

WHY A WISH?



89%

Of health care professionals surveyed say they believe that the wish experience can influence wish kids' physical health.

Of parents said that the wish strengthened their families.



81%

Of parents observe an increased willingness by their wish kids to comply with treatment protocols.



96%

Of wish families observe increases in their wish kids' emotional health.

99%

Of parents reported that the wish experience gave their children increased feelings of happiness.



74%

Of wish parents observed that the wish marked a turning point in their children's response to treatment.



97%



MAKE-A-WISH

Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana

*National survey of the Make-A-Wish "community", including health care professionals, wish families and volunteers conducted by TCC Group from 2010 through 2011.

Dear Nicole:

I want to thank you again and the entire staff of Make a Wish for our trip to Hawaii last year. It was an amazing experience and I can never fully explain the impact it had on Darby and the rest of our family.

A few years ago, Darby's health progressively became worse without any known cause. After a year and a half of continuous illness and hospitalizations, Darby told me that she thought it would be better for everyone if she just wasn't here anymore. After swallowing my tears, I explained that no matter how dark things seem or how bad the storm is, there is always a rainbow at the end. I reminded her how we always go outside and look for rainbows after it rains. I then explained that she was in the middle of her storm but if she could just hold on, her rainbow would come.

Her "rainbow" was her Hawaii trip. To be totally honest, that trip was a rainbow for the entire family. Because of the work that you do, you understand the impact a chronic, life-threatening illness has on an entire family. While Darby needed the break from all the doctors, hospitals, tests, etc...the entire family needed the chance to reconnect and just enjoy being together away from all the stress. Her trip became a tangible symbol of the good that can come after things seem the darkest. (The first picture I enclosed is a picture of our hallway. This has become a daily reminder that no matter how dark things may seem, there is always something better on the way.)

After our trip, Darby went over 6 months without being in the hospital. I truly don't believe that we would have seen such a drastic improvement without this experience. We can never truly thank you enough for the hard work that went into creating this trip on such short notice. Please accept this donation to put toward another child finding their "rainbow."

Thanks again!

Doug & Jacqueline Bayard

