

Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Minnesota
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION® OF MINNESOTA CELEBRATES 3,000th WISH!

WHO: 11-year-old Alycia from Columbia Heights, who battles Scleroderma –an autoimmune disease which causes a hardening of the skin and other organs.

WHAT: Celebration of 3,000th wish in Minnesota and wish coming home party for Alycia.

WHEN: Monday Jan. 26, 2009 – 4:00-6:00pm

WHERE: Fuddrucker's Restaurant
2740 North Snelling Avenue, Roseville, MN 55113

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS:

- Minnesota chapter celebrating granting the 3,000th wish with food, fun and many friends of the Foundation!
- Presentation by Ken Rogers, author of *Pedaling on Purpose* and founding board member of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of MN. Proceeds from the book benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.
- "Make-A-Wish Idol" karaoke, in honor of Alycia's love for singing and American Idol!
- **Interviews & photo opportunities** with Make-A-Wish Foundation staff, volunteers, author Ken Rogers, and the wish child and her family

Minneapolis, MN –Jan. 19, 2009 –Friends and family of the Make-A-Wish Foundation to bring joy to a local child and celebrate granting the chapter's 3,000th wish! 3,000 children across the state who battle life-threatening illnesses have had their wishes granted over the past 26 years and the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota is thrilled to reach this impressive milestone.

A young Columbia Heights girl named Alycia is the chapter's 3,000th wish child since it's founding in 1982. Executive Director, Tom McKinney stated that, "Alycia represents the many seriously ill children across Minnesota who have experienced the hope, strength and joy that a wish can provide. We are happy that she can be a part of our celebration."

Alycia is an outgoing 11-year-old who enjoys watching comedy movies, playing volleyball, and singing! She also loves to make people laugh. Alycia's wish is to meet Ellen DeGeneres because she loves watching her show and she thinks they have similar personalities. On January 16, Alycia and her family flew to Los Angeles for a week of fun in the sun! While in Los Angeles, Alycia's family will stay near Studio City, and will be treated to a VIP tour of Warner Bros. Studios, one of Hollywood's busiest motion picture and television studios.

Along with many volunteers and board members, the Foundation is pleased to have a founding board member, Ken Rogers present at the festivities. Mr. Rogers, is the author of *Pedaling on Purpose* which tells the story of his 1983 bicycle trek across the US to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota. That bicycle trip raised the money to grant the first five wishes in Minnesota. Mr. Rogers book has recently been published and proceeds from the book will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. www.pedalingonpurpose.com

About the Make-A-Wish Foundation®

The Make-A-Wish Foundation® grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. It is the largest wish-granting charity in the world, with 67 chapters in the United States. Founded in 1982, the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Minnesota has granted 3,000 wishes to Minnesota children. Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Minnesota has been reviewed by the Charities Review Council and is proud to have met its Accountability Standards. To read the report, visit www.SmartGivers.org. For more information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Minnesota, please visit www.wishmn.org.

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