

Inside The Lyons Den



**MARTY LYONS
FOUNDATION**
The courage to wish for more®

Michelle's Larger than Life Heart

When Marty started the Foundation 33 years ago, his intention was to provide children, in the midst of heart-wrenching medical battles, with hope and courage by granting them a wish. Michelle, a 12-year old girl from Long Island, New York, serves as a testimony to Marty's initial intent.

Michelle is very much like your typical 12-year old girl – she has her favorite pop stars, movies, and friends. Unlike like most 12-year olds, she has had to battle cancer from five and a half months old.

In May of 2014, Michelle was the recipient of a second wish from the Marty Lyons Foundation. As a multiple cancer survivor, her family never imagined she would suddenly be in dire need of a heart. Terri Fudens, a long-standing LI Chapter volunteer, rushed to fulfill Michelle's wish of a Disney trip so that Michelle would be well enough to enjoy it.



For one week, Michelle and her family got to stay at Give Kids the World Village in central Florida. They were provided with tickets to Disney, Universal and Sea World, as well as daily entertainment directly at the village. As her sisters said, it was the first time their whole family got to go away together. This was a much needed break for this family who often could not even eat dinner together, as one would be working and another frequently at the hospital. When speaking about her wish, Michelle said "It was just happiness". That is the power of a wish – to serve as a happy distraction, renew the child's spirit and provide the family with lifelong memories.



We like to believe that this wish experience gave Michelle the courage to wish for more, because in January of 2015, Michelle received her much needed heart transplant. While Michelle's battle is still not over, she now has a fighting chance. It is quite a small world, as Founding Board Member and Vice Chairman, Kenny Schroy's daughter Lindsay was Michelle's nurse during this time. Michelle continues to serve as an emblem of why the Foundation continues daily to fulfill the mission set forth by Marty over three decades ago.

To see more of Michelle's story, we encourage you to visit our website: www.martylyonsfoundation.org/videos. Foundation friend, Billy Zager of B Train Productions, was able to capture the impact of Michelle's wish experience.

Did you
know that...?

- ✦ *MLF has granted over 7,000 wishes in our 33 years of existence*
- ✦ *MLF is unique in that we will grant a second wish to a deserving child*
- ✦ *MLF has 10 chapters in 13 states*
- ✦ *89 cents from every dollar donated goes directly to granting a wish*

A Conversation with Peter Michalewicz

Board Member – President of LI Chapter
Recipient of 2015 “Life Time Achievement” Award



Tell us a bit of how you became involved with MLF.

Over thirty years ago, I was a guest of Marty Kiffel, Foundation president at that time, at a LI Golf Outing. I continued to attend other MLF events, and, because I truly believed in its mission and because of the passion and dedication I saw in Marty Lyons, I became a volunteer. Eventually, I was asked to become the President of the Nassau/Queens Chapter which is now the LI Chapter (including Suffolk County). I enjoy overseeing the wishes for our local children and fundraising through our special events.

Being part of MLF since almost its inception, you must have many memories. Can you tell us about the one that stands out the most?

One of the most impressive memories that come to my mind is the amazing Holiday Party that the Foundation used to host each December. Wish children and their families were invited to a magical evening, complete with food, beverages, entertainment and, of course – Santa, Mrs. Claus, elves and PRESENTS!! It was very rewarding to see so many children who had survived their illnesses or were in remission and were able to enjoy this festive occasion.

You mentioned earlier that you oversee the wishes for local children. Is there any stand out one you can share?

While all wishes are special, back in the 90's there was a young family with a three-year old child. The wish was for a trip and a camcorder. It was granted and received by the parents just a few short weeks before they lost their child. Despite the sadness of this tragedy, mom and dad had visual memories of their baby recorded forever. It made me realize that, while we do our wishes for the kids, it is also very meaningful for the parents.



Looking back on thirty years, what can you offer as your wish for MLF future?

I hope for the Foundation to remain standing strong by infiltrating the chapters with young professionals bringing energy and ideas. *I want MLF to be known for what it does, not just for its name.*

You recently received the 2014 “Lifetime Achievement Award”. Three words?

Surprised, honored, humbled.

Final thoughts?

I am happy for all my years with the Foundation and my involvement with helping children and their families – letting them know that someone, in addition to their family, cared for them. I thoroughly enjoy working with the Board, volunteers and HQ staff, and all associated with this fantastic experience.

Peter Michaelwicz, a real estate and title insurance industry professional, is a former partner of Barretta Research and is currently an Account Executive and Consultant for Municipal Data Services.

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Wishes Granted

These wishes would not be possible without the support of our donors and volunteers. We would like to especially thank the following sponsors who made these amazing wishes come true.



Hess Has Been Bringing Joy to Our Wish Children for Years

For many years, Hess has been providing the Foundation wish children with their iconic Hess trucks. Children of all ages always enjoy these trucks tremendously. We cannot thank Hess enough for creating these priceless smiles.



WWE Superstars Fulfill Wishes for MLF Children

Bray Wyatt may be one of the toughest wrestlers in the WWE, but in January of 2015 he took the time to make one young man's dream come true. Jovanni is an incredible 16 year old boy from New York who has been fighting a slew of illnesses since birth. Throughout it all, wrestling has remained not only a constant source of entertainment, but more importantly, a means of escape from the incessant discomfort of his daily life. Jovanni is a tremendous fan of Bray and got to experience the thrill of his wish becoming a reality. On the night of WWE's Royal Rumble, Jovanni got to meet Bray before the main event and it was truly incredible! Jovanni lit up like the fourth of July! It was a life changing experience made possible through WWE and Bray Wyatt, and one that Jovanni will certainly never forget!



Much like Jovanni, Dylan, a 17 year old boy from Pennsylvania, uses the world of wrestling as a respite from the overwhelming confines of his disease. In March of 2015, Dylan received his wish to meet John Cena. Meeting his idol is a memory Dylan will continue to revel in for a lifetime. WWE has fulfilled many wishes for the children of the Marty Lyons Foundation over the years. We, and even more so, our wish children, are eternally grateful.

Local Donor Makes Wish Come True for Long Island Wish Child, Patrick

Wish child, Patrick, of Long Island has been battling a debilitating disease for years, and continues to remain a trooper. His disease leaves him with very limited mobility and he finds great comfort and distraction when it comes to gaming. Patrick's wish was to receive an Alienware computer to fill his days. Fortunately, local donor, Thomas Foronjy, graciously stepped up and helped make Patrick's wish come true. It is with the support of our local donors and volunteers that we are able to continue our mission. We thank them tremendously.



HAPPINESS IS GOOD MEDICINE



MEET OUR OTHER RECENT WISH RECIPIENTS:

- ✦ **Andrew** – age 13, from Sandwich MA: I wish to go to Disney
- ✦ **Bernard** – age 13, from Atlanta, GA: I wish for a shopping spree
- ✦ **Bryant** – age 16, from Bronx NY: I wish to go to Disney
- ✦ **Charon** – age 15, from Dorchester MA: I wish for a Wacom animation tablet
- ✦ **Christopher** – age 16, from Concord, NC: I wish to go to a Clippers game in California
- ✦ **Christopher** – age 15, from Brentwood, NY: I wish to go to Florida
- ✦ **Connor**, age 13, from Dacula, GA: I wish to go skiing in Colorado
- ✦ **Courtney**, age 17, from Farmington, NY: I wish to go to Disney
- ✦ **Erin**, age 11, from North Haven, CT: I wish for a laptop
- ✦ **Jay**, age 17, from Bogota, NJ: I wish for a shopping spree
- ✦ **Jayke**, age 11, from New Haven, CT: I wish for a room makeover
- ✦ **Jenifer**, age 10, from Spring Valley, NY: I wish to go to Disney
- ✦ **Karina**, age 16, from Malden, MA: I wish for my own make up line
- ✦ **Lindsey**, age 13, from Chester VT: I wish to go to Disney
- ✦ **Leah**, age 7, from South Yarmouth, MA: I wish to go to Disney
- ✦ **Natalia**, age 17, from Belchertown MA: I wish for a shopping spree
- ✦ **Nerivette**, age 16, from Bronx, NY: I wish to go to Disney
- ✦ **Samantha**, age 13, from Bergenfield, NJ: I wish to go to Disney
- ✦ **Zachery**, age 17, from San Antonio TX: I wish to go on a cruise



Charon, from Dorchester MA



Christopher, from Concord, NC



Connor, from Dacula, GA



Samantha, from Bergenfield, NJ



Leah, from South Yarmouth, MA



Karina, from Malden, MA

Spring Ahead

JUMPING INTO OUR SPRING EVENTS

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE



**MARTY LYONS
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Sunday, May 3rd

TD 5 Boro Bike Tour



Our very own Dr. Vomero spearheaded this event in 2013 with just 5 riders. This year, together with Marty, they have gathered 25 riders to represent our mission. Each "Team Ernie" cyclist will be wearing a customized MLF uniform (courtesy of our event sponsors - Cunningham Duct and LandTek Group), and they have vowed to work as a team to raise \$100,000 – double last year's total! We can't do this by ourselves, we need your help! You can participate by supporting one or more of our riders. GO TEAM ERNIE!

Thursday, May 14th

8th Annual
Cigar Night



Calling all cigar lovers to join us in Battery Park overlooking the beautiful NY harbor for a wonderful night enjoying good company, delicious food, and great drinks while supporting a most worthy mission. Once again, many thanks to our wonderful sponsors: Cigars - Davidoff of Geneva; Beverage – Georgi Vodka/ Star Industries & Quintessential Wines; Entertainment – NY Social Network; PR – Corbett PR Inc.

Tickets are available via our website.

Monday, July 13th

30th Annual
Celebrity Golf Outing



In 1985, our first Celebrity Golf Outing was attended by a small group of golfers out for a day on the course. Since that time, this - our most successful fundraising event - has raised over \$3,000,000 for the Foundation, and has become a highlight of the golfing season on Long Island.

We are proud to announce that, in recognition of his long-time relationship with MLF, Bobby Jordan, President of LI Sanitation Equipment, is being honored as our Man of the Year.

Foursomes and sponsorship opportunities are available.



GREAT TIME HAD AT 2ND ANNUAL MARTY GRAS!



Get Involved



**MARTY LYONS[®]
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Spring's arrival heralds the beginning of many gift-giving events – Mother's and Father's Day, communions, graduations – not to mention just regular weddings and birthdays! If you are an on-line Amazon user, please consider "Amazon Smile" where you can avoid the crowds and shop in the convenience of your own home. If you are looking for something unique for that "person who has everything", a donation made in their name to MLF is a perfect solution.



Here is an easy way to raise money for our mission while you shop:

- Visit www.amazon.com/ch/133146696
- Shop
- You are automatically registered as a MLF shopper! Amazon will donate a percentage of your total purchases to support our mission!

Making donations

- 🐾 General gifts
- 🐾 Special gifts (Wishes, In Honor of, In Memory of, In Lieu of wedding/party favors)
- 🐾 Pledges

Volunteering your time

- 🐾 We operate in 10 states with 3 paid employees. We could not continue our mission without the support of our volunteers. Consider "donating" your free time to help coordinate wishes, assist with administrative work or help out at special events. Please contact your local chapter.

Supporting our Wish List

- 🐾 It is no surprise that the most popular wish request we receive is for a trip. What child wouldn't want to go to Disney, beautiful beaches or special visits to long-distanced family and friends? While your monetary gifts are always appreciated, you can also help us by donating your credit card points for us to use for travel and hotel accommodations. (These can also be used to "purchase" big ticket items for raffles or auction at our fundraising events.)
- 🐾 Personal contacts – Your "Rolodex" may contain the name of someone who could donate electronics, sporting or event tickets; room make overs or assist with "Meet and Greets". You just never know!

Please visit our website for more information

GREAT BIG "THANK YOU" TO THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES FOR HOLDING BENEFICIARY EVENTS WHICH HAVE RAISED OVER \$22,000 TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION:

- Nick Matthews Hair Salon; Cedar Grove, NJ – Cut-a-Thon
- HUB International – Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation Week of Giving
- Jets Bus Crew – NY Jets Raffle
- LandTek Group's Polar Plunge

Upcoming Events

Plan ahead and save these dates.

For more information, please contact
Jeanne Ellis at 631.543.9474 or
jellis@martylyonsfoundation.org:

- 🐾 3rd Annual TD 5 Boro Bike Tour
Sunday, May 3rd
New York, NY
- 🐾 8th Annual Cigar Night
Thursday, May 14th
Battery Park, NY
- 🐾 30th Annual Celebrity Golf Classic
Monday, July 13th
Old Westbury, NY
- 🐾 3rd Annual SBYC Fishing Tournament
Saturday, July 18th
Stony Brook, NY
- 🐾 20th Annual Nassau Bowling
Saturday, August TBD
East Meadow, NY
- 🐾 17th Annual LI Golf Outing
Monday, September 28th
Setauket, NY
- 🐾 3rd Annual High Tide Classic
& Beach Party Bash
Saturday, October 3rd
Jekyll Island, GA
- 🐾 10th Annual John Brogle Golf Outing
Monday, October 12th
Tampa, FL



The Marty Lyons Foundation is a not-for-profit, charitable, tax exempt 501 (c) (3) organization which provides wishes to children chronologically aged 3 to 17 who have been diagnosed as having terminal or life-threatening illnesses. A copy of the latest annual report for The Marty Lyons Foundation, Inc. may be requested from The Foundation or from the Office of the Attorney General; Charities Bureau; 120 Broadway; New York, NY 10271.

Please see my interview on Page Three! - Peter Michalewicz

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If you know of a child with a terminal or life-threatening illness, please call us at 631-543-9474 for wish consideration.



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 354 Veterans Memorial Highway
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