



DREAM FACTORY

of Greater Kansas City

April 2021 Newsletter

Letter from Lisa



As spring presents new beginnings, this year's season especially spawns a spirit of renewed energy and inspiration. After several months of ongoing postponements, restrictions and limitations impacting our options for granting dreams, our team of passionate and dedicated volunteers are eager to administer the dreams that have been delayed due to the pandemic.

While we've been forced to postpone a number of dreams due to travel and contact restrictions, thankfully community support has continued. As a result, we are well positioned with the resources to begin granting the 50 dreams currently in our pipeline. These resources include volunteers, community partners, sponsors and donors who dedicate time, funding, creativity and

connections which generates unique experiences to bring lifetime memories, hope and smiles to our children battling chronic & critical illnesses.

I want to express a special appreciation to one of our long-time supporters, the pinstriping artists. This team of artists have a passion for making dreams come true and positively impacting the lives of children fighting critical illnesses. I encourage you to read their story below which outlines the history of their ongoing support throughout the past 19 years.

I also want to specially thank a team of dedicated volunteers who have organized the annual Boulevard of Dreams event. This group exemplifies a heart and passion for making dreams come true and as they host this year's 11th Annual event, Dreamin' at the Drive-In, we realize the significant source of funding this has become for The Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City.

Boulevard of Dreams originated 12 years ago when a group of young professionals in the design industry came together with a goal of raising proceeds for a local non-profit that supported children in need. They connected with The Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City and decided to plan a benefit fundraiser that would raise awareness and funding to assist in granting dreams for children battling serious illnesses. After 10 years of hosting this event, it has grown from 200 attendees raising \$12,000 for our organization to 400 guests generating \$130,000 to benefit The Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City. Collectively, this event has raised nearly \$750,000!

I am in awe of the ongoing support offered by the Kansas City Community which provides the necessary resources to allow our organization to continue making dreams a reality. It is the ongoing encouragement, love and overall support expressed by our partners, volunteers, donors, sponsors, friends and families that inspire The Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City to embrace endurance and overcome challenges to bring children sunshine during their times of darkness.

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

Featured Dream Story

Nick Mershon



Nick Mershon was diagnosed with Generalized Dystonia 3 years ago. This type of dystonia affects his whole body, but his feet, legs, hands, neck, shoulders, face, and mouth are most involved. Nick's symptoms vary greatly day-to-day but

are managed through medications, Deep Brain Stimulation programming, massage therapy and medication.

Nick has always been a horror fan and one of his dreams was to attend Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios in Florida. The Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City made his dream a reality! Nick's family would like to express a special thanks to Nick's Dream Manager Ralph Turec, and all the volunteers and donors who helped make Nick's dream come true.

On October 10, 2020, Ralph Turec and Laura Foster, a representative of Country Financial who directly funded Nick's dream, surprised Nick with his trip and then celebrated with monster donuts. A few weeks later, Nick, along with his 2 moms and his older brother, traveled to Orlando to visit Halloween Horror Nights along with several other rides and attractions at Universal Studios.

While in Florida, they took time to visit Star Wars Galaxy's Edge at Disney and spent a day at Cocoa Beach. Nick's favorite highlights of the trip included loading up on lots of horror merchandise and drinking unlimited milkshakes! He still loves telling his classmates and teachers about his trip, especially how his moms and brother got scared in the haunted houses!

As Nick's condition progresses, it is becoming harder for him to have the strength and stamina to leave the house for long periods of time. Nick's family is so thankful for The Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City, Ralph and Country Financial for working to grant Nick's dream trip during a time he was able to maximize his enjoyment of the experience, even in lieu of COVID-19 complicating travel.



Supporter Spotlight

Our Supporter Spotlight and Dreamcatcher of the month is the Pinstripers

Since 2003, a group of artists have gathered every year to demonstrate their skills as pinstripers at the World of Wheels Car Show in Kansas City, MO. Pinstriping is the art of hand-painted graphics, lettering, stripes, cartoons, etc., that is done primarily on vehicles, such as Hot Rods. Each year, the pinstripers create a collection of their artwork and set up a booth displaying their talents, painting various panels and other items during the show. The pinstripers provide their artwork to the many auctions held during the show with 100% of the money

raised going to The Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City. The 2021 show was held March 26-28th and raised over \$10,000, bringing the 19 year total to well over \$200,000 for our organization.

When these artists were asked what the Dream Factory means to them, they responded: "We held the Dream Factory close to our hearts as we were deciding which charity we would adopt to be the beneficiary of the auction; we wanted an organization that truly helped bring joy to those they serve. Another deciding factor is that the Dream Factory is made up of 100% volunteers. We wanted to make sure our efforts were going to a worthy cause, rather than to pay employees and only have a small percentage of our donations actually going to help the children.

Every year, we get excited throughout the auctions as we watch the dollars add up and we can't wait to hear the final total realizing our hard work has paid off. A very special moment was a couple years ago when a past dream recipient who had received his dream 15 years prior visited the pinstripers booth. He and his father are hot rod enthusiasts and shared with us the story about his dream and what it will always mean to him and his family. This really brought everything into perspective for us sparking our desire to work even harder to help fulfill more dreams for more children".

Board Member Spotlight

Our Board Member of the month is Shelly Campbell



Shelly and her husband, Eric, have been instrumental in the pinstriping artists selecting The Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City as the recipient of their fundraising efforts year after year since 2003. When managing a dream, Shelly invests her heart and soul into creating a special experience and exuberates a sincere passion for bringing smiles and gleams of hope when revealing their dreams. Shelly is a dedicated member of our Board of Directors and is reliable and invested in not only fulfilling her role as Secretary, but also stepping up to support the various needs of our organization. We appreciate her passionate heart, commitment and dedication to making dreams come true!

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

A: I joined the Dream Factory as a volunteer in 2016, became a dream manager

in 2017, and joined the Board of Directors in 2018, where I currently serve as Secretary.

Q: Why did you join as a volunteer?

A: My husband and I have been fundraising for the Dream Factory since 2003 as part of the Pinstripers Auction, held annually. We were acquainted with a few of the board members at the auction one year. As we learned more about the organization and saw their passion for what they do, we decided we would love to be a part of such a wonderful group to witness for ourselves the magical work they do for the children.

Q: What does the Dream Factory mean to you?

A: It makes me feel very honored to know that I may have a small part of making a child's dream come true, and to allow them to take a break from their situation and doctor's visits for a moment to just be a kid and enjoy making special memories with their family.

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

A: I think my very first dream reveal will always be special to me as it took place in a restaurant with a large gathering and the child was so surprised and excited. I was so thrilled to be presenting this opportunity that my voice was a little shaky and I had tears in my eyes.

Q. What is your occupation and your interests?

A: I work as a child support enforcement specialist in a county prosecutor's office. I love to read, watch movies, and travel with my husband and daughter whenever possible.

Please join our April event!

The Boulevard of Dreams, Dreamin' At The Drive-in

No 04292021

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

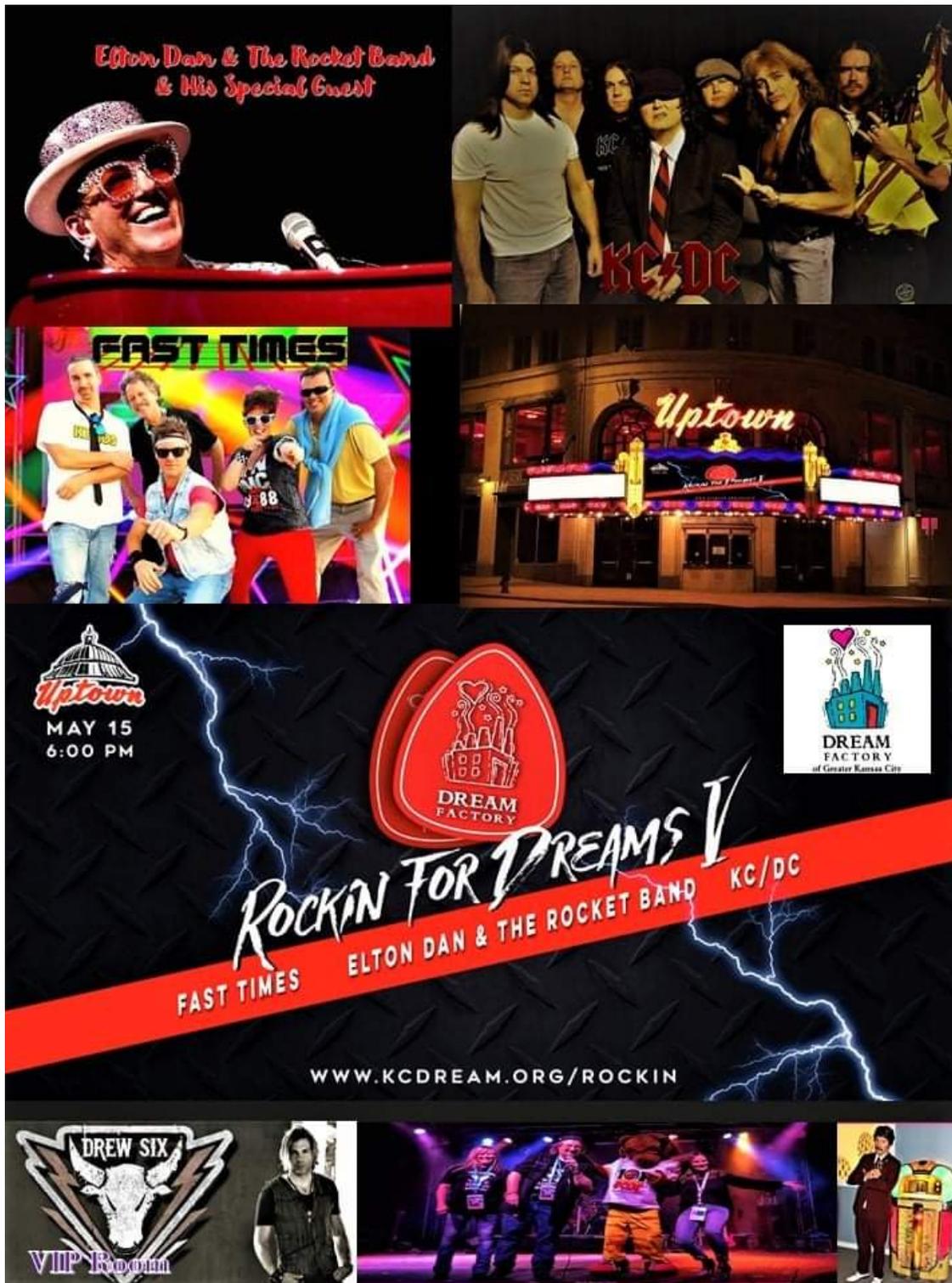
**DREAM
FACTORY**
of Greater Kansas City



To register and donate for the Boulevard of Dreams event:

kcdream.ejoinme.org/drivein

5th Annual Rockin' For Dreams Event



Upcoming Dream Factory Events

- 4/17/21: Dream Catcher Release by East Forty Brewing
- 4/29/21: 11th Annual Boulevard of Dreams event @ Blvd Drive-In
- 5/15/21: 5th Annual Rockin' for Dreams event @ The Uptown Theatre
- 6/12/21: BMA Dance & Dine with the Stars event @ Sheraton Downtown
- 7/24/21: Dreamville USA event @ Downtown Lexington, MO

- **9/10/21:** Rockin' for Kids event @ Knuckleheads
- **9/16/21:** 5th Annual Driving for Dreams Golf Tournament @ Shoal Creek Golf Course

Scholarship Opportunity Deadline

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.



**DREAM
FACTORY**
of Greater Kansas City

Donate Now



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Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 26185
Overland Park, KS 66225

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