

Wish Stories



Darrien Takes Down the Bad Guys 'Cops' Style

Seven-year-old Darrien suffers from Neurofibromatosis (tumors that grow along nerves in the body or on/under the skin) and seizures. Yet, he has always had a dream to protect and serve. Thanks to Detective Ron Waddell, Lt. William Hegwood, Chief Hook and Mayor Max Bacon, Darrien's wish was fulfilled. Arriving at the station in his Hummer limo, Darrien put on his uniform, got sworn in by the Mayor, attended his shift meeting, and then off he went to patrol the streets. He caught one driver running a stop sign and immediately ticketed him for his wrong doing. When flanked by media, a call came through on the radio that the man 'everyone' was looking for had been spotted at Belmont Shopping Plaza. Darrien and his partner, Lt. Hegwood, rushed to the scene and brought down a 6 foot 5 bad guy who had been stealing copper from local buildings. Darrien had him handcuffed before backup could even arrive. Back at the station the thug was booked, and the streets were safe once more!



Hannah Swims with the Dolphins in Florida

Hannah is a sweet and beautiful little girl who is almost four years old. From birth, Hannah was diagnosed with the life threatening medical condition, oxidation phosoletion. Hannah's illness has caused severe developmental delays leaving her without the ability to speak. She also suffers from intractable seizures that she is unable to control. Hannah's illness tends to shorten a child's life span so much so that they generally do not survive past age two or three. Therefore, Hannah's family understands the significant gift of each day they spend with their daughter. When Hannah qualified to receive a wish from the Make-A-Wish Foundation®, her family got to work exploring many wish ideas that they hoped would please their little girl. They wanted something that would give their family the opportunity to spend time together in a warm climate without worrying about treatments or therapy for Hannah. The decision was made that Hannah's wish would be to attend a specialized dolphin swim program in Florida for fragile children just like Hannah. In August 2007, Hannah and her family flew to Key Largo for seven days.

The program Hannah attended gave her the opportunity to spend time in the water with gentle dolphins all around her. The program was completely customized to Hannah's abilities and needs, and she smiled the whole time. During the week the family also enjoyed the Florida sun, sand, and ocean as well as entertainment with music and art; which Hannah really enjoyed. Hannah's Aunt explained after the family returned home from the wish that the trip allowed Hannah and her parents time to relax, something they have not been able to do since she was born. The family expressed how amazing it was to have a fun and enjoy each day without worry. Hannah's wish has provided her family strength and hope as they prepare for the difficult medical considerations that face Hannah in the future.



Isabella Meets Minnie Mouse

Three-year-old Isabella loves for her parents to read her books, especially those about Sesame Street, Winnie the Pooh, and most of all Mickey and Minnie Mouse. Isabella was diagnosed at birth with hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS). In HLHS, the entire left side of the heart is underdeveloped. When the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Georgia and Alabama visited Isabella to see what she wanted for her wish, she thought of her favorite books and knew she wished to meet Mickey and Minnie Mouse! She was extremely excited from the moment she got to Disney World, for every day was magical! Her favorite moment was when she met Minnie and Mickey! Isabella was in disbelief when she met Minnie in person and did a "triple take" as though she could not believe it was the

real Minnie! Later, Isabella saw Mickey at his house. Isabella's parents said that they truly enjoyed the Give Kids the World Village and were amazed by how attentive everyone was, and they loved how everything was all about Isabella. Her parents were in tears when they called Make-A-Wish to thank them for granting Isabella's wish! Isabella's father said that this was the best experience their family has ever had. It was amazing to see their little princess in one of the most magical and happiest experiences of her life! They didn't have to worry about medicines and treatments, and Isabella just got to be a kid!