



THURSDAY'S CHILD Newsletter

Founded in 1984

Volume XXXV

December 2022

Dear Friends,

If you are receiving this newsletter, it is because you have contributed to Thursday's Child in 2022. Most of you have supported us for a very long time, and without you, we could not ever do the things we do.

We are always grateful when area clubs support us. There are many worthwhile organizations that need money and we are honored when they choose us.

The Mount Hope Cardinals 4-H Club sent a donation in February along with a note: "We appreciate all you do for the children and families in our area."

Longtime Cassville friends and Thursday's Child supporters sent a note with a post-Christmas contribution: "At our Christmas family celebration our grandchildren compiled money to donate to Thursday's Child, in which we added our own amount. We trust that our donation will put smiles on children's faces."

Also from Cassville, St. Charles NCCW Foreign Relief always remembers us, as well.

Then there are the families of the children we serve. One mom sent us a contribution in honor of her son who was a Disney World traveler in 1993. He beat his cancer and is doing well today.

Another family remembers us every single year for our efforts to get them to a Packer's Game, which we did, but it wasn't easy! (It was a very cold day, too). For that one, we had some help from Craig Culver and friends in Green Bay.

Close to home for me, The Santa Cause 5K was back in action in 2021. Organizers Melissa and Jenni Martinez, Platteville, sent us a check with this note: "We had a wonderful day and a wonderful group of giving individuals who made our event a success."

Each Memorial contribution this year has special

significance for me. My mother, Dorothy, died in 2016 and as most of you know, she was the heart and soul of Thursday's Child. My uncle, her brother, died unexpectedly in January 2020, two days short of his 86th birthday, just at the beginning of the pandemic. Ronald Hunter was a member of a four-generation friendship between our families. Kelly Meier was my talented young student in Cassville. Her mother, Sandy, is a member of our Board of Directors.

Shawn Triller was the General Manager of Wingra Redi-Mix during Thursday's Child DOZER DAYS years. He was directly responsible for the success of this extraordinary fund raiser. He died suddenly last December 19 at the age of 67. His family directed his memorials to organizations he "felt a strong connection to," one of those being Thursday's Child. We received many contributions in his memory from his family and friends.

People have asked me if I ever meet the children we serve. No, not usually, but through my communication with families, social workers and doctors as we work to set up their special wishes, I often feel like I get to know them. That was certainly how it was with Caleb Wipperfurth and his lovely family. His passion for Star Wars and Marvel and other fascinating worlds that encourage a young person's imagination led us to make arrangements for a few days in California where we worked a little Star Wars magic and also sent him to Disneyland's Avengers Campus for a day. Caleb died on November 7 after a long and challenging fight against Ewing's Sarcoma. He was a determined young man with a brilliant mind. A freshman in college, he aspired to become a computer engineer. As I write this, I'm looking at his picture which I framed, a grinning kid enjoying the California sunshine.

So many more individuals and organizations have, every year, contributed to Thursday's Child, and to the happiness of many children and their siblings. We are so thankful to all of you.

-Noël Ferguson, Executive Director



Hospital Meals

Since 2003, Thursday's Child has funded six evening meals per year for parents of seriously ill children who are patients at American Family Children's Hospital in Madison. Each meal serves 50-60 people. A meal at the end of a stressful and exhausting day is appreciated by parents who want a need to stay close to their child's bedside. Thursday's Child's annual contribution is \$3,000.

Dear Thursdays Child,

"Thank you to everyone at Thursday's Child who helps grant wishes for so many special children. In February of 2022, our 4-year-old son Jeffrey was able to go on a once in a lifetime dream trip to Disney World with his two brothers, ages 7 and 8 and parents. Give Kids the World treated us so well and the Make-a-Wish pass at the Disney Parks was amazing. Jeffrey loved all the rides and the faster and higher the better. We will never forget this trip and all the people who made it happen. Jeffrey had a bone marrow transplant in 2020 after relapsing with leukemia at age 2 in 2019. Jeffrey continues to be a healthy happy 4-year-old."



Parks was amazing. Jeffrey loved all the rides and the faster and higher the better. We will never forget this trip and all the people who made it happen. Jeffrey had a bone marrow transplant in 2020 after relapsing with leukemia at age 2 in 2019. Jeffrey continues to be a healthy happy 4-year-old."

- The Eral Family, Madison, WI

"I want to thank you and all who made it possible for the check you sent that allowed Alice and the rest of our family to take a wonderful trip this summer. Driving in a big comfortable van with the family and seeing so many different scenes was fun. So I want to say it again, THANK YOU."

- Vera Petersheim, Cambria, WI

"We had a great time in Orlando. What a special and magical trip. the Give Kids the World Village was especially neat - so many little touches that make you feel so special. Undoubtedly a one-in-a-lifetime experience. Thank you for everything."



- The Ciolkosz Family, Sun Prairie, WI

OUR MISSION

Thursday's Child makes wishes come true for seriously ill children and young adults living within and/or treated within Southwest and South Central WI.

Contributions are tax deductible and can be sent to:

Thursday's Child, Inc
PO Box 95, Mt. Hope, WI 53816
www.thursdayschildwisconsin.org



Layout and Design:

*Kenzi Mergen, Junior at
Cassville High School*

*Under the direction of
Mrs. Valerie Martin*



Printing:

*Supreme Graphics,
Prairie du Chien, WI*

Give the Kids the World Village

The following excerpt is from a powerful speech that 12-year-old Keaton White delivered at a Conference in Indianapolis for one of the huge supporters of Give Kids the World, Wheaton World Wide Moving. (Central Moving & Storage is the interstate agent for Wheaton World Wide Moving.)

"Some of us who are sick may never grow up and become old. But for just this one special week out of our lives, the world is given to us. Give Kids the World was one of the happiest times in my life; everywhere you go, you get a chance to see what life is like when you are important. It is not, pity me because I am sick, but because I count. My life counts and it does matter that I am here and alive. I hope other wish families have the chance to experience the love we were given at the Village.." (Give Kids the World Village MIRACLES AND MEMORIES, Spring 2022)

Shortly after his speech, Keaton lost his battle with cancer.

Play Set Wish

Little Taetyn Disney loves to be outside. He and his brother and sister now have a new Rainbow Play System installed in their rural Argyle backyard. Thank you, Tim Steffens from Rainbow in Madison, for working with Taetyn's mom to design a playset the children will enjoy for years to come.



Glacier National Park

Alice Petersheim and her family from Cambria finally got to go to Glacier National Park. She researched and dreamed about this trip for a long time but like our other wishes, this one had to be put on hold for two years. This was the ultimate road trip, a rented van, camping along the way, visiting The Badlands, Custer State Park, Mount

Rushmore, and Theodore Roosevelt National Park, perfect for a family that has an avid interest in our country's history. Once at Glacier actually experiencing up close the grandeur of the Rockies, they enjoyed whitewater rafting and spotting animals we only see on PBS specials. Even on their way home, tired as they must have been, they stopped to see some sights in Minnesota and Northern Wisconsin.

Santa Project



For 38 years now Thursday's Child has worked with the social workers at American Family Children's Hospital in Madison and Santa to make the holidays a little more special for children who can use an extra helping of Christmas cheer. Thursday's Child provides \$50 Target gift cards for each child in the family, through age 18,

with a maximum of four cards per family. This year we have 70 families on our list.

We receive many heartfelt thank you notes from the families, sometimes even a special treasure in the mail – a handmade Christmas card from one of the children or a family picture.

Goodbye, Andrea

One of Thursday's Child's founding members made a big move this summer, relocating to the Twin Cities where she will be closer to her family.

Andrea Urbon was the pediatric oncology social worker at University Hospitals when Ron Thorstad called her to inquire about starting a wish organization. At about that same time, Noël also called to ask the same question. Andrea, Ron and Noël spent many hours putting together what ultimately became Thursday's Child. Over the years, Andrea's passionate advocacy for the children and their families guided us as we granted hundreds and hundreds of wishes, big, small, possible and impossible. Andrea, we hope you will enjoy many new adventures - we know you are really good at that. But we will miss you.

- Your Thursday's Child Family

Thursday's Child Board of Directors

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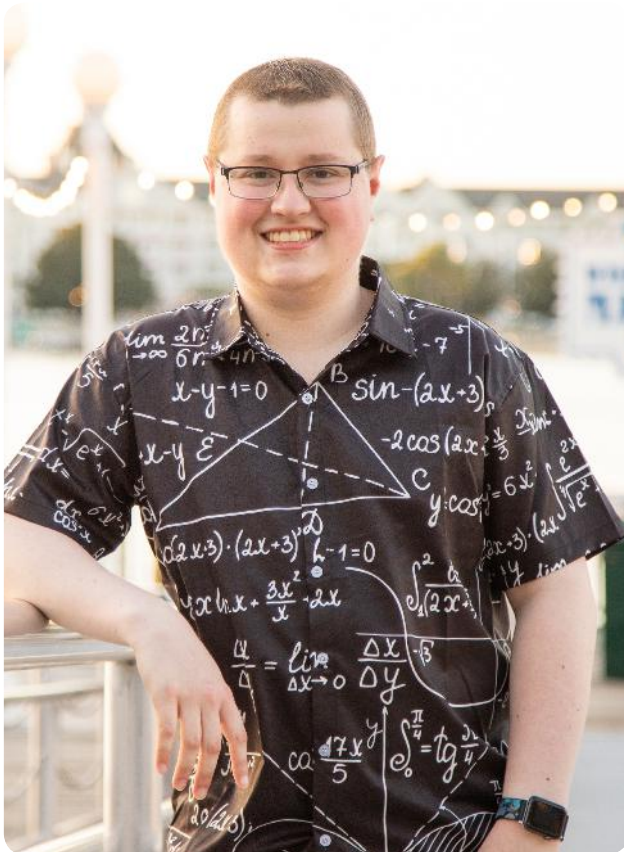
Website Design:

WebWise Design & Marketing,
Fennimore, WI



In Loving Memory of Caleb Wipperfurth

July 28, 2004 - November 7, 2022
(age 18)



Gifts In Their Memory

from their loving friends and family

Dorothy Ferguson
Mount Hope, WI

Ronald Hunter
Dodgeville, WI

Kelly Meier
Potosi, WI

Lloyd Mueller
Crystal Lake, IL

Shawn Triller
Janesville, WI

Caleb Wipperfurth
Cambridge, WI