

Study: Granting Wishes may Improve Health of Seriously Ill Children

Children granted wishes had less hospital visits and reduced healthcare costs

Nationwide Children's Hospital

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NEWS PACKAGE

SUGGESTED TEASE	FOR CHILDREN LIVING WITH SERIOUS ILLNESSES, GRANTING THEIR GREATEST WISHES CAN BRING THEM NEW HOPE, BUT A NEW STUDY FINDS THE BENEFITS DON'T STOP THERE. DETAILS COMING UP.
ANCHOR LEAD	CHILDREN LIVING WITH SERIOUS ILLNESSES CAN OFTEN FEEL LIKE THEIR WHOLE LIFE REVOLVES AROUND BEING SICK. GRANTING A CHILD THEIR GREATEST WISH, WHETHER THAT'S BEING A FIREFIGHTER FOR A DAY OR TAKING A TRIP, ALLOWS THEM TO TAKE A BREAK FROM THEIR ILLNESS—AND JUST BE A KID. NOW, A NEW STUDY FINDS A WISH MAY DO MORE THAN JUST PUT A SMILE ON THEIR FACE. BARB CONSIGLIO HAS THE DETAILS.
(PACKAGE START) -----	
CG: Courtesy: Nationwide Children's Hospital :00 - :03	(Nats - Cimone laughing looking at pictures.)
Shots of Cimone and mom looking at photos from Paris	THERE'S A DIFFERENCE IN CIMONE STILL'S SMILE THESE DAYS. :02 (Nats - Mom: "What were you doing there?" Cimone: "I was getting the stamp in my passport.") :05
CG: Tonisha Stills Cimone's mom	A YEAR AGO, CIMONE WAS STRUGGLING DAILY WITH SEVERE EPILEPSY. :03 "I think Cimone was at, we all were, were at a place of hopelessness." :06
CG: Anup Patel, MD Nationwide Children's Hospital	"She had lots of daily seizures. They were really impacting her life. She had a hard time staying in school. She had a hard time learning. She had a hard time just doing anything." :10
Shot of Cimone smiling	BUT SO MUCH CHANGED WHEN CIMONE WAS GRANTED HER VERY SPECIAL WISH. :03

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**CG: Cimone Stills
Granted a wish**

Photos of Cimone in Paris

"My wish was to go to Paris." :02

WHILE CIMONE HAD THE TIME OF HER LIFE, HER MOM NOTICED A BIG CHANGE. :03

Tonisha Stills (CG'd earlier)

"When we went on the trip, she had no seizures, and I cannot explain it." :05

Cimone Stills (CG'd earlier)

"Ever since I left Paris, I feel like there's always been a smile on my face." :04

Shots of Cimone and mom

NOT ONLY WAS SHE HAPPIER, BUT HER HEALTH IMPROVED. :03

Dr. Patel (CG'd earlier)

"We've been able to actually get rid of some of her treatments." :02

File b-roll of Dr. Patel

DOCTOR ANUP PATEL AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL WAS THRILLED WITH CIMONE'S PROGRESS, AND SAW SIMILAR IMPROVEMENTS IN OTHER PATIENTS WHO WERE GRANTED WISHES. :08

Dr. Patel (CG'd earlier)

"I started noticing that these kids were happier. They were more engaged in their treatment. They were having less seizures. They were doing better. And I started to get the question on, is there something more here?" :15

File b-roll of Dr. Patel

Graphic
Children granted wishes were more than twice as likely to have
-Reduced hospital stays
-Reduced healthcare costs

SO HE STUDIED MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN AND FOUND THAT THOSE GRANTED WISHES WERE MORE THAN TWICE AS LIKELY TO HAVE FEWER HOSPITAL STAYS AND REDUCED HEALTHCARE COSTS OVER A TWO YEAR PERIOD. :12

Dr. Patel (CG'd earlier)

"You A: give a great experience. You B: get to provide this potential savings down the road." :06

Shots of Cimone doing her makeup

FOR CIMONE, IT WAS PRICELESS. :02

Tonisha Stills (CG'd earlier)

"I have my daughter back...(crying) there's no amount of money...that you can put on that." :10

Cimone Stills (CG'd earlier)

"Just don't give up hope. There's always room for change, and just keep pushing through and fighting through cause it gets better." :07

Shot of Cimone and mom

AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :03

(PACKAGE END) -----
ANCHOR TAG

WHILE A WISH ISN'T A CURE, RESEARCHERS SAY MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE TO LEARN WHY WISHES HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON HEALTH AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE POWER OF HOPE.

SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Share it! Suggested tweet:**

 **Suggested post:**

Granting a wish for a child living with chronic illness may do more than put a smile on their face. A new study by [@NationwideKids](#) finds it may also improve their health. <http://bit.ly/2AVS104>

Whether it's meeting their favorite celebrity, being a firefighter for a day or going to Disney World, granting a chronically ill child their greatest wish gives them a break from their illness to just be a kid. However, a new study by [Nationwide Children's Hospital](#) finds the benefits extend beyond putting a smile on their face and may actually improve their health. <http://bit.ly/2AVS104>

EXTRA BITES

CG: Anup Patel, MD
Nationwide Children's Hospital

Dr. Patel says a wish gives a kid a break from their illness: *"Many of these children live with these chronic illnesses and so they only have this as their identity, and a wish gives them an opportunity to say, 'I can be a kid. I can focus on something other than what's ailing me.'"*

Dr. Patel describes how Cimone was different after her trip: *"When she came back she just seemed different to me. She was lighter, she was happier. She was actually even more confident."*

Dr. Patel says wishes improve health and reduce costs: *"We're able to say for the first time, a wish is was more than just a nice thing to do. A wish is something that potentially can help the health of a child get better over time, and also healthcare utilization and spending and dollars as it's spent on healthcare can get better over time by doing this."*

CG: Cimone Stills
Granted a wish

Cimone says she's glad her health is getting better: *"It's a good feeling know that, you know, I might not need those emergency meds and that I'm going in the right path."*

Cimone says she was happier after her trip to Paris: *"I came back happier than ever, like there was a smile on my face."*

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<p>CG: Cimone Stills Granted a wish</p>	<p>Cimone says it's amazing how much she has improved: <i>"How much I've improved, it's great, it's amazing."</i></p> <p>Cimone states her wish and why she chose it: <i>"The wish I made was to go to Paris, France, and that's because I like, I love travelling."</i></p> <hr/> <p>Tonisha says experiencing Paris changed Cimone's life: <i>"It wasn't until we got there and she got to experience life outside of herself, life outside of epilepsy, life outside of her small school and town that we live in that, I think, just opened up for her, a whole new life."</i></p> <p>Tonisha says Cimone is reaching her goals thanks to her wish: <i>"She has set goals for her life, and she works every day towards those goals, and that's what that wish did."</i></p> <p>Tonisha explains how Cimone was struggling before her trip: <i>"She was battling depression. She was battling all of these seizure, and then the effects from the medication. I mean, she just was going through so much."</i></p>
<p>CG: Tonisha Stills Cimone's mom</p>	

References

¹*Impact of a Make-A-Wish experience on healthcare utilization*, **Pediatric Research**, October 18, 2018. Online: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41390-018-0207-5>

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