



DREAM FACTORY

of Greater Kansas City

March 2021 Newsletter

Letter from Lisa



Take a moment and think about the most recent rainbow you sighted as it softly gleamed a spectrum through the sky and the clouds began to separate. Remember the feeling as the raindrops lessened and the overcast skies began to clear allowing the sunlight to create an enchanting arc of pure color. For me, the miracle of a rainbow generates an instant feeling of hope, peace, a sense of energy and comfort. I am reminded of the promise in which it represents.

Imagine a child experiencing the storm of battling a serious illness. They are forced to endure ongoing doctor and hospital visits, grueling treatments, transfusions, medical testing and many other exhausting, life altering procedures during a time when they should be enjoying the innocent life of being a child. Children dream and when their dreams are granted, it brings them hope, a smile from the inside out and a moment of normalcy, much like a rainbow after a storm. This often times, builds inner strength and increases antibodies necessary for children to fight their disease more effectively. It allows them an opportunity to temporarily redirect their focus and create amazing memories during a time of extremely challenging moments.

The power of a child receiving a dream is so much more than just visiting Disney World, experiencing a shopping spree or the backstage scene of a Broadway show, meeting a celebrity or receiving a customized adaptive playground. Lifetime memories are created, lives are changed and outcomes are improved. Once a child is granted a dream, they become part of the Dream Factory family where support and encouragement is ongoing, love is embraced and families are brought together.

Sincerely,
Lisa McIntire
President, Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City

Featured Dream Story

Malanea Rake



Malanea Rake is seventeen years old and has polycystic kidney disease, which means she gets painful cysts on her kidneys and as a result, they are failing. She is currently on the waiting list for a kidney transplant. When her dream was originally granted, she planned to go to Disney World to meet her favorite character, Stitch. Due to COVID-19, her trip was cancelled. Not knowing when her dream of visiting Disney World could become a reality, she decided to request a shopping spree as her dream.

Elizabeth DeLaMare was Malanea's Dream manager. Elizabeth is Allie Erickson's sister who is a former Dream child and current volunteer. Elizabeth and her husband met Malanea and her parents at the Legends Shopping Center and shopped 'til they dropped. Malanea bought clothes, shoes, makeup, and all the Stitch merchandise they could find. Since it was Malanea's original dream, Elizabeth strived to make Stitch the focus of her day which was an easy task considering she takes a special liking to the little guy herself. They enjoyed lunch together and then headed to Best Buy, where Malanea picked out a new tablet and Apple watch. Next up was the Vera Bradley store, where they spent the rest of the day getting all the purses and blankets you can imagine.

Malanea continued to express how grateful she was and what this day meant to her. The day was an emotional one for Malanea's family and for Elizabeth, but seeing her so happy, excited and fulfilled made for a rewarding day for

all! Malanea was so happy, felt so special and couldn't believe she was able to get all of those things. Malanea and Elizabeth became fast friends and Elizabeth felt blessed to be a part of her day.

Board Member Spotlight

Our Board Member of the month is Christie Glaeser



Christie's skillset and passion for our children is embraced by both, our internal team and our dream families. Christie is the first to connect with the families of our dream applicants and consistently shows a willingness to serve the needs of our organization in ways that go beyond the role as an applicant screener. She is a reliable and valuable member of our team. She has worked countless hours to reconstruct our record keeping system in order to automate and assist with the management of our internal processes and procedures. Christie is quick to offer support when needs arise and we are blessed to have her as our volunteer and board member!

Q: How long have you volunteered with the Dream Factory?

A: I have been with The Dream Factory since October of 2017 as the Director of Screening responsible for reviewing applications, contacting the families and collecting the required documentation to process the requests.

Q: Why did you join as a volunteer?

A: My friend, Ali Skilling, has been an integral part of the fundraising efforts and Board of Directors for many years. She asked me if I was interested since she knew I had non-profit experience and a passion to help children. It was a great match!

Q: What does the Dream Factory mean to you?

A: As a parent, I think of what the families are pushing through and I am so happy to be part of their experience in a positive way. Often times, a dream is a healing experience, closure or a method for hope. To me, we provide positive moments and closeness that a family needs in a time of significant challenges.

Q. What is the highlight of your time as a volunteer?

A: I have been a Director of Screening since late 2017 and have encountered so many experiences I would consider highlights along the way. I am always excited to see how the dream is completed and to see the pictures from the families afterwards. I love to see the pictures of delight at Disney and the first walk on the beach for children. I take pride in knowing that The Dream Factory creates memories for so many families.

Q. What is your occupation and your interests?

A: I am part of a restaurant operations group that owns and operates 23 locations in 5 states for a national concept as a franchisee. My son is 10 and is always my first priority. I admit my video game skills are much to be desired so much of our time is playing with our dogs and watching YouTube. I enjoy cooking for my family and friends and traveling anywhere warm.

Volunteer Spotlight

Our Volunteer of the month is Allie Erickson



As Lisa mentioned in her Letter, once a dream child, always a dream child. We welcome them to volunteer once they are 18 years old and Allie is doing just that! Allie volunteers as a dream manager and is quick to offer her time to support our events as needed. We appreciate her heart, passion and spirit towards making a difference for other dream children by passing on her experience as a dream child.

Q: How long have you volunteered with the Dream Factory and why did you join?

A: I have been volunteering with Dream Factory since September of 2019. I joined the volunteer community because of my experience as a Dream child at age 6. I have Type 1 Diabetes and my dream was to visit Disney World. I saw how much of an impact it made on me and my family and I wanted to give back to the organization that did so much for me.

Q: What does the Dream Factory mean to you?

A: To me, the Dream Factory is a celebration. Anyone can give their kids a fun time or a fun vacation or a fun day, but the Dream Factory does so much more than that. It gives kids who don't typically get to be in the spotlight a chance to be celebrated, heard and appreciated. The Dream Factory makes the entire experience 100% about the kids and experiencing this first hand, it makes the kids feel like, even if only for a brief moment, the world gets to revolve around them for a day or two.

Q. What is the highlight of your time as a volunteer?

A: The highlight of my experience as a volunteer was getting to help at Dream Factory hosted events. My favorite is the Golf Tournament. Thus far, I have volunteered at two and hopefully will experience many more to come because it's such a positive experience for everyone involved!

Q. What is your occupation and your interests?

A: I am currently a Dental Assistant and I absolutely love it! I really enjoy spending time with my family and I love to crochet and shop. I have loved being part of the Dream Factory and hopefully will get to stick around for a long time!

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THURSDAY
04.29.21

No 04292021

BOULEVARD OF DREAMS

Dreamin' ✨ drive-in

AT THE

BENEFITING THE DREAM FACTORY

YOU'RE INVITED
TO A SPECIAL BOULEVARD OF DREAMS EVENT

TIME:

GATES OPEN AT 7:00 PM
EVENT BEGINS AT 8:30 PM

WHERE:

BOULEVARD DRIVE-IN
MERRIAM, KS

GA: \$100/CAR (2-4 PPL)



VIP: \$200/CAR (4-6 PPL)
INCLUDES SNACK PACK AND 1 BOTTLE OF WINE

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To register and donate for the Boulevard of Dreams event:

kcdream.ejoinme.org/drivein

Upcoming Dream Factory Events

- 18th Annual Pinstripers Auction @ World of Wheels @ Bartle Hall, March 26-28th
- Dream Catcher Release by East Forty Brewing, April 17th

- 11th Annual Boulevard of Dreams event, April 29th @ Blvd Drive-In
- 5th Annual Rockin' for Dreams event, May 15th @ The Uptown Theatre
- BMA Dance & Dine with the Stars event, June 12th @ Sheraton Downtown
- 5th Annual Driving for Dreams Golf Tournament, September 16th @ Shoal Creek Golf Course

Scholarship Opportunity

The Larry Moore Scholarship application deadline is April 30, 2021.

This is an amazing opportunity for five of our Dream children to receive a college/ trade school scholarship for \$3,000.

Download the application form here: kcdream.org/larry-moore-scholarship

Find Out More & Get Involved

Supporting Dream Factory Through Monthly Giving

Our Mission at the Dream Factory is to make dreams come true for children with life-altering illnesses. Monthly gifts to support this mission may be made to Dream Factory through the following methods:

1. One time donations
2. Recurring Giving; which is an easy way to participate in funding the dreams of children battling chronic and critical illnesses to bring them hope and courage as they fight to combat their disease.



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of Greater Kansas City

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Our mailing address is:

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