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**NEWS RELEASE
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Saranac Lake Civic Center
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Ice, Snow, and Smiles: Kaiden's Wish Granted

Make-A-Wish Northeastern New York and community partners bring a 7-year-old's winter dream to life.

SARANAC LAKE, N.Y. — The Saranac Lake Civic Center welcomed a special visitor Friday when Make-A-Wish granted 7-year-old Kaiden's wish to see snow for the first time. The Puerto Rico native, who lives with muscular dystrophy, skated on ice for the first time in the Adirondacks one day before his eighth birthday, as Make-A-Wish Puerto Rico and Make-A-Wish Vermont & Northeast New York teamed up to bring his wish to life.

Living in a warm climate, Kaiden had never seen snow. One day before his eighth birthday, he was surprised with a private skating session at the Saranac Lake Civic Center. Joined by his parents and 13-year-old brother, Kaiden quickly took to the ice, laughing and gliding under the guidance of local coach Amanda Jones.

Jones, co-director of the Saranac Lake Learn to Skate program, volunteered her time to give Kaiden a memorable first experience. "Teaching Kaiden gave our mission an even deeper meaning," Jones said. "It was a privilege to share the ice with him and his family."

During the visit, staff overheard Kaiden mention he wanted to try snow tubing. With little notice, the Civic Center contacted Titus Mountain Family Ski Center, a locally owned, family-operated ski area in Malone, NY, which provided a family pass so Kaiden and his family could enjoy tubing & learning to ski.

"We're proud of how the Adirondack community comes together," said Bruce Monette, co-owner of Titus Mountain Family Ski Center. "We were happy to help make Kaiden's visit even more special."

"When a child's wish takes them across the country, it takes a whole community to make it happen," said Emily Malley, Director of Communications & Development for Make-A-Wish Vermont & Northeast New York. "That's what makes wish granting so powerful. The joy doesn't just belong to the child. It belongs to everyone who made it possible."

Wishes typically fall into five categories: children wish to be something, meet someone, go somewhere, have something, or give to a cause. The organization works to grant every medically eligible child a wish at no cost to their families.

Photos Provided



Kaiden, 7, learns to skate under the guidance of Amanda Jones, co-director of the Saranac Lake Learn to Skate program, during a special Make-A-Wish visit.



Kaiden celebrates his Make-A-Wish winter adventure with his parents, 13-year-old brother, and coach Amanda Jones at the Saranac Lake Civic Center.

About Make-A-Wish Vermont & Northeast New York

Make-A-Wish Vermont & Northeast New York is a nonprofit organization dedicated to granting life-changing wishes to provide hope, strength, and joy throughout the healing process. Operating from Wishing Spaces in Shelburne, Vermont and Saratoga Springs, New York, the chapter has granted nearly 3,500 wishes since 1986. With the support of generous donors, volunteers, and community partners, we serve Wish Kids across a community spanning 20,000 square miles throughout Vermont and 15 counties in Northeast New York. Visit wish.org/vtny.

About the Saranac Lake Civic Center

The Saranac Lake Civic Center is a year-round, not-for-profit recreation and events facility, serving the residents and visitors of Saranac Lake and the surrounding Adirondack community. The Saranac Lake Civic Center serves residents and visitors from across the region and beyond. Its regular users include Paul Smith's College, high school players from Saranac Lake and Lake Placid Central Schools, the Lake Placid Curling Club, Northwood School, Sara-Placid Lakers, Saranac Lake Learn to Skate and more. Expanded users include tournament users (such as Can-Am Hockey) and exposition organizers to take advantage of the event space.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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