Nine-year old Ben is the definition of active: he spends his spare time playing hockey, building Legos®, competing with friends in lacrosse, playing four square or watching his favorite sports teams: the Florida Panthers and the Boston Bruins. After observing Ben living his daily life, there is no hint that he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at the age of six. For his most heartfelt wish, Ben asked Make-A-Wish® to go to Hawaii—for the assortment of adventurous activities available, of course! With his sister, brother and parents in tow, Ben flew to Honolulu for a stay at Disney’s Aluani® Resort. Upon landing, the clan was greeted with an extravagant lei ceremony. In the ensuing days, Ben got a tour and fed the Hawaiian marine life, rented a cabana, attended a beach party, got a private character meet & greet experience, and surfed with his family! The family also had free days to explore the incredible island and utilize the extensive tubing and snorkeling gear provided at their hotel. One of the highlights of the entire trip was the fact that Ben had finished treatment just months earlier, allowing the family to truly celebrate their once-in-a-lifetime adventure!

Denisse Goes to Disney®!

Denisse is a charming eleven-year-old who loves the color purple, The Princess Diaries movie, roses, vanilla ice cream cake, and Katy Perry. In her free time, she loves reading, listening to music, studying science, and playing computer games. Denisse has been boldly fighting osteosarcoma, a tumor that develops in the bone, which is why Make-A-Wish® Georgia was able to grant her most heartfelt wish. Ultimately, Denisse decided to go to Disney World® to see Cinderella’s Castle and all of her favorite characters at the parks! Once in Orlando, Denisse loved exploring all that Disney had to offer, from character meet-and-greets to the exciting rides throughout parks such as Magic Kingdom® and Universal Studios®! This is a vacation that Denisse will always remember, thanks to Make-A-Wish® Georgia!
Sergio Gets his Most Desired Gift

Six-year-old Sergio loves Spider-Man, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and playing soccer. Unfortunately, Sergio suffers from acute lymphoblastic leukemia, which fills his days with doctor visits and affects his energy levels. Although his home doesn’t have Internet, Sergio desired a way to play computer games while relaxing at home with his family. Therefore, Make-A-Wish® Georgia provided a laptop and Internet package for Sergio to play all of the games he desired—He especially couldn’t wait to explore Mario Kart® and Mario Party®! Now, Sergio has the gift that keeps on giving!

Danielle’s Enlightening European Escapade

Even as a child, 18-year-old Danielle’s faith had a large impact on her life. When she was diagnosed with ganglioglioma, a type of tumor that arises in the nerve cells in the brain, she said that her “faith took a giant leap.” As she says, “To me, God has become a friend...I know I will never be alone.” When she learned that she would be granted a wish through Make-A-Wish®, Danielle wanted to spend the Christmas holiday in Rome and discover where Catholicism originally began. In addition to her fascination with the Roman culture and her desire to experience the daily way of life of a country she’d never visited before, Italy seemed like the perfect destination! A few days before Christmas, Danielle and her family flew across the Atlantic and embarked on the journey of a lifetime. Photo opportunities at the Coliseum, a nighttime tour of the Trevi Fountain and Christmas Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica were just a few of the family’s favorite memories from their once-in-a-lifetime holiday celebration!

For more information, sponsorship opportunities or contributions please contact us at CobbCounty5K@cobbcounty.org.
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