Newsletter, Volume 5
Fall/Winter 2016

# Inside The Lyons Den

MARTY LYONS® FOUNDATION
The courage to wish for more®

## All Aboard!

Long Island Wish Child, Jesse, is not your average 10-year old. He lights up every room he walks into, he has a larger than life personality and he has spent half of his life battling cancer. When Jesse and his family were thrown into the nightmare of a relapse, the Marty Lyons Foundation was there to offer a 2nd wish. They could not believe it!

Throughout his rigorous rounds of treatment, veteran wish coordinator, Eileen Mayer, remained a constant source of comfort for the family. When she received the news that Jesse was starting to feel well enough to travel, she got to work on his wish!

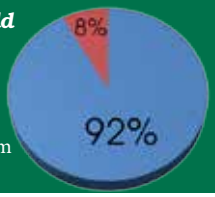
All this little boy wished for was to sleep on a train! In working with the very gracious folks at Amtrak, Eileen laid the tracks for Jesse to take Amtrak all the way from NYC to Orlando! Amtrak was truly "all aboard" for this wish, treating Jesse like a true MVP! He was made an honorary conductor and even the officers in the station came to meet him! At every stop, there was a "Welcome Jesse" sign and the whole staff knew him! It really was a dream come true for this train-loving kid! Getting to visit Universal was truly the cherry on top of an incredible wish experience!

Funding for Jesse's wish was made possible partially through the assistance of Cintas.

(Story continues on Page 3)

## Did you know that...?

- *MLF has raised over $35 million & granted over 7,200 wishes in our 34 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*
- *92 cents from every dollar donated goes directly to granting a wish*



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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## Mission Statement

MLF's mission is to fulfill wishes to children ages three to seventeen who have been diagnosed as having terminal or life-threatening illnesses.

## Headquarters

354 Veterans Memorial Highway
Commack, NY 11725
(631) 543.9474
www.martylyonsfoundation.org

## Chapter Info

**Headquarters**
(serving Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas & Virginia Chapters)
mlf_hq@martylyonsfoundation.org

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**Florida Chapter**
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**Georgia Chapter**
mlf_georgia@martylyonsfoundation.org

**New York-Long Island Chapter**
mlf_longisland@martylyonsfoundation.org

**South Carolina Chapter**
(serving North Carolina)
mlf_scarolin@martylyonsfoundation.org

Dear Friends,

Usually in the Fall/ Winter newsletter I like to reflect on the events and experiences of the past year which I am grateful for. Yes – we did experience significant accomplishments in 2016. The number of wishes we fulfilled increased from those granted in 2015, our fundraisers were well attended and our chapters welcomed new volunteers.

But this time not only do I want to contemplate on this past year, **I would like to look toward the future.**

As we begin our 35th year, we don't want to just maintain what we have been doing – we want to grow so we will never have to turn away a potential wish child. While modern medicine certainly has improved the prognosis of many of the children we help, the number of wish applications that we receive continues to increase, and we are faced with the difficult challenge of funding them. How do you tell a family that we cannot provide a wish for their child because we don't have the funds?

Your investment in our future can help prevent that. **You are our future.** You are that resource we need. Lead by example; create awareness of MLF among your friends; share our stories and mission. And don't underestimate the value of a simple donation – small gifts can add up quickly and make a difference in a child's life. **Every dollar creates hope.**

I believe that it is in remembering where you came from and how you started that you can proceed forward. The impact of three things in 1982 and the support of many friends and donors brought me to this moment - on the precipice of a milestone anniversary. Your support has gotten us here and can guarantee that we can further our mission of granting wishes to children to encourage them in their fight against their medical and emotional dragons.

I implore you – **you are the resource that we need. Be a wish maker** so we can continue to be there to provide wishes for our special children for years to come. **I cannot do it alone – but – together, we can make a difference.**

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mlf_hq@martylyonsfoundation.org

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# SPOT LIGHT STORY

## Cintas Gives Back

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CINTAS

Cintas has been serving America's business needs for years by providing uniforms, mats, restroom supplies, promotional products and safety protection products, among many other things. They also are known for giving back to their local communities.

The Cintas office located in Central Islip, NY reached out to the Foundation, eager to help make a child's wish come true. Our cover story wish child Jesse, who had to put off his wish for several months due to treatment, was the perfect match. Through many small fundraising incentives, they raised a whopping $3,453.90 to be used towards Jesse's wish.

How did they raise these funds? Through a variety of in-office fundraisers, including a staff barbecue, dress down Fridays, and selling "I wear orange for Jesse" bracelets and pins. A most unique initiative was the creation and selling of a cookbook. The cookbook featured various employees' favorite recipes, and opened with a very special one. When Jesse was undergoing intensive treatment, there was so little he could eat – so his favorite recipe of a Birds Nest opens the book.

To commemorate the culmination of their fundraising efforts, Cintas hosted an ice cream party with all the fixings for Jesse and the dedicated staff, during which they presented a check to MLF. It was an excellent way to honor not only all of their hard work, but also to celebrate Jesse.

Costs of wishes vary, depending on the type. However, the initiatives that Cintas took helped us fund a large portion of Jesse's wish. When people come together and do what they can, great things can happen, as evidenced by Jesse's amazing wish. Cintas is an excellent model of corporate philanthropy, as they not only invested time and money into making a very special wish happen, they also invested in the health and well-being of our remarkable wish child, Jesse.

## IN MEMORY OF

WE REMEMBER
OUR BELOVED WISH CHILDREN

Aleeah, age 17
Chloe, age 7
Dominic, age 6
Hunter, age 16
Trey, age 17

WE REMEMBER
THE MEMBERS OF OUR MLF FAMILY

Thomas Brown
Dennis Byrd
Pat Gibney
Hunter Owens
Julia Parente
Charlyne White

# Thanks to YOU....Thes

**Guillermo, age 11, of NY,**
received his wish at Island Dolphin Care

**Abigail, age 13 of NJ,** received her wish to Tour the Big Brother House and Attend a Live Taping *With Special Thanks to IATSE and CBS*

**Andrew, age 10 of NY,**
received his wish of a Norwegian Cruise

**Irma, age 12 of TX,**
received her wish to visit Disneyworld

**Saul, age 15 of NY,** received his wish of a gaming laptop

**Newbern, age 13 of FL,**
received his wish to tour Bethesda Softworks in Washington D.C.

**Caleb, age 16 of GA,**
received his wish for a PlayStation 4 and games

**Logan, age 3 of NY,**
received his wish of a playset
*Special Thanks for Huge Team Work, consisting of Ken Schroy, Connie Wohlars, Eileen Mayer, Barrs Recreation, Rich Merlo, and Jeff Scott Contracting*

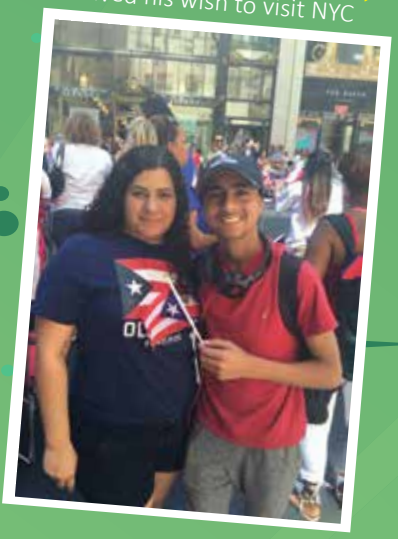
**Braelyn, age 12 of FL,**
received his wish to visit Give Kids the World

# se Wishes Came True!

**Gabrielle, age 10 of NY,**
received her wish of a Disney Cruise

**Andrew, age 15 of NY,**
received his wish of a shopping spree

**Christopher, age 14 of FL,**
received his wish to visit NYC



**Trinity, age 4 of FL,**
received her wish of a Sleep Safe Bed

**Morgan, age 16 of PA,**
received his wish of a Disney Cruise

**Samantha, age 13 of TX,**
received her wish to take a road trip to Disneyworld

**Dream, age 11 of NY,**
received her wish of a Disney Cruise

**Aarin, age 17 of VA,**
received his wish to meet the NY Giants, specifically Odell Beckham and attend a game

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# IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR TO COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

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## We are grateful to all who have supported our mission by participating in our fundraisers

## *Major Sponsors - 2016 Events*

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BDO • Cigna • Cunningham Duct • Davidoff of Geneva • John C. Mayer Land Surveying
Kohl's • LandTek Group • MBS Textbook Exchange, Inc. • Mike Murphy Automotive Group
Morgan Stanley • National Risk Services • NY Jets • PC Richard & Son • Renu • Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Riggio
Southern Eagle Distributing • Star Industries/ Georgi Vodka • Stony Brook Yacht Club
Taylor, Odachowski, Schmidt & Crossland LLC • Tekmark Global Solutions • Wells Fargo

# Holiday To Do List

- [ ] #GIVINGTUESDAY™
  Giving Tuesday – November 29th – a global day of giving back

- [ ] amazonsmile
  Shop online in your pj's and help support MLF

- [ ] **Holiday Card Program** – for a nominal fee, give us your mailing list and we will send out your holiday cards

- [ ] **End of Year Giving**– as you make your end of year donations, please keep our wish children in your mind and hearts (Does your company have a Matching Gift Program?)

- [ ] **Wish Makers** – sponsor part or all of a wish through monetary/ gift in kind donations or your contacts

- [ ] **New Year's Resolutions**
  - Think of MLF when considering your planned giving
  - Donate time helping out at MLF HQ
  - Spread awareness of MLF's mission through social media
  - Hold a Beneficiary Fundraising event

## 2016 Beneficiary Event Sponsors

Thanks for raising over $86,800 (equal to about 17 wishes) to support our mission

-Captain Bill's Restaurant
-Cintas
-Green Art Enterprises
-The Franzese Memorial Fund
-IATSE Local 52
-The Michalewicz's Grandkids' Lemonade Sale
-Suffolk County Superintendents of School Buildings & Grounds Assoc. (SCSBGA)

**For more information, please contact HQ at 631.543.9474**

# Upcoming Events

- **4th Annual Marty Gras Dinner Dance**
  Sunday, March 11th
  Captain Bill's, Bay Shore, NY
- **13th Annual Suffolk County Bowling**
  TBD
  Smithtown Lanes, Smithtown, NY
- **15th Annual Casino Night to Benefit MLF**
  March 31st
  The Inn at East Winds, Wading River, NY

**Upcoming Events – Plan ahead and save these dates. For more information, please contact Jeanne Ellis at 631.543.9474 or jellis@martylyonsfoundation.org:**

- **5th Annual TD 5 Boro Bike Tour**
  Sunday, May 7th
  New York City
- **32nd Annual Celebrity Golf Outing**
  Monday, July 10th
  Old Westbury, NY

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 of from the Office of the Attorney General; Charities Bureau; 120 Broadway; New York, NY 10271.


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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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