

We Get Letters

RON - Ron's "special" wish was to attend the 1987 All Star Baseball game in Oakland, California. (April 7, 1987)

Dear Special Wish,

Twenty-four years ago today, my fourteen-year-old brother, Ron, was buried after a hard fought battle with cancer. The wish you granted him 25 years ago was for our family to attend the 1987 All Star Baseball game in Oakland, California. I've often thought that we should let you know what a wonderful time we had . . .

Our family was dairy farming at the time, so this vacation was a lot different than anything we had ever experienced. First Class air travel as the airline bumped us when they heard why we were going, staying at the same hotel as the ball players, riding the elevators with the players, having two rooms (we usually got one, and I got the floor), gift baskets waiting for us in our rooms, turn down service, valet parking, and room service each morning. Eric Davis, Ron's favorite player visiting our room, eating multiple courses at a restaurant, sightseeing, The Game, eating lots of food at The Game (we had \$100 to spend on food), freezing at Candle Stick Park, drinking hot cocoa at the ball game, and hearing my very frugal dad say "yes" to virtually all of our pleas.

The pictures and the memories of all the new things we shared together 25 years ago are still very precious! So 25 years after the fact, thank you!!!

Sincerely,

A Grateful Sister

TRUITT S. - Truitt's "special" wish was to visit Mickey Mouse at Disney World. (

Dear ASW,

We think about Truitt's wish trip every single day. I still cry when I look at the pictures!!! WE will never be able to thank you, and everyone at "A Special Wish" for what it did for our entire family. We love you guys! Hugs!

Love,

Lauren S.

CORBIN N. - Corbin's "special" wish was to visit Disney World. (

Dear Special Wish Friends,

I don't even know how to begin to explain the overwhelming gratitude we have for A Special Wish Foundation and the efforts that were made to grant Corbin his wish to go meet Mickey Mouse.

We had the blessing of staying in a magical place called Give Kids the World Village during our time in Disney, and boy, did they live up to the name! We were treated like royalty from the moment we were picked up and taken to the airport till the day we left. There was so much provided to us at the Village, like Disney character visits, daily gifts left for Corbin in our villa, themed parties every night, and even an ice cream parlor open for breakfast! There was not one detail that was left out.

This trip was a much needed break from reality, not just for Corbin, but for my husband and me as well. We had been consumed with our daily stressful routines of balancing work, hospital visits, and everyday life. This trip allowed our family much needed time spent together and gave us an opportunity to focus on the real blessing: being alive, healthy and happy together. We cannot say thank you enough, but the constant smiles on Corbin's face, and the sheer excitement from morning till night, will forever be cherished.

Although we may have left Disney World behind, the memories that we made as a family will always be in our hearts. I just don't have the words to express how much you all mean to us. Thank you Special Wish!

With sincere love,

The Norrod Family

AYDEN J. - Ayden's "special" wish was to visit Mickey and Minnie Mouse at Disney World. (

Dear Special Wish,

Having the opportunity to take our miracle baby boy, Ayden, to Disney World was like a dream. He was thirteen months old when he was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma Cancer. My husband and I thought it would be great if he could go to Disney World around Christmas time. The month of November 2014 marked the first year we were able to see stars for our Ayden being CANCER FREE! The "A Special Wish Foundation" family made our son, and our wish for him, come true.

Ayden enjoyed every day in Florida. He absolutely loved the "Give Kids the World" activities, property, and villa! He was scared at first to meet Mickey Mouse, because he's only seen him on television. After the second encounter, he was so excited to meet all the oversized characters from his favorite television station, "Disney, Jr."

It's very hard to express in words what his wish meant to the three of us. We feel so blessed and honored to have had the opportunity to experience such an amazing gift for Ayden.

Thank you all!

The Jackson Family

"J3" - J3's "special" wish was to visit Disney World with his family. (

"J3", as he was called by his family, was diagnosed with a brain tumor. His family wanted to take him to Disney World to enjoy a vacation as a family while he was still able to travel. A Special Wish Foundation (ASW) coordinated everything from flights to meals, and everything in between, to ensure this family's "special" wish came true.

J3's family wanted ASW to know what this wish trip meant to them . .

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Dear A Special Wish,

I can't thank you enough for giving us such a wonderful final experience with J3 and all of my family who were able to make it. We will never forget the generosity that all involved gave to us and our beloved son, J3. The importance of what all of you do can never be thanked or stated enough. We would have never been able to experience that trip without you and you were the only organization that allowed a child his age to receive a wish. It is with great sadness that I must tell you that J3 passed away just five days shy of his 21-month birthday. He may have only been on this earth for a very short time, but he was loved by all who met him and who got the chance to see that beautiful smile and those flirty eyelashes.

Heaven has a beautiful angel tonight.

J3's dad

DAX L. - Dax's "special" wish

Dear Special Wish,

I wish I had good news to report. To be honest, Dax is bad. After our last family vacation you planned, he started having very bad pain spells. Then they found out his cancer was back and aggressive. Now, we are back in Memphis and he just received his second bone marrow transplant. His pain is so bad he can't move right now. He has had severe damage to his spine causing him to stop moving.

I hope you know what you did for us. As I sit here holding his aching body, I think of the great days we had together on our trip. The beautiful condo, Disney, sunshine and happy people everywhere. Those memories help me get through each day. I have been living in the hospital with him now for 26 days. Life is just so precious and I love him with everything I have. We are getting through each day because of kind people like you. Thank you.

With much love,

Julie L.

CARLEE R. - Carlee's "special" wish

Dear Special Wish,

We're back home with amazing memories to last a lifetime! You really thought of everything. The hotel was exceptional, the rental car worked out

The Jonas Brothers, along with Matthew, went out of their way to make Carlee feel special. At their sound check before the concert, they sang "Hello Beautiful" to Carlee. She got hugs from all and a short visit. We had great seats for the concert - fourth row back, center stage - Carlee was enthralled!

Our sightseeing included a ferry trip under the Golden Gate Bridge and around Alcatraz, lunch on the wharf, a driving tour of the city and the Victorian homes, shopping and dinner in China Town, Muir Woods with the giant redwoods, a tour of Pixar Studios, and of course, a cable car ride.

Many, many thanks to everyone at A Special Wish Foundation. You really do know how to make a child (and an entire family) feel special, and we sincerely appreciate all you have done!!!

My "special wish" for all of you is a well-deserved return on the blessings you so graciously provide for others.

All the best,

Nancy R.

JACKSON G. - Jackson's "special" wish was to go to Disney World and meet Spiderman. (

Jackson G. has been a HUGE Spiderman fan since his mom can remember . . . watching the cartoon, collecting Spiderman action figures and other memorabilia, reading the comic books, watching the movies and memorizing every line, idolizing Tobey Maguire, and loving to wear his "Spidey" costume!

So naturally, Jackson's wish was to visit the Marvel Theme Park at Disney World to meet his Super Hero! And he thought his gift package, with autographed picture of Tobey Maguire and Spiderman journal, cards, and hat were awesome! He had no idea what was in store for him after taking his first plane ride!

Jackson's mother, Nikki, wrote:

Jackson's star in the castle at Give Kids the World was such a special memory. We left the Village after seeing where it is (Gator Galaxy), truly an

amazing experience. Give Kids the World was so awesome!!! The kids had the time of our lives, but so did the adults, especially just watching them have carefree fun was like a present in itself. We loved our villa but played so hard we mostly just slept there, since we spent our days at the parks. We had a cute blue villa and just taking a walk in Give Kids the World was fun...looking at the candy land like houses and ICE CREAM! Now I know what they mean by ice cream for breakfast...Jackson had a banana split every morning! My parents bought him the ice cream for breakfast t-shirt. LOL! My parents, the kids and I had a lot of great moments just having ice cream together. It was always more than a great dinner at The Gingerbread House. Everything was delicious and the volunteers are just wonderful people to see everyday. They went out of their way to help with our trays. We loved ordering pizza after the parks, too!

You really gave Jackson the best surprise! Spiderman was so awesome! The Super Heroes Meet and Greet was the best! His face was priceless!! We even found Spidey the next day. Jackson wanted to find Spiderman because he wanted to give him a comic that he made. Spiderman met with him again! It was unbelievable, the chances of that happening....but the best part was...and can make me teary eyedis that Spiderman told Jackson he spoke with the "Captain" about it and he was now an Avenger! He also told Jackson that his comics will be on HIS refrigerator...and that Jackson could be the next Stan Lee!!! Jackson was speechless for so long and then he burst out, "I'm an avenger! I'm gonna make comics!"...he said. "I could be the next Stan Lee.!" 😊

Taylor and Jackson had special sibling time and the whole family had so many special moments. This made us closer and stronger having had this experience together. It's something most families never get a chance to experience together. Saying thank you cannot even come close to expressing how special this was and is and always will be for us. It's because of A Special Wish Foundation and Give Kids the World that we all have this magical week to cherish. Jackson had the kind of gifts and opportunities that I always want to give him when I know that I can't take away his disease or fix the challenges that come with autism and his big sister who has had to spend so much time taking a backseat or having to worry about big issues at such a young age.

We love you all. Thank you from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of my parents, Cindy and Dave, and my brother, David.

Sincerely,

Nikki