

June 7, 2008

Everyone:

Where do I begin, this year our 7th Annual Truck Convoy was an amazing event. Each year after the event is over we all think it can't get any better and then we have the next one. I have received so many calls, emails, and letters telling me this year was by far the best and I have to agree with them. We had beautiful weather, kids having the times of their lives, and a parking lot full of awesome drivers not to mention the 3,000 people that turned out from our community! I was worried that the cost of fuel would dampen our event but the drivers didn't let us down and came out in record numbers for our kids! We had 206 trucks registered and 198 made the journey with our special cargo! I was told the streets were lined with thousands of well wisher for our Drivers and Co-Drivers. I don't know how to begin to thank each of you that participated – you are all my heroes and we can't do this event without you, so from the bottom of my heart a huge THANK YOU to each of you!

On behalf of all the children of Make-A-Wish®, a huge THANK YOU goes out as well. The kids love their drivers and each year can't wait to spend the day with you This event has become so much more than a ride in a big rig to these kids. They all love being the stars of the day, hanging out with the drivers, and helping to make sure other children get their wishes. This was made evident by Brayden, his driver Santa had given him \$50.00 to spend on games and rides, however Brayden had another idea, he donated his money back to the convoy so that another child could have their wish - I think this shows just how much this event is about the kids and being kind to each other.

Each year I hear stories like Brayden's and things that happen at the convoy that makes me realize just how special everyone involved in our event. Another example of this was Doug from the sound company that does the convoy was married on Saturday night, yet he was at the convoy at 6:30 AM to set up the sound on Sunday – he spent the entire day with us, all I can say is his new bride must be very understanding! Another example was Kevin raising money for the kids with his hat trick in just 3 short minutes he raised almost \$500.00.

Now for the important things. This year was also a record year in funds raised. The totals are in and we will be granting a record 30 wishes to children in our area and also adding to our endowment fund. We raised \$117,000. in cash and another \$48,000 in in-kind donations. Giving us a total of \$165,000.00 for this year's event! With the cash raised this year our event has now raised \$402,000.00 in just 5 short years and granted 105 wishes! The Truck Convoy was the featured donor for our chapter for the month of May showing just what working as one can do! And yes this all means I will have to sing at the concert January 9th at the Eichelberger! It won't be pretty but as I have always said I will do anything to raise money for the kids!

Thank you for your most generous contributions – for your time, and for your heartfelt wish for our courageous children. We look forward to seeing you at our 8th Annual Truck Convoy for Wishes on Sunday May 3, 2009, so mark your calendars and plan to come out and see our children. Kevin Sharp will be once again performing with his entire band at 10:30 AM The drivers and wish children are the heart and soul of this event we couldn't do it without you. You have become true angels to us, as one of the wish children's mothers said to me you drivers prove to us that there are angels here on earth taking care of our wish children. Thanks for once again Sharing in the Power of a Wish!

Best Wishes,

Sherri Keller
Convoy Organizer