



# Together We Can!



Volume 1, No. 3  
November 2023

– Helping Families Fighting Childhood Cancer –

Welcome! This is our third UP Lions Serve (UPLS) Childhood Cancer Newsletter for "Yooper" families, our supporters and partners, and anyone who has an interest in childhood cancer.

We are so grateful for all of you. Thank you all for your time, your donations and the resources that you have shared. We hope this newsletter will continue to uplift, encourage and inform.

*Together We Can* build a community of support for our families that are battling childhood cancer.

## Mission

**Our mission is to serve children and families from the Upper Peninsula who are battling childhood cancer. We believe that when a child is sick, the entire family is affected. Our support focuses on the individual along with the entire family.**

**The Childhood Cancer program provides grants to families to minimize the financial hardship that is directly attributable to their child's diagnosis. This includes needs for travel, medical and household bills.**

**We rely solely on donations from private benefactors, sponsors, Lions Clubs and other community organizations, foundations and fundraisers. Every dollar earned goes directly to the families and to the programs that serve them.**

*Lion Christine Smith  
UP Lions Serve Co-Founder  
Upper Peninsula Lions  
Childhood Cancer Chair*

## Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan

By Lion Debra Petkus-Perry



Helping the self-esteem of children

While most adults are not terribly affected by peer pressure and social acceptance when it comes to their appearance or how they wear their hair, it can be a major issue for those facing health and hair challenges.

That's one reason that Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids was founded by Maggie Varney in 2003. She has been a licensed cosmetologist for forty years.

Varney saw a need after a young girl asked for assistance with a wig all those years ago. Discovering that most wigs are made with adults in mind, Maggie set out to change that. Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids has helped more than 5,200 Michigan children in the past twenty years including those who have lost

their hair due to alopecia and cancer.

The foundation's core mantra is "we help everyone, we charge nothing, and we turn no one away."

Testimonials on the website include gratitude from the parents and kids themselves, thankful for the custom fitted wig, social activities, field trips, classes and counseling.

And Maggie and her staff are very thankful that through the generosity and kindness of the community, these services are at no charge.

There are many ways to support this mission including donating hair (it takes 10-12 ponytails to make a handmade, custom wig). Our own Upper



*Left: Bay de Noc Lion Colleen Maki with bags of donated hair going to Maggie's. Right: One of our own U.P. kids donating her hair to "Help other Kids."*



*Lion Jennifer Ware donating her hair to Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan!*

Peninsula Bay de Noc lions' club single handedly registered 17 salons in the Upper Peninsula as Maggie's Wig 4 Kids registered salons. This means that your hair can be cut, packaged correctly, sent and donated directly to Maggie's. Special thank you to Bay de Noc Lion Claudia Garland who collects the hair from several locations to then send off to Maggie's to make a wig. And also a thank you to Cost Cutters Salons across the Upper Peninsula, the biggest contributor of donated hair to Maggie's.

Do you know of a child in need of services? Do you want to donate your hair or register your salon? Please contact Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan to find out more about their program and get involved. <https://www.wigs4kids.org/donate-hair.html> or call 586-772-6656.

# Wish Granting in Michigan

By Chelsea Gatien-Kleikamp

Before we even boarded our return-flight after Camden's wish trip to Disney World, I knew in my HEART that I wanted to "help bring dreams (like my son's) to LIFE!" -- After ALL that these children go-through with their countless treatments, appointments, procedures, & "pokes"... A **wish** can give a struggling-child that extra-boost of STRENGTH & HOPE that they need to "keep on fighting!" It gives them something to "look forward to" & get excited about!!

The MAGIC that we experienced in Orlando that week truly "changed" my family FOREVER. -- & now, my goal is to share that same type of "magic" with every single warrior possible!

Typically, there are several different "wish-granting organizations" operating

within each state. Here in Michigan, we have a few different foundations/organizations that bring these dreams to life. Some of the big ones serving children in both "Upper & Lower Michigan" are: *Make A Wish – Michigan, Rainbow Connection, & Kids Wish Network!*

For the MOST part, they all have pretty similar requirements, which include:

- Being diagnosed with a "life-threatening or life-limiting" illness/ailment
- Resides within the state of Michigan
- Has not received a wish from any other wish-organization previously

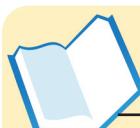
The one requirement that "differs" a little-bit between these three organizations is their age-limitations. *Make A Wish* will serve children ages 3-17 years old, *Kids Wish Network* serves children 3-18 years old, & *Rainbow Connection* will serve

children 2-18 years old.

A child can be referred by a member of their medical team, family/friends, or even themselves! However, the wish-organization will ALWAYS contact a patient's physician to "verify their diagnosis" & ensure that the child meets their criteria, no matter who originally referred them! — **Once a child is approved for their own wish, the "dreaming process" begins!**

Each of these organizations have their own website where you can find more information about their applications, offerings, & processes! -- Make sure you search for the "*Michigan chapters*" of these organizations though, because both *Make A Wish* & *Kids Wish Network* operate in all 50 states!

Stay tuned!



## BOOK CORNER

### I DRAW CHILDHOOD CANCER

Visual resources for children and their families facing childhood cancer by Angus Olsen

<https://idrawchildhoodcancer.com/>

This website was established by Angus Olsen from New South Wales, Australia. He created the website while his daughter was going through cancer treatment.

The site has free online books in multiple languages on many of the topics that children with Cancer and their families are going through. He also has an Art page that is very moving.

Please check this site out and share with family, schools and friends.

There is also a Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/idrawchildhood-cancer>



# Tour Da Yoop, Eh

## TDY Volunteer "Yoopertunities"

Tour Da Yoop, Eh is a 1,200 mile bike journey through the Upper Peninsula (U.P.). The U.P. has some of the most beautiful terrain in the United States that is covered with expansive roads free of dangerous traffic, and sprinkled with sparkling waterfalls, unique landmarks, and awe-inspiring lake views.

You are invited to join us in this journey whether it be as a biker, or a volunteer!

2024 marks the 4th year that Tour Da Yoop, Eh and Upper Peninsula Lions/Childhood Cancer have partnered to bring awareness and raise money for U.P. families battling childhood cancer.

Our volunteers and sponsors are vital and provide the riders with the resources, insight and energy that we need. Without volunteers, we wouldn't be able to provide support and gear, promote bike safety, or raise funds.

There are many ways to get involved. This could include cheers along the way and at the end of the day in host towns, helping at a hydration station and/or providing food, rider shuttle, vehicle shuttle and more.

If you are interested and to learn more, please visit our website. We are available by email, phone and text. For more information [www.tourdayoop eh.com/rider-central/volunteer](http://www.tourdayoop eh.com/rider-central/volunteer).

By Gary Perala  
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Left: Support team at the Porkies!  
Above: TDY shirts displayed a map of the TDY stops on the back.



Left: Support staff to the rescue!



Center: Warriors Eve and Celia at a Tour Da Yoop, Eh end of day stop at 906 Adventure!

Right: Warriors Camden and Ariya meeting at the Escanaba Dock



## WE WANT TO HELP YOU!

Regardless of the resources that you have available, we know that dealing with cancer stretches those resources – even if you are struggling for the holidays.

We have funds to help with a variety of needs.

For information on how to get help, visit:

<https://uplionsserve.org/childhood-cancer>

Email: [lionchris906pcc@outlook.com](mailto:lionchris906pcc@outlook.com)

Text or Call Chris Smith: 313-682-8900



# Learn more and stay up-to-date!

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313-682-8900  
lionchris906pcc@outlook.com

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT  
[UPLIONSSERVE.ORG/CHILDHOODCANCER](http://UPLIONSSERVE.ORG/CHILDHOODCANCER)



@ UP LIONS SERVE

@ UPPER PENINSULA LIONS

SUPPORTING KIDS WITH CANCER

@ UP FAMILIES FOR A CURE

## *Special Thanks to Lions Childhood Cancer Committee Members*

Lion Debra Petkus-Perry, St Ignace Lions  
Lion Deb Kleinbrook, Engadine-Naubinway Lions  
Lion Keith Smith, Engadine-Naubinway Lions  
Lion Carol Henriksen, Vulcan-Norway-Loretto Lions  
Lion Ron Henriksen, Vulcan-Norway-Loretto Lions  
Lion Gretchen Preston, Marquette Lions  
Lion Syd Faassen, Keweenaw Lions



**U.P. Lions Serve  
Childhood Cancer**  
P.O. Box 107  
Engadine, MI 49827

Is someone close to  
you battling  
Childhood Cancer?

We are inviting you to participate in "Kids Corner", a space where every child going through cancer or remission, their siblings, another child family member, a friend or a classmate can share a thought, a short story, quote, or poem. Or draw a picture about their experiences with cancer or just write or draw about something they love. They can talk about a favorite nurse or doctor, something that makes them happy or sad, or makes them feel strong. We invite kids to contribute any media they choose.

Please send any contributions to:

UP Lions Serve  
Childhood Cancer  
PO Box 107  
Engadine, MI 49827