



DREAM FACTORY

of Greater Kansas City

February 2021 Newsletter

Letter from Lisa



February is my favorite month of the year because it promotes love, heart-

healthy living and awareness of an integral part of American history, Black history. Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City strives to promote diversity, love and kindness throughout our efforts of building a stronger community.

Living a heart-healthy lifestyle promotes not only a strong and healthy physical body, but also is key to the health of our mind and soul. Just as heart-healthy eating and exercise is important, the love within our hearts is imperative to our thoughts, actions and overall behavior. Considering the amount of hatred that has been expressed throughout the events of recent months, the need for hearts to be changed is more apparent than ever before. Love is faithful and kind, love encourages and is grateful, love shows respect and support for others. When our hearts are filled with love and gratitude, there is no room for hatred or negative emotions.

Hearts filled with love will embrace unity and the uniqueness of one another which will allow us to realize the power of diversity. Diversity is key to the development of personal, organizational and community growth. As we, Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City, strive for endurance throughout 2021, we must realize the need for building and maintaining a strong and healthy heart in order to serve the needs of the Kansas City Community with a spirit of love and gratitude.

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

Featured Dream Story

Wyatt Oshel



In celebration of an award-winning 2020-21 Kansas City Chiefs season, we are sharing the story of our dream child, Wyatt Oshel, who was granted an on-field opportunity to cheer on the Chiefs when they advanced to the Super Bowl in February 2020. **Of note, the pandemic restrictions prevented the Chiefs organization from hosting dream children during the 2020 season.

Wyatt was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma in his right knee. Surgery was required to remove his right leg above his knee. After surgery, Wyatt was fitted with a prosthetic. As Wyatt grows, the length of the prosthetic is increased. While recovering from his knee surgery, Wyatt was diagnosed with lung cancer. Wyatt thankfully recovered from his lung cancer.

Wyatt's dream was to go to Give Kids the World and swim with the dolphins.

Wyatt's dream was revealed at the Dream Factory Golf tournament in 2018. Due to Wyatt's lung cancer, his dream was delayed until 2019.

Ralph Turec was Wyatt's Dream Manager. Ralph had the opportunity to plan Wyatt's dream for May 2019 which was a 6 day trip to Give Kids the World in Orlando which included Disney World, Universal Studios and a full day at SeaWorld where Wyatt experienced swimming with dolphins.

Despite Wyatt's disability, Wyatt took full advantage of the activities available at Give Kids the World as well as all other theme parks. Wyatt is Ralph's hero because he inspired him to not worry about negative circumstances, but rather embrace positivity and live life to the fullest.

The Kansas City Chiefs organization partners with the Dream Factory to offer an on-field experience for dream children. Once a child is granted a dream, they become a member of the Dream Factory family for life. In January 2020, the Dream Factory received a phone call from Gary Spain, a Chiefs former player and Chiefs Hall of Fame Inductee, with an invitation for a dream child to attend the Chiefs vs. Titans AFC Championship.

Knowing that Wyatt and his family are long time Chiefs fans, Ralph immediately contacted the Oshel family to deliver the exciting news. Due to the ongoing partnership with the Marriott Downtown and Leader Limo, Wyatt and his family stayed at the hotel the night prior to the game and were transported the following morning by a stretch limousine to arrive at Arrowhead Stadium in style. Wyatt cheered the Chiefs to victory (thank you, Wyatt!) and following the game, Ralph and Wyatt's parents enjoyed his excitement and burst into laughter when Wyatt said with much excitement, "I can tell my grandchildren I was at that game"!

Due to our many partnerships throughout Kansas City, we are provided with the opportunity to make dreams like Wyatt's come true. Thank you, Kansas City, for your love and support of The Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City as we couldn't make dreams a reality without you!



Dream Catcher

Supporter Spotlight

Our Supporter Spotlight and Dreamcatchers of the month are the Government Employee Health Administration (GEHA) and KMBC9 News.

Our donors, sponsors and partners provide the necessary resources for making dreams come true! We want to express our sincere appreciation for the recent donation of \$12,759.00 from our 5 year partner, GEHA! It is comprised of GEHA's match of employee donations that were generated during a giving campaign in Q4 2020. Since 2016, GEHA has donated \$61,759 consisting of a combination of employee and employer contributions. We asked GEHA:

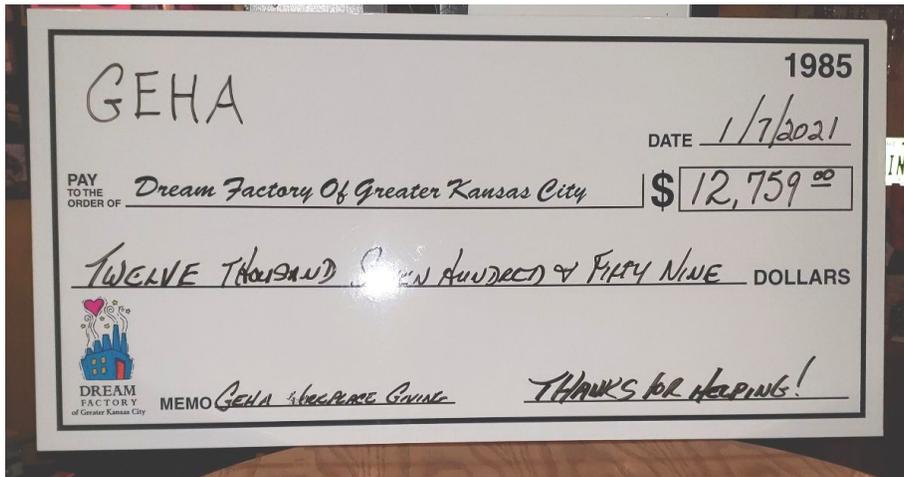
Q. What does Dream Factory mean to you?

A. The Dream Factory represents hope for children with critical or chronic illnesses to dream big and experience life as a normal child. It helps family and friends to also see the joy on their faces as they experience the magic of a dream.

Q. What is a highlight the GEHA team has experienced as a result of GEHA's support of Dream Factory?

A. Sponsoring a dream child has given the GEHA team an opportunity to see first-hand the joy our support brings to those children and their families as they experience their dream.

Learn more about GEHA at: www.geha.com/



GEHA®



We LOVE and appreciate our amazing partnership with KMBC 9! On February 9, their team organized a Community Day which featured and promoted Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City throughout the entire day on KMBC 9, KCWE 29 and social media platforms. We want to express a BIG thank you to the Station and the Kansas City Community for generating \$7400 toward making dreams come true!

We are proud to have a partner who also advocates for heart-healthy living and diversity. The President of KMBC and Advisory Board Member for Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City, Sarah Smith, expresses her belief in the importance of prioritizing self-care by encouraging our Community to begin taking small steps toward making a big difference in order to “Set an example for those you love by loving yourself”. Sarah also voices her belief in the importance of promoting diversity by saying, “We must lift up diversity, rather than tear it down. Break down barriers within our communities, rather than breaking each other down with hurtful words and actions.” Thank you, Sarah, for your leadership in building a stronger community!

Q: What does Dream Factory mean to you and your team:

A: We’ve met some pretty amazing kids and families over the past 36 years. We are honored to tell their stories – the giggles and smiles as they talk about their dreams and then the strength and courage they display as they describe their illness. We are humbled by their resiliency and positive attitude, even during the darkest times.

Q: Why have you supported Dream Factory for 36 years:

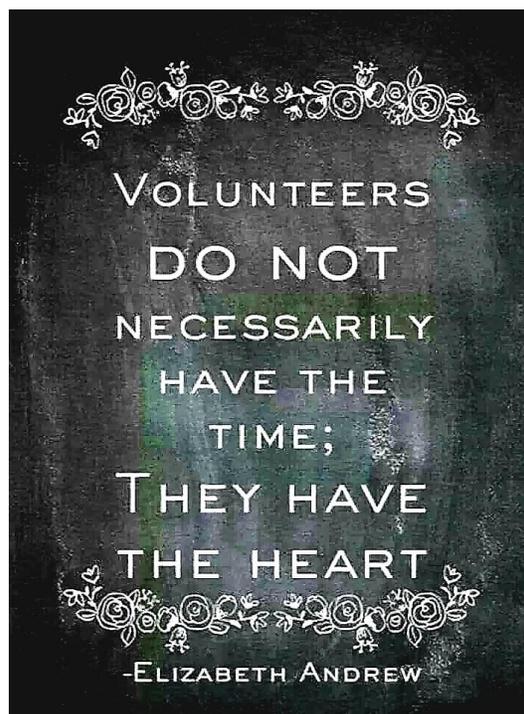
A: We can’t say enough great things about the crazy, awesome volunteers that make all of this happen. Your passion is inspiring and we love working with you! You are making a difference in our community – one dream at a time. The KMBC & KCWE folks are proud to be part of the Dream Factory family!

Learn more about KMBC 9 at: www.kmbc.com/



Board Member Spotlight

Our Board Member of the month is Ralph Turec



The heartbeat of Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City is turning dreams into reality and is executed by a team of 100% volunteers who have a heart and passion for bringing hope and smiles to children combating chronic and critical illnesses. At the heart of our volunteers is the Director of Dreams, Ralph Turec, who coordinates the logistics of EVERY dream. Throughout the 6 years Ralph has served in this role, he has been key to arranging the execution of 379 dreams granted! Ralph invests his heart and passion into serving our children and families and has been a dedicated volunteer since 2012! Thank you Ralph, for making dreams come true and positively impacting the lives of so many children, families and volunteers as they join our Dream Factory family!

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

A: 9 years. I started as a volunteer in 2012 after retirement. I was a Dream Manager from 2012-2014. In 2014 I was asked by our Volunteer Director Elaine Apel, if I would be interested in being the new Director of Dreams. I became a board member in 2015 as Director of Dreams, a position I hold today.

Q: Why did you join as a volunteer?

A: I've always watched KMBC and was fascinated with the Dream Factory Friday night segments. Being retired, what a great way to volunteer my time.

Q: What does the Dream Factory mean to you?

A: Being a volunteer for the Dream Factory, has made me a better person.

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

A: In 2018, I was nominated to sit in the Buck O'Neal seat at Kauffman Stadium, I was honored to be chosen.

Q. What is your occupation and your interests?

A: I retired in 2012, prior to retirement, I was in the steel industry for 35 years. During my career, I was part of the construction team to build the Sprint Center and Children's Mercy Park. I'm an avid golfer, enjoy playing Pickleball, and enjoy jazz. My wife Nina and I love to travel. We've been to Jamaica, Turks and Caicos, Bahama, and Italy.

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THURSDAY
04.29.21

No 04292021

BOULEVARD OF DREAMS

Dreamin' ✨ AT THE drive-in

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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KMBC-TV
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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.



DREAM FACTORY

of Greater Kansas City

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