are so thankful for their presence in our lives.



A Very Special Thanks

Axmen

Aqua Creek Lifts

Grant Creek Excavating

P.E.T.E's, Inc.

K and K Concrete

A huge thank you to everyone who donated items to the silent auction for Emily at Axmen's Freedom Bonanza, as well as everyone who came out and supported the event! Thank you for supporting the mission of the Montana Hope Project, and for helping us make Emily's wish come true!

SHAY'S WISH

By Wish Mom, Melinda

Montana Hope Project,

Thank you so much for granting Shay's wish to see a Celtics game in Boston! We had so much fun. On our trip, we took in the sights of New York City for a day, then drove to Boston from there to Shay's doctor appointments at Boston Children's Hospital.

After his appointments, we went to TD Garden, watched the Celtics warm up, took pictures on the basketball court, and Shay was presented with a bunch of gifts (a jersey with his last name on it, t-shirt, Celtic shoes, socks, and a hat)!

We then went into a private restaurant in TD Garden, ate a delicious supper, and had a surprise visitor, Leon Powe. Leon played for the Celtics from 2006-2009, and played in the championship for the Celtics in 2008, which they won! It was such an honor meeting and visiting with him.

After supper, we watched the Celtic game against the New Orleans Pelicans; the Celtics won the super exciting game!

Thank you for our trip, Montana Hope Project! We would have never been able to do this without you as we are in over our heads with medical debt and all the medical travel expenses.

Shay was diagnosed with a Prolactinoma in January of 2015; it was during basketball season when he started not feeling well. Shay has been a varsity basketball and varsity football player throughout his high school years.

Even after we found out about his tumor, the doctors allowed him to continue sports as long as he felt up to it. Shay is so strong and no matter how sick he was, he always pushed through and played. He is my hero!

A lot of people have pituitary tumors (Prolactinoma), but Shay's is complex as there is no opening; the tumor is completely surrounding/engulfing his pituitary. This makes surgery very risky as it could result in Shay going blind, pancreatitis, and diabetes insipidus.

These results would be permanent the rest of his life. Since being diagnosed up until now, the doctors are trying to shrink his tumor with medication making surgery the very last resort.

The pituitary tumor has caused Shay to be short (his growth plates are closed, so he cannot take growth hormones); he is 18 years of age and 5'3," but that did not slow him down with sports; he is an incredible athlete in both football and basketball!

The tumor has also wreaked havoc with his thyroid and testosterone levels. Shay will be under medical advisement for probably the rest of his life, although, he continues to stay positive and upbeat.

Thank you so much for blessing our family! We cannot even begin to express our gratitude!



The family meeting and visiting with Leon Powe, former Celtics player

Kevin, Melinda, Taylor, Shay, and Kylie

Shay receiving gifts center court at the Celtics game



Emmalee's Wish

By Wish Mom, Heather

I would like to start by thanking the Montana Hope Project for this wonderful wish they granted our daughter, Emmalee, and our family. We never imagined being able to take a vacation like this before, and we are so grateful and blessed to have been given this opportunity.

I also need to start by saying this was my husband and kids first airplane ride! I had one 14 years ago, so I guess it was kind of new to me also.

Upon arriving in Orlando, we were greeted by Dave, a volunteer from Give Kids the World (GKTW). Dave helped us retrieve our luggage and took us to get our rental car. He provided us with directions to GKTW, which would be our home for the next week.

Once arriving at GKTW, we were greeted with smiles, love, open arms, and really felt at home. We got our orientation and then settled in, having pizza delivered to our villa. This was just the beginning of our week at GKTW. Every morning we enjoyed breakfast at and seeing our new friend, Robert, another volunteer with GKTW. We enjoyed swimming at the pool, train rides, carousel rides, arcade games, and quality family time.

Also while staying at GKTW, we got to partake in a Halloween and Christmas celebration. We spent time with families like ours. We didn't have to think about doctor's appointments, therapy appointments, work, school, medical bills, or life for a week. We enjoyed the Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, Universal Studios, and our favorite, SeaWorld.

One of the most wonderful things we did while at GKTW was put Emmalee's star in the Castle of Miracles. Emmalee had a star with her name on it placed in the Star Tower inside the castle, which was a very heartwarming experience for our family!

Finally, we got to enjoy ice cream for breakfast on our last day at Give Kids the World!

Our whole family would really like to thank the Montana Hope Project and all of those involved with the wish. We cannot thank you enough for the memories you helped us create and the amazing time you gave us.

Thank you all so very much!

Mike, Heather, Auston, and Emmalee



*Auston, Emmalee, and GKTW volunteer,
Dave*



Emmalee, Mike, Heather, and Auston



Auston and Emmalee

The Magic Kingdom

DONATIONS

Bridger High School

Dave Evans

For the past thirteen years, Vicki Kaufman's Bridger High School chapter of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America have raised funds for the Montana Hope Project, and they continued this tradition in October of 2016. The Bridger kids are very involved in their community, and have raised money for their local food bank and other local charities.

Thank you to these outstanding students and their dedicated counselor, Mrs. Kaufman, for their continued efforts on behalf of Montana's kids.



Knights of Columbus

Shawn Ostberg

On Friday morning, April 22nd, I travelled to Lewistown to the state Knights of Columbus convention. They donated the proceeds of their silent auction to the Montana Hope Project. At approximately 0945 hours, I gave a brief PowerPoint presentation about our organization and, at the conclusion, accepted a check in the amount of \$1,285.

At the first coffee break of the day, I was approached by two members of the Knight of Columbus, Billings chapter #1259. They said that they had made the Montana Hope Project one of their "special projects," and presented us with another check in the amount of \$500.

Missoula Eagles Aerie #32/Lady Eagles FOE #32

Michelle Navarro

Ralf Johnson of the Missoula Eagles Aerie #32 presented a \$6,000 check to Trooper Navarro on behalf of the Montana Hope Project. The Lady Eagles FOE #32 also donated \$100 in support of our cause.



Two Moon Fun Run: Ride/Rodeo

Dave Evans

The Montana Hope Project received over \$2,300 from the Two Moon Fun Run event on September 10th. The generous riders who won the \$250 first place prize in each event donated their winnings back to us! Thank you, Paula Tasker and the Longbranch Saloon in Ballantine, for hosing the event at your outdoor venue!

Barrel racing, shown here, was one of the events of the bike rodeo



Helena

Ghost Busters

Rhonda Huseby

The Montana Hope Project was the recipient of funds raised by the Montana Ghost Busters, Helena Division, on August 20th. The Ghost Busters demonstrated their ghost fighting tools and expertise at a special display during a community garage sale. Proceeds raised will go toward helping the Montana Hope Project grant wishes.



Havre Eagles Club

Shawn Ostberg



Helena Marketing: Becky deMontigny, Helena High

Rhonda Huseby

Our Helena High marketing class took on the challenge of running an event to raise money for an organization of our choice. The first thing that came to my mind was the Montana Hope Project! We felt it was a great cause. To raise this money, our class decided to put together a dodgeball tournament. We figured no one would show up, but we actually had a good turnout with six teams. With donations and entry fees, the tournament brought in \$614. With extra time in our challenge, we decided to also do "Change for Hope." In every classroom at HHS, we put an envelope and information about the Montana Hope Project. Over the course of two weeks, we encouraged students to donate to their homeroom envelope to win a pizza party for their class. After every envelope was collected, we counted \$105 in donations. Our class was glad to raise money for a great organization! We hope this small donation can help a child in need.

Polson Running- Run 4 the Pits

Polson Running organized a fun run, and the \$635.28 raised was donated to the Montana Hope Project.

Zach Miller

DONATIONS

HOG Rally; Belgrade, MT

Dave Evans

On July 22nd, the Montana Hope Project was invited to the Montana Harley Owners Group rally at Yellowstone Harley Davidson in Belgrade. Ride for Hope Coordinator, Dave Evans, had the Gregg family as his special guests. Charley is a 2015 wish recipient, and her brother, Carter, and parents, Kim and Travis, told the riders what Charley's wish meant to them as a family. Charley and Carter got to sit on some Harleys and roll on the throttle.

The proceeds of the 50/50 drawing went to the Hope Project as a donation from the rally. Trooper Ace Meskimen was on hand to talk to the riders and explain the role of the Association of Montana Troopers within the Montana Hope Project.

Thank you to event coordinator, Dick Dowdell, and his crew for allowing us to spread the word!

The Gregg family with Trooper Meskimen and Coordinator, Dave Evans



Mount Helena Eagles #4040

Rhonda Huseby

On September 7, 2016, the Mount Helena Eagles #4040 of the Fraternal Order of Eagles presented the Montana Hope Project with a donation, proceeds of a fundraiser held July 8th and 9th at the East Helena Rodeo Street Dance.



Auxiliary president, Jodi Brass, presented the donation to Troopers Villa, Gleich, and Zufelt



Signe's Big Year

Dear Montana Hope Project,

I want to Thank You so much for this trip. I never thought I could have such an awesome trip. It was so cool. It was so awesome to be able to go to Clearwater Aquarium and be able to actually touch Hope. Then to be able to see Winter. Give Kids the World was cool, I have never seen anything like it. All th characters that came there were awesome. Dad and I rode the carousel every day and sometimes more than once. I now have a \$ gold star that I designed up on the ceiling of the castle there. It will stay there forever. I rode my first roller coaste at Universal, I don't really like rollercoasters. 😊 I met Scooby + Shaggy and they are so funny. I got to taste Butter Beer and yes there is NO alcohol in it. I rode trains + boats. Harry Potter at Universal is so cool. At Disney World I got a rare photo with Marie from Aristocats. She is one of my favorites. Dad and I drove little race cars. This is the first trip I got to take with my mom + dad and we weren't going to the doctor, hospital or dad had to go back to work. What an awesome trip.

Your friend,
Signe Welter



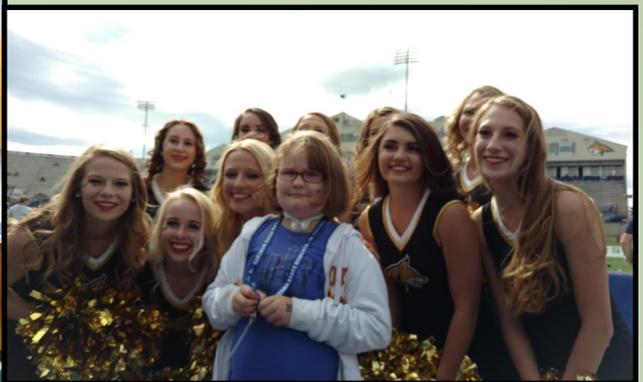
Signe and Hope, the dolphin



Signe is the real super hero if you ask us!



Signe, joined here by her classmates and local area Troopers, is presented with her wish, a dream vacation to Florida!

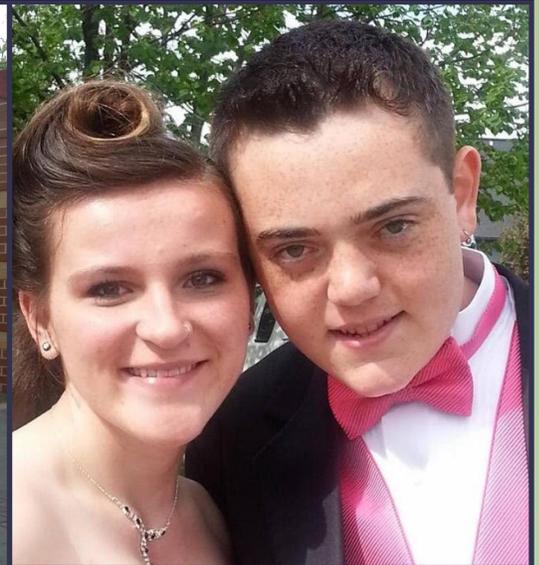


Signe, shown here with the MSU cheerleaders, is enjoying a Bobcats football game, courtesy of MSU Athletics!

Thank you, Signe, for sharing your story with us!

Children of Hope

Milestones



Wish Kids, Aubrey and DJ

Prom 2015

*Wish Kid, Tyson, and Kalani
Homecoming 2016*



Wish Kid, DJ

High School Graduation 2016



*Wish Kid, Gabby, and Austin
Wedding 2016*



Taggert's Wish

By Wish Kid, Taggert



When I acquired my 1976 Ford F-250 on November 1, 2013, I was speechless to finally own a piece of my grandfather's history. He has owned it since the 1970s, and I own it now!

It was just a old green ranch truck that I drove as my daily driver. When I got nominated for the Montana Hope Project, I wished for my truck to be restored to its original stature. The day my truck left for restoration, I was curious what it would look like when I got it back.

The day I walked into the room to see my truck, I felt my arms begin to tingle. When Dave opened the door, I was so overwhelmed with joy that I began to cry. I wrapped my arms around my grandpa to show appreciation for him letting me have this beautiful truck.

The Montana Hope Project, represented by the Montana Highway Patrol and Dave Evans, has made a huge impact on my life. I drive the truck with pleasure, and attend parades whenever possible to see everyone smile as much as I do whenever I look at it.



I am very thankful for this opportunity!

Taggert



Tana's Wish

By Wish Kid, Tana

Hello! My name is Tana, and I got the amazing opportunity from the Montana Hope Project to go to Hawaii with my mom and my sister.

In 2014, I was diagnosed with stage 2 thyroid cancer. It was a long journey, but I was so thankful to have my family.

I choose Hawaii for my wish because I have always wanted to go there to see how beautiful it is. Going to Hawaii was a way to thank my mom and sister for going to all the doctor's appointments, and for being my support system.

In Hawaii, I got to experience things I have never done before! We went paddle boarding, which was a struggle for my mom, went on a hike that lead us to a waterfall, and swam. We got to go snorkeling in the ocean and saw such amazing fish and turtles. At the resort, we got to just chill on the beach and relax, but also got to go on the water slides and swim.

I will never forget going to the pizza place across the street and meeting such nice people who told us about Hawaii.



I am so thankful for the opportunity!

Tana



Emmalee is taking her family to Disney World!



Emily gets her hot tub!



Delanie is ready to soak up the sun in Hawaii!



Kelly is packed and ready to go to Bear Lake, UT!



Darren is going to Disney World!



Glen is ready for Disney World!



Look out, Hawaii, Alex and his family are on their way!



Trooper Gleich surprising Mandy with goodies before her trip to Disney World!



Cash Presley Rose is headed to Disney World!



Shay's basketball team wishing him safe travels to New York and the Celtics game!

Michael is riding in style in his new TracFab-tracked power wheel-chair!



Ryanne is ready for some fun in Hawaii!

Celebrate!



Trinity is taking her family to Disney World!



CMYRYD Car Show

Shepherd, MT

September 17, 2016

Dave Evans, Billings Area Coordinator

The first annual CMYRYD Car Show for the Montana Hope Project was held at RaRa Pizza in Shepherd, MT on September 17th. Each registered vehicle had it's own donation box, and the vehicle with the greatest amount donated won our People's Choice trophy.

We thank Duane DeMars for organizing the car show on behalf of the Montana Hope Project!

During this event, we were able to present Michael with his brand new TracFab-tracked power wheelchair. His grandfather, Tom, is the retired Sheriff of Stillwater County, and he helped Eastern Montana Coordinator, Dave Evans, lift Michael into his new ride and buckle him into his racing harness.

He is now ready to ride in style thanks to the Montana Hope Project!



A few of the many beautiful cars on display during the event



Billings Area Coordinator, Dave Evans, and his grandfather, Tom loading Michael into his new wheelchair



Sergeant Beehler delivering Michael's new wheelchair



Michael approves!



Organized by:

Adult Prom

Megan Bentle, Butte, MT



The Adult Prom was an idea I had about a year ago, while I was sitting down with some friends talking about how Butte never has anything exciting for us to get dressed up for. I had also been thinking a lot about the Montana Hope Project and how much of a blessing they had been to our family.

After my baby sister's wish was granted 2 years ago, I wanted to find a way to give back to them, and that's when it clicked! After months of planning (and hoarding cheap decor), it was finally time!

Of course there was a HUGE snowstorm in Butte that day, and as the day went on, I started to worry if people were even going to show. Opening time came and a couple people trickled in here and there. After about 30 minutes, I started to get even more worried! All of a sudden, it was like a floodgate! I had huge groups coming from everywhere- Dillon, Missoula, even Billings!

We had an outcome of around 125 people! We got to enjoy some delicious food, a candy bar, professional photographer, and of course dance the night away! We also had over 30 Butte area businesses donate items for our silent auction and raffle that took up four huge tables! It was such a blessing, and honestly turned out way better than my high school prom!

I can't forget to give a huge thank you to Joe Wyant (Anaconda/Butte Area Coordinator for the Montana Hope Project), Cyndy Cooney, Dustin Jenkins, and my parents for all the help and support they were able to give me through it all!

I can't wait to do another fundraiser for you all in the future (a rodeo might be in the works soon!)

Thanks again for blessing my family and so many other children in Montana!



Aiden's Wish

By Wish Mom, Karin



We had the amazing opportunity to visit Walt Disney World In January 2016. What an incredible experience and a much needed break from life.

After 3 years of fighting ALL (Leukemia), it was so nice to get away and not have to worry about any doctor's appointments. A great week spent reconnecting with each other and enjoying everything that Give Kids the World had to offer.

Aiden loved everything about the trip, but a definite highlight was riding the Spiderman ride at Universal Studios. He loved it so much, he rode it 6 times! I don't think he missed one ride at Universal Studios or Disney World; he was on a mission to ride them all! Of course he also loved the endless supply of ice cream at Give Kids the World!

We truly cannot thank the Montana Hope Project enough for this incredible experience, helping us to fulfill a lifetime dream by sending us all to Disney World. It was not only a wonderful wish come true for Aiden, but for each one of us. It was a week full of laughs, smiles, and endless Disney magic!

Thank you again, so much, from the bottom of our hearts for this amazing organization.

Sincerely,

Scott, Karin, Marissa, Harrison, Isaac, Keisha, and Aiden



University of Montana



Go
Griz!

Thank you to the U of M for their generosity!



2016

UNDER THE BIG SKY Homecoming

Montana State University

Go Cats!



Thank you,
MSU Athletics!





A special thank you to Sarah Green for continually making our Wish Kids the VIPs of each game!

Team Montana Hope



Greysen's Wish

By Wish Mom, Natalie

When we first applied for Greysen's wish, I was hesitant because I knew there were other kids more medically fragile than him, and I didn't want to take away from those children. Dave assured me that this was about Greysen, and he deserved a wish just as much as anyone else. It brought me back to the day that we sat with Greysen in his hospital room at Denver Children's Hospital awaiting his first of many surgeries. I can remember seeing children that were much sicker than him. I also remember seeing kids that weren't as sick as Greysen and therefore wouldn't face the challenges he would. It was then that I realized I could not compare my child's circumstances to other children's because what other kids were going through did not discredit what my child was going through.

Greysen had spent the first 6 years of his life undiagnosed with Hirschsprung's Disease, which meant 6 years of pain and suffering and doctors telling us he was fine when we knew he wasn't. As a parent, watching your child suffer when you know something isn't right is like screaming, but the sound will not come out. His lack of a diagnosis has led to 3 surgeries and several other complications, some of which are hard for him to talk about due to the nature of this disease. At the time of receiving his wish, Greysen was facing another surgery and was in a very difficult place emotionally. He had developed anxiety from the daily treatments he was receiving and was very depressed. Receiving a wish was just what he needed!

I have two distinct memories from our time at Give Kids the World that I will never forget. The first is standing in the castle of miracles looking at Greysen's star. Wish Kids are given a star with their name on it, and the star is then placed on the ceiling in the castle for all to see. Each star represents a child with an illness. Greysen was able to see that he wasn't the only one fighting a battle. He was able to see that he is not alone in his fight, and that someone else understands what he is going through. The second memory I have is when we decided to go for a swim at GKTW. We had just walked a decent ways from our villa to the pool when we realized we had forgotten Greysen's swim shirt. He always wears his swim shirt because it hides his scars and cecostomy tube. Without hesitation he said, "That's ok, mom. I don't need it here because I know everyone here understands." To experience such freedom was a priceless gift!

Receiving a wish has given Greysen and our family so much more than just a vacation to Disney World; it's given us a new sense of hope and a new family! Being part of the Hope family has given Greysen the support he needs to continue battling this disease, and the opportunity to see that he isn't alone. We are grateful for Greysen's medical journey that has given us an understanding and compassion toward other Hope families going through an illness of their own.



Montana Hope Project,

*You have given us so much more than a wish trip, and for that we are forever grateful.
Thank you for all you do!!!*

Kyle, Natalie, Greysen, Harper, Benley, and Maddie

2016



Lolo, MT

Santa at the Sweets Barn

and Trees of Hope

The 2016 Santa at the Sweets Barn event had everything our supporters have come to love over the last 6 years. In addition to their photos with Santa, participants enjoyed cookies and candy canes, even registered to win a 7-foot stocking filled with goodies! All that was requested in return was a donation in support of the Montana Hope Project.

The Sweets Barn, located in Lolo, MT, is owned by Dave and Bonnie Aicher, and they are always looking for new ways to support the Montana Hope Project. This year was no exception!

For the second year in a row, they set up a Christmas tree lot, where a portion of every tree sold was donated to our organization. Available for purchase prior to Thanksgiving until Christmas were a variety of wild trees, as well as farm trees, all from MT, in various sizes for \$25-\$50.

The Sweets Barn also organized a quilt raffle featuring a beautiful, Christmas-themed quilt created and donated by Melaney Madsen. Raffle tickets were available for purchase throughout the year, and the winner was drawn by Santa himself on the last day of the Santa at the Sweets Barn event.

Check out the Sweets Barn in Lolo for homemade fudge, baked goods, candy, teas, and a variety of Montana gifts!

Thank you to this year's Santa and Mrs. Claus, Chet and Janice Hill, for donating their time and supporting Montana's kids!

Right: Owner, Dave Aicher, giving the donations collected to Michelle Navarro, Missoula Area Coordinator, after 2015's event came to an end



Below: "Trees of Hope" set up at the Sweets Barn, 2015



2015 Event Stats

- * 305 Adults
- * 214 Kids
- * \$850 Donated
- * \$400 Received from "Trees of Hope"

GRAND TOTAL: \$1,250

Santa's Donated Time:

Worked: 24 hours

Earned: \$35/hour for the Hope Project



2016

By

Cate Nelson

Winter Reunion



Photos by DA Imaging

61 families attended our 2016 Winter Reunion!



Thank you to all of our volunteers who continue to make these reunions special for all of us!

Your time and talents are greatly appreciated!

Don't worry, the Grinch didn't steal *our* Christmas! How the Grinch Stole Christmas was simply this year's winter reunion theme, and the Grinch was played by none other than Project president, Glen Barcus! You may have also seen Cindy Lou Who (Cate Nelson and Rhonda Huseby), the Mayor of Whoville (Dave Evans), and Max (Zach Miller) running around Fairmont Hot Springs during this event.

This year's reunion showcased a very relaxed, fun, and playful atmosphere. Participating families were excited about the return of our delicious hot chocolate bar, and also enjoyed many other Grinch-themed snacks and goodies! Of course, Santa, Mrs. Claus, and their trusty elf stopped by for a quick visit before returning to the North Pole!

Tommy Comer was at it again this year, and hand crafted our very own Grinch Sleigh using parts of blown up Maytag washers and other innovative materials! The sleigh provided a great back drop for photos, and was a huge hit among our wish kids and their families!

Wish Kid, Melina, kicked off dinner by singing the National Anthem beautifully before we all enjoyed the delicious meal together.

The Powell County High School chapter of FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America), lead by Kacie Perkins, created lovely gift boxes. These were filled with Grinch popcorn, mints, an ornament, cookies, and a gift card then placed in every family's room before they arrived.

A special thank you to Santa, Mrs. Claus, and their elf, Albertson's, Powell County High School's chapter of FCCLA, Amy Peterson of Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, JC Denton of DA Imaging for the wonderful photos, and Tommy the Sleigh Builder.

Montana Hope Project

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

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www.montanahope.org

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Ask your local treasurer's office about our license plate!



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"The Bears That Care"