

Make-A-Wish Foundation®  
of Central and Western North Carolina  
Johnston Building  
212 S. Tryon Street, Suite 1080  
Charlotte, NC 28281  
Phone: (704) 339-0334, (877) 677-WISH  
Fax: (704) 339-0335  
[www.ncwish.org](http://www.ncwish.org)



Media Contact: Lisa Woytovich  
Email: [lwoytovich@ncwish.org](mailto:lwoytovich@ncwish.org)

## N E W S R E L E A S E

### Make-A-Wish Foundation® Celebrates 'Hope'

CHARLOTTE (January 26, 2006) – On January 20, 2006, Swisher Hygiene presented the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Western North Carolina's **2006 Celebration of Hope** campaign at the Westin Hotel Charlotte with a black tie event. This 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual event celebrates the memory of Hope Stout whose wish in 2004 was to grant the wishes of 155 children on the waiting list for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Western North Carolina.

In early 2003, Hope Stout was like any normal 12 year old – spirited and vivacious in nature, looking forward to the fun of each day. All this changed that summer. Hope was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer and after a courageous battle, passed away peacefully at her home on January 4, 2004.

Hope's wish of granting other children's wishes continued through the 2006 Celebration of Hope: **I ♥ A Wish** on January 20. Inspired by Hope's love of all things pink, participants donned various heart-inspired hues. The crowd was entertained by Summerdaze, Peace and Love and Willy Wonka in ballrooms decorated with larger-than-life conversation hearts and sweets. Keith Larson of WBT News Talk 1110 served as the event emcee.

More than 500 guests and sponsors generated over \$300,000 to help grant wishes for the 2006 year. Some of the fantastic auction items purchased include: a NASCAR Fan Package, Golf Fan Package, Lake Norman Championship Yacht Charter, Royal Caribbean Cruise, Jake Delhomme and Steve Smith Meet and Greets, and Super Bowl XL tickets. Additionally, six of the 185 wishes currently on the waiting list for the Make-A-Wish foundation were adopted throughout the night.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Western North Carolina has never turned down the wish of an eligible child. "As long as there are children with life-threatening medical conditions, there is a need for Make-A-Wish," said Amy Laws, Director of Wish Programs. The Foundation continues with fundraising efforts throughout the year to assure that all wishes of eligible children will be granted.

The average cost of a wish is \$6,000. Donations can be made in memory of Hope to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Western North Carolina, 212 S. Tryon St., Suite 1080, Charlotte, NC 28281.

Swisher Hygiene has pledged an ongoing relationship with Make-A-Wish and the Celebration of Hope by promising to match their \$100,000 donation for 2007 and challenged other companies to become involved and match their gift.

#### **About the Make-A-Wish Foundation®**

The Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Central and Western North Carolina covers the state from Burlington through the 51 counties to the west, with regional offices in Charlotte, Asheville and the Triad. The Make-A-Wish Foundation® grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. It is the largest wish-granting charity on the world, with 71 chapters in the United States and its territories and 27 international affiliates on five continents. With the help of generous donors and more than 25,000 volunteers, the Make-A-Wish Foundation® has granted over 144,000 wishes to children around the world since 1980.

###