

WISHING WELL

ISSUE 45 | 2020



"I wish to be a Zookeeper!"

Elise, 5
retinoblastoma

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Special Thanks to all Wish Granters and Volunteers

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Opinions expressed in this magazine are solely those of the writers and do not necessarily represent those of the Make-A-Wish Foundation®.

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



As serendipity would have it, one encounter led to another and next thing I knew, I was invited by a previous board member of Make-A-Wish Singapore, Gillian, to be a board advisor in 2018 and later Board member in 2020. Concurrently, I also became a wish granter and still an active one, as nothing beats having the front row seat on what we do here at Make-A-Wish, witnessing what the power of a wish can do for our wish children with critical illness.

2020 has been a tough year for everyone and our wish children and wish families are not spared either. Illnesses don't wait for seasons or reasons, and the pandemic made it all the harder on them. Therefore, the work we do here at Make-A-Wish Singapore is even more important in these trying times to give them hope and strength to weather through the tides.

Borrowing a quote from Pinocchio, "The most fantastic magical things can happen, and it all starts with a wish".

In September 2020, we launched the Wish Effect campaign to share with more people on how impactful the wishes are for our wish children. Take my current wish assignment as an example: my wish child, W, is undergoing multiple surgeries these few months and the wish date has been delayed multiple times till the end of the year from earlier in the year due to Covid-19 and her procedures. However, along the wish journey, we kept her spirits up with different activity care packs during the Circuit Breaker, getting her involved in designing her Disney-themed cake for her birthday and video calls with her. She was so thrilled with each anticipation activity and even recorded a video clip to thank my fellow wish granter, Janet and me and told us "I love you"! Seeing W beaming with joy also brought heartfelt joy to Janet and myself and reinforces the meaning in the work we do as wish granters.

When a wish is granted for the wish child, there is an intangible butterfly effect of happiness and positive feelings for everyone involved in it – donors, wish granters, partners, wish child and wish families. It is our hope that with the Wish Effect campaign, more wish referrals will come forth from the public, doctors, partners, donors and just about anyone who knows any children with critical illnesses that could use a wish today.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our Make-A-Wish Singapore team, Board members, donors, partners and wish granters for their dedication and contributions as it takes a village to create successful life-changing wishes for our wish children.

With the holiday festive season upon us, my hope is for the spirit of giving and caring to spill over into the new year where we continue to transform the lives of our wish children!

Sincerely,
Ms Anastasia Ling



Asfa, 5
wish child



A wish changes lives...

Refer a child and be part of
#thewisheffect !

Make-A-Wish
SINGAPORE



www.makeawish.org.sg

The Wish Effect Campaign



We have rolled out a new campaign, The Wish Effect, to raise awareness of the proven, lasting and life-changing impact of a wish on children with critical illnesses and everyone around them. By showcasing the transformational power of wishes, we hope to encourage more people to make referrals, allowing us to grant the wishes of every medically eligible child in Singapore.



As part of the campaign, we've launched a video and storybook, One Tiny Wish, which is inspired by the true story of one of our wish children, whose dream is to become a pilot. The story follows the journey of little Ming, his wish experience and the lasting and positive impact of the fulfilled wish on his recovery journey and everyone around him: his doctors, nurses and family.

Watch the video at <http://bit.ly/OneTinyWish> or check out the storybook at selected public libraries.

Experience #thewisheffect yourself!

Everyone can experience the same joy and happiness of seeing a wish fulfilled with our custom Instagram/Facebook filter, 'The Wish Effect', in the form of a randomised wish generator. Try the filter at <http://bit.ly/thewisheffectfilter>.



Left-right: Wish Children Asfa, Jaslyn, Faiz and Sage



Celebrating Children's Day

We have distributed more than 200 gift packs at KK Women's and Children's Hospital and National University Hospital paediatric wards. Thanks to our generous partner, Be Kind SG and LEGO, these gift packs definitely brought fun and joy into the wards - lifting the children's spirits!

Nurses Day

Every year on 1 August, we would celebrate Nurses Day as an appreciation to our nurses, the frontline of our healthcare system. It is because of stars like you, that our wish children have the courage to fight on with positivity. **Thank you for always being a source of light and strength to our wish kids and their families throughout the years!**



Wish Tree Campaign

We have continued with our annual Wish Tree Campaign to light up the lives of wish children with hope and joy in a new virtual format. For 12 days of Christmas from 25 December to 8 January, corporate partners are invited to adopt their own virtual Christmas tree and start a fundraising page with the organisation. Members of the public can make a donation at <http://bit.ly/mawsgwishtree> to add the top star, give a present, hang a bauble or switch on a light to see the tree decorated and come to life.

Organised by

Make-A-Wish
SINGAPORE

2 DEC - 19 DEC 2020

SANTA RUN for Wishes



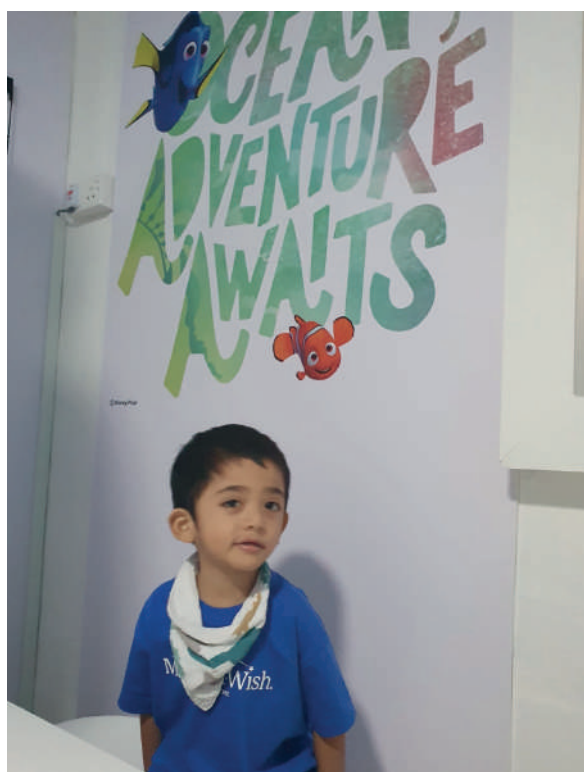
We have concluded our very first virtual Santa Run for Wishes 2020 in December. It is an annual community and fundraising event by Make-A-Wish Singapore, this year's Santa Run for Wishes saw participation from 1,035 runners from 2-19 December 2020.

Thanks to the support from members of public, the total distance recorded is 22,687km – well ahead of the initial aim of 21,517km – the distance from Singapore to the North Pole to bring Santa back to Singapore to spread the festive joy. Leading up to the race period, participants in the run also took part in Santa's little activities such as bi-weekly giveaways, Best Dressed competition, and more. Special mentions to Gary Lim, who was the event's Longest Distance Runner, clocking in an impressive 229.24km.

Big thanks to our sponsors, Allianz SE Reinsurance Asia, Ascapia Capital, FairPrice Foundation, Marina Central, SAP and TE Capital Partners, for making Santa Run for Wishes 2020 a success.

Together with SAP volunteers, Make-A-Wish Singapore was also able to deliver toys to wish children, as part of the Santa on Wheels initiative to bring the celebration to their homes during this festive season. **Thank you SAP and Hasbro for the gift sponsorship!**





“I WISH TO HAVE A FINDING NEMO THEMED ROOM!”

Aaffan, 4
dravet syndrome

Wish granter: Stacy Tan

Aaffan is a huge fan of Finding Dory – seeing Dory greatly cheers him up and he often says “Hi, Dory!” whenever he sees the character. As Aaffan’s condition is triggered by heat, his parents wished for him to have an air-conditioned Finding Dory themed room where he can safely learn and play in with lesser susceptibility to seizure attacks.

While Aaffan was away for surgery, the air-conditioning was first installed in his room so that he could recuperate comfortably and safely at home. At the same time, Aaffan’s family received new gadgets in anticipation for his new room! A home camera was sent over so that Aaffan’s parents can monitor him from any location and he also received an air purifier to keep his room fresh and germ-free.

Over the September holidays, Aaffan’s family was treated to a hotel staycation at Village Hotel Bugis while the Red Spade team worked to makeover his room.

The family had a wonderful time enjoying the hotel facilities and breakfast. They also took the opportunity to buy new toys for Aaffan!

On the day of the room reveal, Aaffan’s room was decorated with Finding Dory-themed items, such as blue balloons, a Finding Dory cake and Finding Dory merchandise from Disney! Aaffan and his brother were absolutely enthralled and thrilled when they entered the room - Aaffan even went to each wall to touch Dory, as if he was giving Dory a high-five! Aaffan and his family spent the rest of the afternoon in their new room playing with their toys, taking photos and watching Aaffan’s favourite movie, Finding Dory. Aaffan’s new Finding Dory-themed room would definitely be a safe, comfortable and happy space for Aaffan and his brother to play, learn and grow up in for many years to come!

"I WISH TO BE A LEGO MASTER!"

Casper, 6
acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

Wish granters: Annabelle Kwok, Shubhra Mardolker, Thea Fernandez

When the wish granters first conducted a Zoom call with Casper, he was excited to show his LEGO collections and shared that he loves building different types of vehicles. He also mentioned that he loves yachts but has not tried building a LEGO yacht before, so what better way for Casper to continue his love for LEGO and yacht than to become a LEGO Master and build one!

As part of his wish anticipation, Casper was provided with a few baseplates with road markings and various LEGO accessories where he can build a mini LEGO city with his collection of LEGO vehicles. Along the build journey, Casper had to take photos of various build accomplishments to "unlock" his visit with the LEGO master!

On his wish day, Casper and his family spent half a day at the LEGO workshop where he met with the LEGO master, Jeffrey, who came to do a special building session with him. But before they began, Casper toured around the workshop and got to look at (and touch!) the various LEGO builds done by Jeffrey and had a free pass to ask as many questions as he wanted! Casper also had the chance to check out Jeffrey's personal workspace where he opened up drawers of LEGO and taught him some building tricks and brick allocations used by LEGO Masters.

Right after Casper was done touring the place, he sat down with Jeffrey to have a hands-on session where they built a yacht together! The yacht design was customised by Jeffrey based on Casper's favourite yacht styles. After they were done building, Jeffrey presented Casper with his own Master Builder certificate! Just as Casper thought the day was coming to an end, the wish granters brought in a LEGO-themed cake and some light finger food for the family to celebrate this special day. Being able to meet the LEGO Master and visiting his workshop was one of the happiest moments of Casper's life. A wish-come-true for wish kids like Casper, provides them with strength to battle through their illnesses and hope for healthier, happier days ahead.



Thank you to
The Patisserie for always
going the extra mile to
create the wonderful
cakes and make the
whole wish experience
extra special
for our wish kids!

“I WISH TO HAVE A RAZER LAPTOP!”

Declan, 13
acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

Wish granters: Fiona Lim, Melody Mok, Shi Hui Tay

Declan was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and he's been progressively recovering and has gone back to school. Being the youngest in the family, he would usually receive hand-me-downs so when our wish granters connected with him, he told them he always wanted to have something that he can call his own. His love for Gundam (Japanese anime series), online and mobile games has led to his one true wish - to have a Razer laptop!

The wish granters organised a mini “shopping spree” where Declan selected his preferred laptop, mouse, headphone and mouse pad so that he can create his very own personal gaming set-up. A week before his wish day, each item was sent to him progressively together with a surprise Secretlab chair to complete this gaming set-up!

The wish granters arranged to have his Razer laptop delivered to him at 12 midnight on his wish day as a surprise. Declan was astonished when he saw the laptop and started setting it up with his sisters. His wish day was completed by a scrumptious meal and a customised Gundam-themed cake. To top it off, Utomik also gave him free access to a series of games!

Declan's family were so happy and contented to see the smile on his face as his eyes glimmered with joy and hope as he went from surprise to surprise. **Big thanks to Secretlab for sponsoring Declan's chair and making his wish that much more special.**





“I WISH TO BE A ZOOKEEPER!”

Elise, 5
retinoblastoma

Wish granters: Elsa Toh, Jocelyn Tan, Leong Wei Wen

Elise is a brave young girl living with retinoblastoma. After knowing Elise for more than a year, it was evident that Elise has a big love for animals so it was no surprise that she wished to be a zookeeper.

A week before her wish day, Elise went to a local animal shelter, Animal Lovers League, where she was introduced to the dogs and cats in the shelter and even had the chance to bring a couple of dogs for walks together! She was especially interested in the way the dogs and cats were cared for in the shelter and she had such a blast that she didn't want the visit to end.

Elise's wish day started off with a picnic with her family at Elephants of Asia in Singapore Zoo. After filling her tummy with her favourite pizza, cupcakes and milo, it was time for her to visit the animals! Before she started her one-day Zoo adventure, she received her zookeeper vest from her friendly guide, Sean!

Elise felt like a real zookeeper for the day and even saw her favourite tigers and visited the RepTopia and Farmyard animals where she had the chance to get up close and personal with the animals! Her wish day ended with a cosy and lovely dinner at Ocean Restaurant with the marine animals and a two-tiered cake decorated with all her favourite animals and a unicorn!

When Elise shares stories about her wish, she gleams with happiness telling all the exciting details of her encounters she had up close with the different types of animals. When a wish is granted, it does more than bring joy to a child's heart. For wish kids like Elise, a wish-come-true provides them with strength to battle through darkness and uplift their families and community around them.



“I WISH TO HAVE A WHEELCHAIR”

Jayna, 11
encephalopathy

Wish granters: Jessica Kusuma, Shinu Arora

11-year-old Jayna was diagnosed with encephalopathy and her one true wish was to have a wheelchair to help her get around with ease.

On her wish day, Jayna got her new wheelchair, which came decorated with her favourite gold and confetti balloons! To make her day even more special, Jayna also received a star projector with nursery rhymes together with a carousel-themed cake as she loves watching moving objects because it brings her much joy and comfort.

When Jayna's wish came true, it had a ripple effect, which left a positive impact on her as well as the entire family. Jayna's wish gave her more than just a mobility aid, it has given her independence and confidence and opened a new world of adventures.



“I WISH TO HAVE A FROZEN THEMED STAYCATION!”

Kayla, 5, Wilm's tumour

Wish granters: Amanda Lim, Joshua Tan

When we first met Kayla back in July 2019, she was a shy girl who was at the end of her treatment processes. During her treatment, Disney's Frozen movies were something she turned to as she could relate to Elsa's story. Over the course of knowing Kayla, she has started to be more confident in sharing her thoughts and ideas with her wish granters. Her initial wish was to travel to Disneyland Florida with her grandmother to meet Elsa, but due to the pandemic, she shared that she would like to have a Frozen themed staycation instead.

A week leading up to her wish day, Kayla received an official Arendale letter to invite her to the staycation. She also received several Olaf puzzle pieces, which she'll have to put together for the photo wall when she arrives at her staycation.

On her wish day, Kayla received the final piece of the Olaf puzzle at the check-in and she couldn't wait to put Olaf together for the photo wall set up in her room. After building the snowman, Kayla proceeded to the next activity, which is to make the Arendale flag as the final touch to her photo wall. Kayla also enjoyed mini activities such as pool games and treasure hunt during her two-day staycation and movie screening of Frozen 1 and 2.

The wish granters arrange for a surprise Frozen-themed photoshoot for Kayla and her family on the second day of her staycation too! She enjoyed a princess makeover where she was transformed into Elsa while her younger sister was turned into Anna, her younger brother dressed as Olaf and even her dog, Toby, was decked out as Sven!

As the second night of her staycation came close to an end, lo and behold, she received a surprise present and handwritten letter from Queen Elsa! Kayla was over the moon to receive the personalised letter from her favourite character. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Kayla and she had the chance to enjoy making new memories with her loved ones.



Call for Referrals

A child diagnosed with a critical illness spends their days in and out of medical procedures and misses out on the everyday pleasures of life.

Make-A-Wish believes in the healing power of a wish. By helping these children fulfil a cherished dream, you can reignite their sense of hope and imagination, and give the family additional strength to battle these illnesses.

Who is eligible for a wish?



**Singaporeans,
Permanent Residents,
Dependent Pass Holders**



**Diagnosed with a critical
medical condition***

*Critical medical conditions include but are not restricted to, childhood cancers, certain types of muscular dystrophy, certain neurological or genetic diseases, cardiac conditions, renal failure and traumatic injuries.



**Between the ages of
3-18 years old**

We depend on you to make a referral. Drop us an email at wish@makeawish.org.sg or call/text **9366 2004** to refer a deserving child.

Donation Form

To make a donation online, please visit <https://makeawish.org.sg/support-us/#donate>

My Particulars

Full Name:

NRIC / FIN Number:

Contact Number:

Address:

Email:

Payment Method

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$300 ☐ \$500 Other Amounts: \$

**Donations above \$50 will be entitled to 250% tax deductible*

☐ I wish to remain anonymous

Frequency

☐ Annual Donation ☐ Monthly Donation ☐ One-Time Donation

Payment Type

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Credit Card Number:

Name on Credit Card: Expiry Date: (MM/YY)

☐ Cheque Cheque Number:

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