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Make-A-Wish Foundation honors main referral sources

For the Marshfield News-Herald

MILWAUKEE -- The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Wisconsin honored six champions of Wisconsin children March 19 at the organization's annual Host Night in Milwaukee.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants wishes to every child between the ages of 2 1/2 and 18 who medically qualify.

The Winner in Sharing Happiness Award is given to the foundation's main medical referral sources throughout Wisconsin, including American Family Children's Hospital in Madison, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Gundersen Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse, Marshfield Clinic, St. Elizabeth Hospital in Appleton and St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay.

"We could not fulfill our mission without the help of these critical partners," said Patti Gorsky, president of the foundation. "Each one of these organizations has served as a catalyst in the wish process, entrusting their young patients to our care to fulfill their dreams."

Each W.I.S.H. Award was presented by a Wish child who had been treated at the respective hospital. The Wish children -- Abaigeal, Garrett, Molly, Noah, Nolan and Rhena -- participated throughout the evening, sharing their talents and stories.

More than 50 wishes will be granted from proceeds raised at the event.

"Wishes change the fabric of a life for a child living with a life-threatening medical condition and his or her family," Gorsky said. "Instead of focusing on doctors' visits, surgeries and treatments, the entire family experiences the joy and anticipation of the wish-planning process and, ultimately, wish fulfillment."

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. There are more than 200 Wisconsin children in the process of having their wishes granted.

For more information about Wisconsin's Make-A-Wish Foundation, call 262-781-4445 or 800-236-WISH.