

## 1st Annual Gail Bigler Volunteer Summit

This year marked the beginning of what we hope will be a long standing tradition with the 1st Annual Gail Bigler Volunteer Summit on January 19th. The Summit was held for all volunteers across the state of New Mexico to gather and meet one another, as well as to stimulate new ideas and present exciting news from the foundation. MAWFNM staff wanted to emphasize the importance of the roles of MAWFNM volunteers, by celebrating each and every one of them. It was a great turnout from our volunteers, some of whom came from Roswell, Las Cruces, Taos, and Farmington. Everyone by now should have received the Wish Enhancement Packet – if you haven't, please contact the offices ASAP.

MAWFNM received the following feedback and look forward to an even bigger turnout next year (it will be held on a Saturday to avoid any work conflicts):

"I am truly encouraged about my decision to volunteer for your organization. The spirit and energy was awesome. You made it fun! Thank you."

"Getting to know the MAWFNM staff, board and other volunteers better was great and gave a clearer picture of the overall organization."

"I appreciated being treated with an "important" attitude (lunch, location, folder information – all well done). Nice to have a "pep rally" to generate ideas. Please let Mr. Bigler know that it was appreciated, and a beautiful way to carry forth."

Thank you to the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque for hosting the event and going above and beyond to

*Thank you, Papa Nacho's Mexican Food Restaurant for dinner and warm and friendly service on Alejandra's wish for a laptop to be able to communicate with her family in Mexico!*



**Congratulations Joyce Barkocy,  
2006 Volunteer of the Year!**

Joyce has been volunteering for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Mexico (MAWFNM) for over six years and has served on the Board of Directors as VP of Volunteers for close to four years.

She was awarded this honor because she was a very busy lady during 2006. She started the year by working on a wish that involved a lot of community participation. She and her husband Ed worked on having a toy train platform built for David who has cerebral palsy. This was a very challenging wish, but with the help of members from the Toy Train Operating Society, David's wish came true in May and even received some good TV coverage. She also worked on eight other wishes during the year.

Then, the Foundation was asked by Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta to provide volunteers to help sell the official calendars and programs with some of the proceeds benefiting MAWFNM and all we had to do was provide 500 volunteers. Well, Joyce rolled up her sleeves and went to work in completing this enormous task and by end of the Summer, she had involved volunteers representing many organizations throughout the community such as Sandia National Labs, Target Stores, high school Honor Society students representing various schools, Modrall Law Firm, Chi Omega Alumnae and Legacy Church, just to name a few. From this effort our Foundation made \$25,000 which helped fulfill at least five more wishes for our New Mexico children.

Along with these extra tasks, Joyce also managed to get the Quarterly "Sharing The Power" Volunteer Newsletter out as well as helping with our Annual Dinner Celebration.

When asked how she does all this... "I love Make-A-Wish and our Mission, so its been easy for me to devote my volunteer time to such a worthy cause. I feel very honored to receive this awesome award".

## New Volunteer LISTSERV to Foster Communications

“Wish Granters” E-Mail List Serve has been established for the New Mexico Chapter to facilitate quicker and more effective communication among our volunteers throughout the State. The benefit of this list is for our Wish Granters to share their ideas, spark creativity, post information, ask questions, and get timely information from Andrea and Allison.

Messages sent to [wishgranters@lists.nm.net](mailto:wishgranters@lists.nm.net)

will be distributed to all Make a Wish volunteers, as are the responses. **Please make sure if you click on ‘Reply All’** so that everyone can benefit from the communication. If your email address should change, please email [bboulanger@oneconnectip.com](mailto:bboulanger@oneconnectip.com) in order to get it changed on the List Serve. Let’s start putting this valuable tool to good use—share your Countdown to Wish ideas!

Thank you Berdel Boulanger for making this happen!

## Volunteer Spotlight—With Andrea and Allison

Many of you might already know Denver Goodman, who is not only a Wish Granter, but also one of the most creative people we have ever met (we call on her for creative inspiration all the time!!). In celebration of a year and a half that Denver has been dedicated to this organization we decided to Spotlight her in this edition of the newsletter by asking her to share a little bit about herself.

AH: What drew you to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Mexico?

DG: I was always fascinated with MAWFNM, but thought you would need a connection to become a Wish Granter because the job was just way to cool to be available to almost anyone who wanted to do it.

AH: What motivates you as a Wish Granter?

DG: I love a challenge...it used to be that I challenged myself to change my patient’s mantra from I can’t to I will or I can. Now, I challenge myself to make every wish as creative and as special as I can for the child.

AH: Is there a favorite wish story that you would like to share?

DG: JT was my first wish and probably has the coolest story so far. Developmentally he was about four years old and LOVED Christmas. His wish included lighting the Christmas tree in Old Town and a trip to a fire station where he got to be a fireman for a few hours. I sang more Christmas carols in that 24 hour period than I have probably sang in my whole life. I rode up front in the limo because JT did not want me out of sight. The whole limo ride he repeatedly asked if we were going to see Santa Claus. "We go see Santa Claus?" "Not today JT. Today you will be a fireman." "Santa will be there." "No, after lighting the Christmas tree, he had to go get ready to deliver presents." And this conversation continued to repeat itself over and over. I began to get worried that if he didn't see Santa he was going to get really upset and the wish would fall apart. The wheels were turning trying to figure out how I was going to make Santa appear for him. Well, apparently my prayers were heard because we came upon a line of festive motorcycles and lo and behold, the front man was Santa himself with a truck full of presents. You've never seen a limo u-turn so quickly (and safely of course). JT got to visit Santa that day and the rest of his wish turned out perfectly. Another amazing part of this story is that the Santa parade was members of Legacy Church, one of our biggest supporters.

AH: Do you have any last thoughts that you would like to share with your fellow Wish Granters?

DG: I really feel lucky because I am living my dream right now. The first part of that dream is my amazing family and the opportunity to stay home and raise my four wonderful children. The second part of my dream is realized through MAWFNM.

We wanted to share a few fun facts about Denver (so we called her husband Bill!)

She once captured and wrestled a wild emu for several hours!

She likes to dance in the rain, but only when it is warm!

She took less than half a month off of volunteering to have her baby daughter!

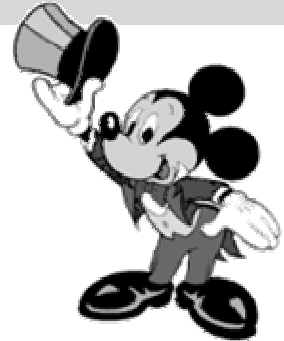


Stay tuned to the next edition of Volunteer Spotlight with Allison and Andrea!

## Mickey Mail comes to NM Wish Kids

Beginning mid April, MAWFNMF will launch a new program called "Mickey Mail" to help deliver the magic of Disney wishes and build up the excitement for a couple weeks before a trip. Wish Granters can elect to participate as simply as sending a quick note to Denver Goodman via email (shewhohikesfar@msn.com) with child's name, mailing address, characteristic to be written from something only you would know about, the child that the character could mention, and the approximate

date you would like it sent. Then the wish child will receive an "authentic" postcard from Florida. This program is being brought to MAWFNMF by Ken and Kathleen Barrett who reside in Orlando Proper, FL, we thank them sincerely for making this enhancement program possible. Also lets give Denver a big thanks for coordinating this great effort!



## Cold Stone Creamery® Raises \$787,000 for MAW

Last ice cream social event, Cold Stone Creamery executives presented a check for the amount of \$787,976.71, the largest donation in company history, to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America (MAWFA). Donations were collected at stores nationwide.

Cold Stone Creamery also invites ice cream lovers, for a \$1 donation, to have their names inscribed on a special Make-A-Wish® star to be posted on store walls.

Nearly 1,400 stores throughout the

United States, Guam and Puerto Rico invite customers for a free sample of "Cole's Creation" in exchange for a donation. Many stores enhanced the celebration with special events to exhibit the company's community spirit.

Cole's Creation was inspired by Cole, a 10-year-old wish kid from Colorado, and consisted of chocolate ice cream blended on a cold granite stone with yellow cake, chocolate chips and rainbow sprinkles.

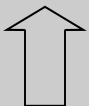
Thanks to all our volunteers who helped locally!

*Thank you, Claus Hjortkjaer, Chef and owner of Le Café Miche for making Tasha S.'s computer wish extra special. The culinary enhancement party made her love for cooking a day to remember. Not only did he show her the day in the life of a gourmet chef, she was able to share the experience with her friends and family.*

On our Way to  
**100** wishes in 2007



(**52** in the Hopper)



**47** Completed Wishes

## Calendar Of Events

March 24th	Chi Omega "Battle of the Bands" at UNM
April 13th-15th	Permian Basin Bass Fishing Tournament
June 2nd	The Eunice Golf Tournament
July 14th	Second Annual Volunteer Picnic
July 23 rd	The Santa Ana Ladies Pro-AM
October 6th-14th	Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Volunteers are needed to help at these events.

Please Call Allison at the office 888-9474 to let her know which day is good for you... thanks so much!!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY To Our Amazing Volunteers

### March

Michelle Rodriguez 3/6  
 Michael Rowdan 3/6  
 Ashley Costello 3/7  
 Joyce Barkocy 3/8  
 Waylon Gentry 3/8  
 Lee Evers 3/12  
 Jocelyn Lucero 3/19  
 Rhoda Cain 3/23  
 Sandy Harrington 3/24  
 Mary "Jake" Jacob 3/26  
 Richard Fiahlo 3/29

### April

Ana Maria Scurlock 4/3  
 Denver Goodman 4/4  
 Valerie Chacon 4/5

Jacob Black 4/7  
 Sara Epstein 4/11  
 Rose Zinn 4/11  
 Gloria Castillo 4/12  
 Shirley Clark 4/22  
 Edelle Vartan-Hamill 4/22  
 Moncia Carter 4/24  
 Samantha Bousliman 4/26

### May

Lynn Christiana 5/3  
 Pat Moody 5/12  
 Hazel Guinn 5/17  
 Charlene Powell 5/22  
 Morton Gould 5/24  
 Lindsay Ogan 5/25  
 Patti Mallow 5/28

### Lets Give A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members:

Kathy Leyendecker  
 Linda Laudieri  
 Bill Boodman  
 Brittany Goodman  
 Kim Novak  
 Berdel Boulanger  
 Monica Carter  
 Morton Gould  
 Shirley Riley  
 Pat Polito  
 Mary Pitcher  
 Mary "Jake" Black  
 Katy Black  
 Martha Black Anita Arguello  
 Brittany Noel

*Thank you Best Buy on Eubank  
and Pizza Hut on Juan Tabo for  
the pampering and warm welcome  
on Nick's shopping wish!*

## Wish Committee Gets a Make Over

Celebrating the one year anniversary of its revival, the MAWFNM has extended membership of the Wish Granting Committee to include more volunteer members. The new Wish Granting/Volunteer Committee will continue to create and review wish granting policies, and assure that high standards are maintained in the wish granting process. But, now will also be an extension to help the MAWFNM office staff in assisting with the formation of volunteer committees to organize large MAWFNM fundraising projects, assist in presenting MAWFNM initiatives in business settings and proposals, and to offer some relief of the growing responsibilities that come with reaching the our goal of 100 wishes granted in 2007.

*We are excited to have the following members on our new Wish Granting/Volunteer Committee: Andrea Hill, Allison Hendricks, Joyce Barkocy, Sue Forester-Cox, Roberta Barrett-Salas, Angelic Griego, Mike Rowden, Denver Goodman, Chantal Pottier, Berdel Boulanger, Waylon Gentry, Vivian Laws, and Rachel Kefauver.*



*Sharing the Power* Co-Editors:

Joyce Barkocy  
 Angelic Griego

Make A Wish Foundation of America wants "Share Your Joy-full Wish Snapshots," this is an annual wish photo contest for unposed shots of wish experiences as they happen. The deadline is April 9. Prizes for the top three photos are \$1,500, \$1,000 or \$500 for the chapter. All entries will go into the "wishes in action" photo database. For questions, official rules and to send your submissions please contact the MAWFNM office.