

**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) 677-9474  
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

### Wish Recipient Pays Goodwill Forward for Make-A-Wish Foundation®

#### *JT's Home-Run Derby For Wishes*

Vilas, NC (March 10, 2006) - To look at JT Isaacs one would never believe that this talkative, energetic, lively 6 year old, who looks so normal on the outside is fighting a huge battle everyday of his life. JT was born with a rare genetic disease called Alpha-1 Anti-Trypsin Deficiency. A1ATD is a disease that causes damage to the body's liver and lungs because the body fails to produce a vital enzyme. Because of the damage sustained to the liver and lungs some individuals with the deficiency need to undergo liver and lung transplants. JT started showing signs of illness at 6 weeks of age but was not diagnosed until the week of his first birthday. Over the years he has had several stays in the hospital and has spent more than his fair share at his local pediatrician's office.

JT's family was put in touch with the Make-A-Wish Foundation®, and in November 2005 the family was able to go on a Disney Cruise to the Bahamas. The wish of each child is different. Some wish to meet a celebrity. Others wish to have a tree house or new playground equipment. While kids like JT wish to go on the trip of a lifetime. Without Make-A-Wish, many children would not be able to experience that "one great thing" that their heart desires.

After returning from the cruise, JT started asking how we were able to go on such a great trip. With tears in her eyes, Nancy, JT's mom, sat and explained to her son that there are many children in this world that are sick just like he is. They may have a sick liver, or a sick heart. They may have cancer and their whole body is sick. Without hesitating, JT wanted to know what he could do to help other kids have a wish come true. JT decided that he wanted to grant the wish of another child. In order to do this difficult task, he needs to raise \$6000.00. On March 21<sup>st</sup> at a Watauga High School baseball game, JT will have one minute to hit as many "home-runs" as he can.

JT is asking friends, relatives and community members to make a donation for every "home-run" that he makes. Lavell Hall, director of Athletics at WHS has pledged 10% of the ticket sales from that night's game to go to JT's effort. Come support JT on as he makes a home-run and "Makes a Difference for Make-A-Wish."

#### **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. For more information, please visit [www.ncwish.org](http://www.ncwish.org) or call 1-877-677-WISH.

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.

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