You never know the true impact of a wish until you hear it from the families directly. The Clanton Family of Florida is one such family. Jon and Yvonne are incredible parents with remarkable children; MLF was blessed to grant wishes to two of their children.

In 2008, the Marty Lyons Foundation granted Sam, then age three, a wish to go to Key Largo to undergo dolphin therapy twice a day. It was an amazing gift for the family and Sam, now 11 years old. Techniques used during therapy then have been used since that trip and continue to benefit Sam today.

Three years ago, the family realized they had room in their hearts and home to adopt special needs children from Ukraine. While preparations were being made to adopt Sarah, afflicted with Peters’ Anomaly (the same condition Sam has) Jon and Yvonne also ultimately adopted another little girl, Selah. Yvonne described Selah as the “prettiest child in the orphanage!” Selah was an extreme special needs child, who at age seven was only a size 2-3 and suffering from institutional autism.

As a result of an unfortunate near drowning accident, Selah was hospitalized for five months followed by two months of rehabilitation. Now, almost three years later, Selah has a tracheotomy and is fed through a G tube. She is considered to be in a minimal conscious status.

In March 2015, the Marty Lyons Foundation approved a wish for Selah, and after careful consideration Yvonne made a very modest wish request – a bath sling for Selah’s Hoyer lift and an Internet capable television which could stream children’s programs to stimulate Selah. The Florida Chapter coordinated the details of the wish and Yvonne has said, “It is very obvious that Selah likes it. She watches it and I think it is a comfort to her.”

The Clanton’s have been on a roller coaster ride this past year with medical and emotional ups and downs, but life goes on for the Clanton family. Yvonne’s blog sums it up best: “Our life may be a crazy life but it’s our life, I’m married to a pastor of a small rural church, who is also the prison chaplain. We have 5 kids, each with their unique story. Our life is not the way we planned it to be, but we are learning to trust God in every area.”

Richard Lyons of the Florida Chapter sums it up a little differently: “We are humbled and amazed whenever we meet a family like the Clanton family. The love they show for their children and their focus on the children’s quality of life is inspirational. It was a pleasure to work with the Clanton family.”

You can read Yvonne’s Blog at: myreallifebyyvonne.blogspot.com
Dear Friends,

Have you ever wondered about the impact one thing can make in your life?

In my case, it was three events – the birth of my first son, the death of my dad and the passing of my little buddy, Keith – that transformed the course of my life. Three things that made me realize the fragility of life, and with the support and encouragement from friends and family, led me to develop the foundation that bears my name.

Thirty four years ago, little did I realize the impact the Marty Lyons Foundation would have on so many people, making the lives of the children and their families just a little bit better through a wish – creating a sense of normalcy in their otherwise scary and chaotic world.

As I reflect, I see how the many volunteers that help to carry out our mission impact the families that we serve, and how the families that we serve impact our volunteers. The articles in this newsletter highlight just some of them. Learn about the volunteers who hold beneficiary events to support our wishes and – most compelling of all – experience the power of a wish as told to us by the wish children and their parents.

Please take a moment to read them. Let these stories be that one thing that impacts your life, and then think about what impact you would like to make, in turn, to create a difference in their lives. Take a moment today to consider your one thing. It could be to sponsor my team as we ride in the May 1st 2016 TD Bike Tour or to offer your administrative skills to help our office staff or to sponsor a wish – to make a few suggestions.

Whatever you choose to do – do something – make an impact!

[Signature]
Beneficiary Event is a fundraiser that is coordinated and held by a group or organization for the benefit of a not-for-profit. The Marty Lyons Foundation is grateful to the many individuals who host their own events to benefit our mission, basically doing all the work and sending us a check! We would especially like to recognize the following events that have been held recently by friends of the Foundation. These events on average raise over $60,000 for us annually.

Motion Picture Studio Mechanics Local 52, IATSE has held their annual Golf Outing for over 25 years. Many times during that period, they have supported MLF’s mission.

NY Jets Bus Crew – Annual Tailgating Raffle TV. Since 2011, this group of dedicated volunteers has been holding the most amazing tailgate parties before the NY Jets home games. Once a year they raffle off a beautiful TV and donate the proceeds to MLF!!

13th Annual Suffolk County Superintendents of Buildings and Grounds Association (SCSBG) Annual Casino Night; Villa Lombardi, Holbrook. For over a decade guests have enjoyed a fun night with their friends taking a chance on Lady Luck and laughing along with celebrity comedians.

Franzese Memorial Fundraiser
For over 20 years, Zack and Phil Franzese have held fundraising events in celebration of the lives of their brothers, Luke and Jeff – to benefit local charities. MLF has been fortunate to be one of their recipients. In 2015, their guests enjoyed a “Day at the Races” at Belmont Raceway.

IN MEMORY OF

WE REMEMBER OUR BELOVED WISH CHILDREN

Aislen, age 17
Daniel, age 9
Emma, age 14
Jocelyn, age 5
Landon, age 9

Miyasia, age 10
Phoebe, age 9

WE REMEMBER THE MEMBERS OF OUR MLF FAMILY

Jesse Charles Brown
David Mompont
C. Albert Parente
Wishes allow not only a wish child a much-needed escape from the confines of their illness, but also allow their family the opportunity to make happy memories.

**Nicholas, age 17, from Flower Mound, TX** – Received his wish to meet Steph Curry and attend a Golden State Warriors Game

“We just can’t thank you and the Marty Lyons Foundation enough for such a wonderful trip! Nick enjoyed meeting Stephen Curry and the experience was more than he ever expected. The accommodations were wonderful and it was a great time for the family to be together! Both [my husband] and I truly want to say “Thank You” for everything!” – Nick’s Mom

**Erin, age 14, from Toms River NJ** – Received her wish to go to Disney & Universal

“To everyone that helped Erin’s wish come true - I can never thank you enough for the opportunity you gave my family. We had an amazing time. It was our chance to heal as a family. We have gone through so much together. Erin has lived her whole life with chronic illness and painful treatment. When Erin was first diagnosed as an infant, I thought to myself, what is life going to be like never being happy or never laughing again. I will miss laughter. It feels so good. Every day for the rest of my life I will wonder, how long will these organs last? We go on like a normal family. I can’t even explain how busy and normal I make our lives, but that thought is always in the back of my head. Well there has been laughter and many wonderful times. Especially on this trip, my heart swelled with happiness watching the kids laugh and carry on. It was so good for so many reasons but mostly healing. I am forever grateful.” – Erin’s Mom
Wishes allow not only a wish child a much-needed escape from the confines of their illness, but also allow their family the opportunity to make happy memories.

Feeling Beautiful
Julia, age 17, of VA – Receiving a makeover & photoshoot in NYC

Meeting Your Idol
Christian, age 6, of TX – Meeting John Cena of the WWE

Experiencing Communication
Mykel, age 5, of NY – Enjoying his new iPad

Seeing Your Favorite Team Win!
Brianna, age 14, of NJ – Cheering at a Denver Bronco’s game
Sydnie, age 14, of GA – Attending the University of Alabama Game

Having A Fun Escape
Brian, age 14, of MA – Channeling his inner Harry Potter in California

Siofiel, age 3, of MD – Meeting her favorite princess in Disney World
Marisol, age 15, of MD – Sailing away on a Disney Cruise
Spring Into Action

Sunday, May 1st 2016
TD 5 Boro Bike Tour

Saturday, June 11th
Stony Brook Fishing Tournament

Come to Our Events

Monday, July 11th
Celebrity Golf Classic
Old Westbury, NY

Visit Our Website for More Info

Volunteer Your Time
Sponsor A Wish

Your Impact
Make Come to Our Events

HELP US GROW
Shop at Amazon Smile
HELP US GROW

Make Your Impact

Volunteer Your Time

Make a Donation

Shop at Amazon Smile

Sponsor A Wish

Visit Our Website for More Info
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.

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

- **2016 TD Five Boro Bike Tour**
  Sunday, May 1st

- **4th Annual SBYC Fishing Tournament**
  Saturday, June 11th; Stony Brook, NY

- **31st Annual Celebrity Golf Classic**
  Monday, July 11th; Old Westbury, NY

- **31st Annual Nassau Bowling**
  Saturday, August TBD; East Meadow, NY

- **18th Annual LI Golf Outing**
  Monday, September 26th; Setauket, NY

- **4th Annual High Tide Classic & Beach Party Bash**
  TBD, Jekyll Island; GA

- **11th Annual John Brogle Golf Outing**
  Monday, October 10th; Tampa, FL

- **Upcoming Events**
  - 2016 TD Five Boro Bike Tour
  - 4th Annual SBYC Fishing Tournament
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  - 31st Annual Nassau Bowling
  - 18th Annual LI Golf Outing
  - 4th Annual High Tide Classic & Beach Party Bash
  - 11th Annual John Brogle Golf Outing

If you know of a child with a terminal or life-threatening illness, please call 631-543-9474 or jellis@martylyonsfoundation.org.

The Marty Lyons Foundation
2nd Floor
34-25 Victory Memorial Highway
Commack, NY 11725

The courage to wish the more