

WISH GRANTER NEWS

MISSION DELIVERY LEADERSHIP CHANGE

Nearly eight years and thousands of wishes later, Bridget O'Connell is leaving Make-A-Wish Illinois on Friday, July 29th to pursue an executive director opportunity with a nonprofit working to end child hunger.

Ryan Blackburn will immediately succeed Bridget as Vice President of Mission Delivery. Since April 2014, Ryan has led Make-A-Wish Illinois' marketing team. He is poised to lead our chapter's wish emergence efforts and pursuit of our vision to reach every eligible child with a life-changing wish experience.

TRAVEL WISH EMERGENCE UPDATE **Disneyland & Hawaii**

As you know, wishes that involve domestic air travel or large gatherings are now possible for all families, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

Families that have been waiting to travel to Disneyland in California don't have to wait much longer! Disneyland will start accepting wish requests on August 15th for travel starting in November 2022. If your wish child has been waiting to visit Disneyland, please ask the family for three date ranges in November or later and email that information to wishreemergence@illinois.wish.org.

To create more equitable experiences for all wish kids traveling to Hawaii from across the U.S., Make-A-Wish Hawaii will arrange two activities—not three—for each wish child and family. In addition, Make-A-Wish Illinois will cover the cost of a lei greeting upon families' arrival in Hawaii. If your wish child dreams of visiting Hawaii, please encourage them to list their desired activities in order of priority.

JUNE WISHES

Special thanks to the incredible volunteers who helped make dreams come true for **74 children** in June!

[Wish & Volunteer List](#)