

What We're Working on @ HQ Nov/Dec 2020



No matter how you will be celebrating the upcoming weeks, may you be surrounded by the love of your family and friends.

Don't wait for the storms of your life to pass. Learn to dance in the rain.

Steve Rizzo

Life may seem like one prolonged storm now. For many of the kids and families we serve, they experience this feeling on a daily basis with no end in sight. But, thanks to all of you and your partners, kids and their families are dancing in the rain. As we continue the journey through our current storm, please take a moment to remember and reflect on the many children and their families you have taught to dance in the rain!!!

And remember, that thanks to all of you, during this holiday season there will be hundreds if not thousands of people giving silent thanks to each of you and what you made happen for their children and families.

Mid-Year Meeting: Due to the continuing impact of the pandemic, the mid-year meeting will be held **VIRTUALLY** via Zoom. While we are working on determining the date, a final decision about the date and time will be shared at the 12/10 BOD meeting, if not sooner. It will be either the last Saturday in February or the first Saturday in March.

Dream Shoutouts

While the number of completed dreams and fundraising efforts have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, take a look at the link below for a taste of the success stories of a dream. Great job **Clarksville!!**

<https://clarksvillenow.com/local/dream-factory-makes-a-childs-tree-house-dream-come-true/>

Memphis is working on a dream for a child to have a dream Christmas in Colorado. Fingers crossed!!



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Chapter Shoutouts

While all chapters and volunteers are working on new and creative ideas for fundraising, **South Dakota** worked with their local folks to raise dollars.

https://www.dailyleaderextra.com/news/local/article_cc7c3be8-2396-11eb-ac72-57446870999e.html

Talk about teamwork-The **Dyersburg** chapter worked with Tommie and staff from GKTW to make an end of life dream come true for a child. These are always hard but especially so given our current world.

Huge shout-out to **Jersey Shore**-they recently raised over \$7000 in an online bidding event.

December Meeting: The meeting is **Saturday, December 12th at 11:00 EST**. The phone call log in information is **319-527-2791 Code: 494170** It is important that every chapter be represented on the call. It can be any member of your chapter. Please let Mike know who will be representing your chapter on the call.

Sometimes information bears repeating-I shared this two years ago but thought it important enough to share again.

Research Update: A study showing the impact of a wish on patient healthcare utilization and savings benefit appeared in a number of different settings. Below is a link to an abstract of the actual study:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41390-018-0207-5>

While it references another wish granting organization, we can still use the results in our conversations with donors and others. We can do this because it is not a study in the comparison of one wish granting organization versus another. We can reference the results. For instance we can say **“An anecdotal study was conducted at Children’s Hospital in Columbus. From 2011-2016, 496 patients received a wish. This group was compared to a group of 496 patients who did not receive a wish. The groups were controlled for gender, race, diagnosis, etc. The results were that the patients who received a wish were 2.5 times more likely to have fewer unplanned hospital admissions and 1.9 times more likely to have fewer emergency department visits. The decline in the cost of care from year 1 to year 2 was a cost of care savings of \$10,130.”**

Cyber insurance-In reviewing our current policy, please understand that the coverage applies to those chapters that utilize the Dream Factory website.



Office staffing

Due to the Kentucky governor's recommendations related to the pandemic, we are working with one person (we alternate which person on which day) in the office Monday-Thursday and everyone else working remotely. On Fridays we are all working remotely (except of course Ellen who does not work on Fridays). We continue to have regular staff meetings and other meetings via Zoom or conference call. We continue to remotely check voice messages. If you need to order shirts or other items, please take time into consideration. If your chapter needs to place an order from HQ, either for volunteers or dream families, please allow more time, considering our current situation. If you need items shipped to you, then email tommie.kendall@dreamfactoryinc.org with the order and a shipping address as soon as possible.

Dreams Update

IMPORTANT! As long as all the guidelines are followed in the most-recent Opening Up Dreams Again document, then dreams can be granted! This document can be found in the volunteer section of the website using password 1234 and was last updated on Oct. 13. The Give Kids The World Village, Sunshine Foundation Village and Holiday Resort Inn Waterpark are all currently closed and we will reach out to all chapters as soon as the status of any of these change. HQ does have a connection for a Condo in the Orlando area if you have a family who needs a place to stay and elects not to wait until the other locations are open. If your chapter has a medical "rush" dream due to an end-of-life situation then we might be able to work with GKTW and Disney to grant those specific dreams. For more information about anything dream related, email tommie.kendall@dreamfactoryinc.org.

Merchandise Items

If your chapter needs to place an order from HQ, either for volunteers or dream families, please allow more time, considering our current situation. If you need items shipped to you, then email tommie.kendall@dreamfactoryinc.org with the order and a shipping address as soon as possible.

Online Forms

All online forms are now being sent to chapters as soon as they are submitted. These include the Referral Form, Volunteer Form and Contact Us Form. If your chapter is expecting forms and not receiving any, or if you have any additional questions about any of the forms, then email tommie.kendall@dreamfactoryinc.org. Please respond to all of these forms as needed.

HQ office holiday schedule:

November 26 & 27-office closed
December 24 & 25 – office closed
January 1 – office closed

