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School Nurses Help to Make: “Wishes Come True”

One of our local Connecticut school nurses contacted Make-A-Wish at the end of the school year last year about one of her students. He is a 9 year old boy with a rare, neurodegenerative disease. He had recently been fitted for a wheelchair as his condition was worsening and she wanted to bring some hope, strength and joy to the student and his family.

Our Wish Granters met with the child and his family over the summer where they discovered that he really wanted to go to Walt Disney World to meet the classic Disney characters. He had seen them on Mickey Mouse Clubhouse and thought they would be nice. He also mentioned roller coasters and a ride on the monorail.

The student spent the next few months getting excited about his wish and dreaming about his upcoming trip. His family was so excited for the adventure since they rarely traveled far from home!

The child's wish came true just a few weeks ago! He and his family were picked up by limo and brought to the airport for his magical trip. The family stayed at Give Kids the World Village, right outside of Walt Disney World – a special resort that caters to kids with medical needs. They loved being at the resort, and also went to Magic Kingdom and Sea World. He even stood up from his wheelchair for a photo with Mickey. The school nurse said, “This was a dream come true. For his family to have this lasting experience is just phenomenal!”

You too can help start the magic of a wish! A Make-A-Wish experience brings positive, lasting change to children with life-threatening medical conditions. Wishes offer a reason for kids to stay strong as they are battling a serious illness, a rallying point for kids and families to renew their spirits and recharge their resilience.

To be eligible, a child must:

- be between 2½ and 18 years old
- have a life-threatening medical condition
- not have received a wish from another organization

Please contact us if you have a child you would like to refer, or to ask any questions.

Susan Carron
Medical Outreach Manager
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www.ct.wish.org/refer



MAKE-A-WISH
Connecticut

Annual Ordering School Health Records 2017-18 School Year

Annual ordering of CHR and HARs will again be **collected electronically** (paperless ordering) this year. Detailed information will be provided in the February 2017, edition of the School Nurse Bulletin.

!!! New Address !!!

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It's My Heart New England CHD Awareness 2017 College Scholarship Program



Purpose

It's My Heart New England is a non-profit organization created to advocate for and provide support to those affected by Acquired and Congenital Heart Defects (CHD). Through awareness, resources, and education, It's My Heart creates alliances and networks among families, groups, hospitals, and the community.

The purpose of the It's My Heart New England Scholarship Program is to support and encourage the continuation of higher education to all those in New England affected by Congenital Heart Defects.

Eligibility

To qualify for one of the It's My Heart New England CHD Awareness Scholarships, the applicant must first meet one of the following requirements:

- Be diagnosed with Congenital Heart Defect;
- Be the recipient of a heart transplant; or
- Be a family member (sibling, child, parent, close relative) of a person diagnosed with a CHD.

Applicant must also meet these three requirements:

- Be a resident of one of the New England States;
- Be a high school senior or enrolled college student with a GPA of 2.5 or higher; and
- Be accepted full or part-time at an accredited 2 or 4-year college, university, or technical school located in the United States.

Application Process

Applicant must fill out an It's My Heart New England Scholarship application and submit it to:

It's My Heart - New England Chapter, Inc.
ATTN: 2017 Scholarship
P.O. Box 111
Danvers, Massachusetts 01923

With your application you will also be required to submit the following:

- A letter of recommendation from a guidance counselor, current teacher, unrelated adult, or employer.
- An essay (1-3 pgs) describing how living with CHD or having a family member with CHD has affected your life.
- A copy of your transcript – this can be mailed separately.

Awards

The amount of each scholarship award is \$1,500.00. There will be four (4) scholarships awarded in 2017.

Recipients

The recipients of the It's My Heart New England Scholarship will be chosen by the It's My Heart New England Scholarship Committee.

Applications

It's My Heart CHD Awareness Scholarship applications can be downloaded from the It's My Heart New England website (www.ItsMyHeartNewEngland.org) or you can request one from your high school guidance counselor or by e-mailing ne@itsmyheart.org.

Deadline

Applications must be postmarked by March 20, 2017 for award on or before May 15, 2017.

Annual Identification of Students without Health Insurance

Section 10-206c of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that local school districts identify students who lack health insurance and provide information to parents about state-sponsored health insurance programs for children. This memo serves as a reminder to school districts of the requirement to annually identify students without health insurance.

Approaches to identifying students who lack health insurance include capturing information from: required health assessment forms for students entering school and again in Grades 6 or 7 and 9 or 10; and annual emergency contact forms for all students enrolled in the district.

In addition to these approaches, individual school districts may have other systems in place, such as parent liaisons, school-based health centers and family resource centers that may be critical partners in providing families with information on Connecticut's state-sponsored health insurance programs for children. A sample flyer for parents or guardians that includes information on the HUSKY Health program, as well as Access Health CT, Connecticut's official health insurance marketplace, established to meet the requirements of the federal Health Care Reform law (or Affordable Care Act) is located on the Health Promotion Services/School Nurse Web site at www.ct.gov/sde/schoolnurse.

For general information about HUSKY Health, please visit www.huskyhealth.com. To apply by phone or for additional information about the HUSKY Health and Access Health CT programs, contact their information hotline at 1-855-805-4325 or visit www.accesshealthct.com.

If you have questions regarding annual identification of students without health insurance, please contact Stephanie Knutson, Education Consultant at 860-807-2108 or stephanie.knutson@ct.gov.



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CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF
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