

HISTORY

A program for youth with precious little time to lose.

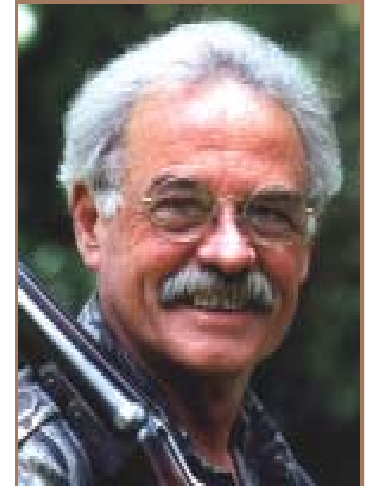


Catch-A-Dream gives children with life-threatening illnesses the chance of a lifetime to experience an outdoor adventure

Catch-A-Dream grants once-in-a-lifetime hunting or fishing experiences to children 18 years old or younger who have a life-threatening illness. Catch-A-Dream exists to provide consumptive use outdoor experiences to fill the “gap” created when the Make-A-Wish Foundation established national policy that precludes granting a child a wish that involves hunting or use of “...firearms, hunting bows, or other hunting or sport-shooting equipment.”

When battling cancer, Bruce Brady, noted outdoorsman, author and sculptor, drew strength and hope from his beloved outdoor experiences. During his last days he was deeply concerned that the world’s largest children's wish granting organization had established national policy that created a glaring gap in its service to qualifying children. Thus, one segment of the qualifying child population would no longer be able to realize their greatest dream; a dream that Bruce and countless outdoorsmen considered worthy and appropriate. He envisioned a program that would fill this service gap and provide life-changing outdoor experiences for terminally ill children at a time when “...**these children need to know that hope does, indeed, exist.**”

Although Bruce died before his vision was anything more than an idea, Catch-A-Dream was created by a small group of outdoorsmen who embraced the vision.

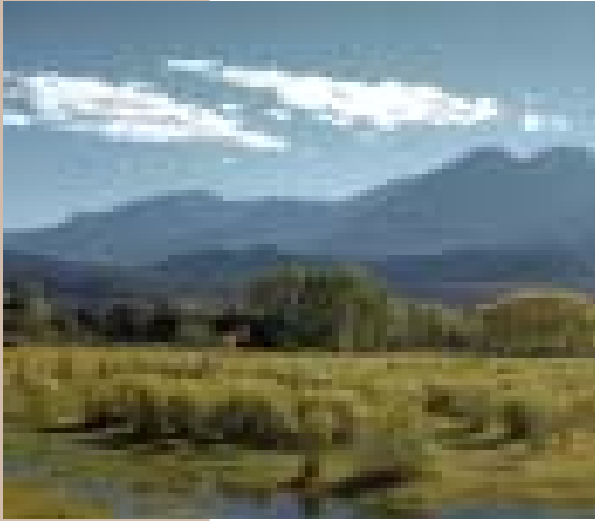


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*But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)*

It is this very message of hope, as promised in Isaiah 40:31, that we seek to instill in these children and their families. We use hunting and fishing as opportune tools to expose these children to the “..wonders of God...” that await them in “The High Country,” as they spend time in the outdoors, away from the bleak and sterile world of medical facilities, treatments, and hospital gowns, but in the presence of The Creator who is the Author of real hope.

On each trip, these children and the family members who accompany them, are surrounded by outdoors-minded people who understand that these children are often “... *sick and tired of being sick and tired!*” A designated Catch-A-Dream host accompanies each family and, together with the outfitters and local volunteers, facilitate their dream



experience and love and nurture them through the strong personal relationships that inevitably are forged in the lodge, on the stream or in the woods. Hosts and volunteers often become their best friends, and remain a part of their families long after the dream trip has concluded. As one volunteer eloquently stated, “*We can’t change the whole world; but we can change someone’s whole world for at least a short period!*” Many parents have confirmed that the mission is consistently accomplished!

Catch-A-Dream has touched over 300 families to date. We have granted outdoor adventures for children from 44 states. We hope to have touched lives in all of the 50 states and Canada in the very near future.

The Catch-A-Dream Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, working in cooperation with the Mississippi State University Extension Service,.



ABOUT US

ELIGIBILITY

Any child, 18 years old or younger, who is a U.S. or Canadian citizen, has a qualifying physician-certified life-threatening illness, and has not had another hunting or fishing grant, is eligible for consideration.

APPLICATION AND REFERRAL

Candidate children and families must submit a written application, signed by a parent or legal guardian. Medical or social work professionals may also make a referral.

To refer a child for a dream, contact Catch-A-Dream and provide us the name and contact information on the child. We will then contact the child's parents. Or, you may encourage the family to apply directly. There is an online dream referral form on our website (www.catchadream.org).

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

The child's attending physician makes the determination of whether a child has a qualifying life-threatening illness. Our criteria require that there be a definable threat that might preclude the child from reaching age 19.

DREAM RESTRICTIONS

Our policy restricts dreams to "outdoor experiences" rather than "outdoor things." The physician also plays a major role in determining whether a child's condition will allow for particular dreams to be coordinated.

COSTS TO THE FAMILY

Families incur NO expense. All dream expenses are fully covered by Catch-A-Dream, including any travel, meals, lodging, licenses, fees, taxidermy, etc. Our objective is to create a memorable dream





experience for both the child and family that is not clouded by financial considerations.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Catch-A-Dream finances its work through individual contributions, corporate donations, and planned gifts. A significant portion of the cost of each dream comes from in-kind donations from many partner outfitters, organizations, companies, and outdoor enthusiasts who become a part of each child's dream experience.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CATCH-A-DREAM

The Catch-A-Dream Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, working in cooperation with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our financial statements are audited annually.

THE "LEAPING TROUT"

The leaping trout is a rendering of a limited edition bronze sculpture by Bruce Brady. The sculpture, entitled "The Royal Coachman," depicts one of Bruce's favorite outdoor adventures and captures the essence of a dream caught and experienced.



DREAM GRANTING

Dreams are granted through the generosity of private donors and hundreds of individual volunteers and organizations nationwide.

Catch-A-Dream becomes aware of a child's wish through dream referrals, which are accepted from parents, legal guardians, or medical and social work professionals. Each dream-granting situation is a unique experience for the child, his/her family, and Catch-A-Dream. However, there is a general process by which a child is referred, qualified, and granted a dream.

First Step: Dream Referral

Catch-A-Dream accepts referrals from one of several potential referral sources:

- The child
- The child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s)
- Medical or social work professionals treating the child

If the initial call comes from someone other than those listed above, we always ask that the family be notified to call directly on their own behalf to support the referral.

Second Step: Filling Out an Application

After the initial referral comes in, the family of the potential dream child will fill out an application and return it to Catch-A-Dream. On this application, the dream child will designate his/her top three outdoor dream adventures. Usually, dreams are only limited by a child's imagination. Most dreams fall into two categories, "I want to hunt for..." or "I want to fish for..."

Third Step: Determining Eligibility

After the application has been received, a medical certification form will be sent to the child's attending physician. The child's attending physician makes the final determination of whether the child is medically eligible to receive an outdoor dream and whether the child is able to participate in the designated activity.

Fourth Step: Fulfilling the Dream

After confirmation of the child's eligibility, Catch-A-Dream notifies the family. Then, Catch-A-Dream personnel identify the supporting partner that can best host the child and make the dream a reality. Once a venue and dream trip are identified, the opportunity is presented to the family. Once the family approves the venue, plans are finalized. Every effort is made to include the immediate family in the child's dream. The dream experience often touches dozens, and sometimes hundreds of people who either help coordinate or are directly involved in the dream. Generous donors and hundreds of

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Posterity for the Catch-A-Dream Foundation is accomplished by a Board of Directors that ensures perpetual commitment to the program, prescribes modes of authority, and ensures long-term stability and existence of the program from an administrative oversight standpoint.

This Board consists of three components. The first group is composed of 5 life members. The second group is composed of 4 at-large members who serve on staggered, rotating terms. The third group is composed of a variable number of associate members who serve on rotating terms.

Life Members:

- Mrs. Peggy Brady of Huntsville, AL
- Reverend Bruce Brady, Jr., BSU Director, Copiah-Lincoln Community College - Brookhaven, MS
- Mr. Jimmy Bullock, Manager, Forest Resource Sustainability, Resource Management Service, LLC - Birmingham, AL
- Mr. Darrell Daigre, Raleigh NC division of Scenic Homes, Inc. - Raleigh, NC
- Dr. Marty Brunson, Extension Professor, Mississippi State University Extension Service - Starkville, MS

Term Members (Terms expire mm/yy):

- Mr. Mark Davis, Professional Angler, President of Pro Anglers Association - Mt. Ida, AR (12/10)
- Mr. Bill Sugg, President, Mossy Oak - West Point, MS (12/09)

Associate Members (Four year terms expire mm/yy):

- Mr. Cliff Covington, Area Livestock Agent, Mississippi State University Extension Service - Port Gibson, MS (12/11)
- Mr. Bill Maily, Area Agent, Mississippi State University Extension Service - Jackson, MS (12/11)
- Dr. Cathy Shropshire, Executive Director, Mississippi Wildlife Federation - Terry, MS (12/11)
- Mr. Harry Dendy, President, Capitol Ag Services - Jackson, MS (12/11)
- Mr. Philip Barrett, Vice President/Controller, Chic-Fil-A - Atlanta, Ga (12/11)

DREAM PROFILE

By Ken Adkins, Knoxville, TN

This is a story about my son Cody and an adventurous few days we had together last year with some of the finest people God ever graced the planet with. It is also a testimonial to all of us that with faith, friends, and determination you can achieve your dream.



On May 24, 2002, my wife, Lisa, and I received the worst news a parent can ever get. Our son was diagnosed with an inoperable and highly malignant pontine glioma brainstem tumor ...Grade 4, the highest, most dangerous, and deadliest of tumors. Our son has Cancer that is incurable and very terminal. We continue to pray for a miracle that only God can deliver.

Cody has always been an outdoorsman, and began hunting with me two years before he could take a hunter safety class. This year he said, "Dad now I know why you keep coming even though you haven't killed a deer yet." I asked why, and he replied, "It's just so peaceful, quiet, and it's like GOD is right here with us. You can hear squirrels and even a leaf fall to the ground. Its like you forget about everything else and take in the moment." Its true. I have hunted for years without ever killing a deer, but I wouldn't trade one minute of that toe-freezing time with him for anything else in the world.

Last fall, my neighbor saw a feature on the Outdoor Channel for CATCH A DREAM. After a series of e-mails and a few phone calls Cody was headed for the hunt of his dreams. CATCH A DREAM really worked vigorously to make this hunt happen quickly for Cody, and on November 25th, 2002 Cody and I loaded up the truck and headed to a farm near Nashville.

There we met Dean Martin, our host and guide for the hunt. He is such a kind and loving individual. After lunch, Tim Traugott, the Catch-A-Dream host from Mississippi, provided Cody with some hunting clothes, including a very nice pair of boots. The coolest gift was an Outdoorsman's Holy Bible, with a Mossy Oak camouflage leather bound cover and commentaries about the outdoors!

After riding around and seeing lots of deer, we got set up at about 4:30 pm. Only a few moments later, the largest deer I've ever seen appeared. The massive buck just stood there and looked at us, which is highly unusual. When Dean said "Shoot him," Cody took the shot, but missed him low. The monster 10 point turned and casually walked away, wagging his tail and laughing at us. I recorded the whole thing with my video camera! We all looked at each other to decide if what we had witnessed for 35 seconds was real or not. Cody was really disappointed and Dean and I were just speechless. Dean spoke up and said, "Cody everything happens for a reason. You missed that buck because tomorrow you'll get one as big or bigger than "BULLWINKLE."

We gathered in Dean's living room to see this animal again and again on my video tape.

"It's just so peaceful, quiet, and it's like GOD is right here with us. You can hear squirrels and even a leaf fall to the ground. Its like you forget about everything else and take in the moment."

No doubt, this was the largest I have ever seen, alive or on T.V. Cody was really feeling bad because he missed such a huge deer. But then we met Dean's wife Deborah. She is just awesome; she genuinely cares. She and Cody hit it off really well, which is not hard to do when you have the choice of people we had. We were made to feel like family this whole day... just one good thing after another happened...and they got better each time.

Deborah understood the sorrow Cody was feeling. Saying "Cody I have a surprise for you," she left the room and came back with a box. She pulled out a Tennessee Titans toboggan and a signed photograph of head coach Jeff Fisher. Cody was like "Wow, and thanks!" The disappointing memory of Bullwinkle faded every time she reached into the box. It was the final dip into the box that caught all our eyes.... a genuine leather NFL pigskin signed by Eddie George, Steve "AIR" McNair, and Coach Fisher. Cody was in heaven. He loves football and loves the Titans, and this was just over the top. This was not part of the hunt.... this was from the heart. I was so appreciative of this because that was a mother's touch.

What we accomplished in a matter of only 5 hours was to see 1200 acres of wonderful land full of turkey, quail, and whitetails, meet two of the nicest people on God's green Earth, and take a shot at a monster buck.

The next morning it rained, and we rode around all morning looking for a deer "as big or bigger" than Bullwinkle, who by now had picked up another nickname.... MIKE TYSON due to his chest and shoulders. By noon we had seen 18 deer. Dean said, "You're ready now, ain't ya Cody?" Cody replied "I sure am!"

Before the afternoon hunt, we said a little prayer and Dean asked Cody where he wanted to hunt. We set up 300 yards off the main road at the bottom of two ridges near where Cody had seen Bullwinkle. Action started early. Dean saw the buck first with his hawk-

like vision. What stood out the most in my mind was the whiteness of his antlers. Cody's heart throb began. Dean used a doe bleat call to stop the buck broadside. Cody was sure of his shot this time and when he fired, the deer ran. Dean said, "Cody you had to get him good because he 'mulekicked' and they only do that when you hit 'em good." Dean disappeared over the ridge in the direction the deer ran and was gone for what seemed an eternity; he came out of the woods smiling. Now Dean had his own heart throb going. He said, "Cody,



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There IS a GOD and buddy, he has blessed you with a 9-point big buck! You shot him through the heart.”

That moment will for ever be replayed through my mind...just how happy and grateful Cody was at that moment. You should have seen the smile on that boys face! Cody was on “cloud 9” and didn’t seem to mind all the filming and the picture taking. Normally he doesn’t like to be filmed, but today he was beaming. Coach Fisher of the Titans called on Deans cell phone and congratulated Cody, then invited us to come back in two weeks to attend the Titans vs. Colts for the Division lead.

Wow! This 2-day trip netted lifetime memories and lifetime friends that we will always appreciate. Dean and Deborah made us feel like members of their family and, along with the nice people of CATCH A DREAM, made my son’s dream of taking a trophy whitetail buck come true . A lot of people go through their life without ever chasing after their dreams. But my son continued to stay hungry for that buck and through the help of several wonderful people a very deserving young man caught his dream. I want to express very special thanks to our most gracious hosts and great friends. With hope love and prayers, I will forever be in your debt. The heart felt warmth and kindness that was extended to me and Cody while at your home is above and beyond letting a little sick boy kill a deer. CATCH THE VISION!



EXPERIENCES



"Thanks again for everything that you did for Taylor. It was truly a trip to remember. When a child would rather return to Alaska over Disney World, that's an accomplishment!" Mother of 9 yr. old

"Last June when he was so sick and in the hospital, he had a depressed feeling and he was asking about dying. Today he is talking about his future. He is even looking into colleges. What a difference!" Mother of 14 yr. old

"Thank you, for giving Matt such an experience! I don't think he has come down off his high yet! I can't explain the joy that our family has experienced from seeing Matt so happy." Mother of 14 yr. old

"Andy had a Disney World grant from another organization. But Catch-A-Dream is different, and not just because this is hunting and fishing. At Disney World we had a good time, then went home; over and done. No one met us at the airport, no one hugged Andy and the rest of us and told Andy that they loved him. No one went out of their way like you folks in Catch-A-Dream have done. You have treated us like family, and that is exactly what you have now become to our little boy, and to us. True family." Parents of a 12 yr. old

"There will be certain things in your life that you'll never forget...that you'll always remember. This will be one of those things that we will all draw on; everybody that's here....not just me, not just Richard, but all of us...I really believe that." Father of 13 yr. old

"This really helped his self-esteem. This isn't the same boy that's at home....he's perked right up...he's ready to go. He's taking the hunting seriously, but he's also having a great time." Father of 10 yr. old.

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“My son had a dream come true that I would have never been able to have given him. We made friends that we will never forget....You and your organization will be blessed for the life-changing experiences you give to children.” Mother of 16 yr. old boy

“It will be a memory that will last a lifetime. Our family will never be able to express our appreciation for what this meant to all of us. The family time really brought us closer together and as I said before the memories will sustain us for a lifetime.” Mother of 17 yr. old boy

“This was something for me to really look forward to. As I was leaving home, I was thinking that this has to be a dream, that it can't be real. I would just like to thank everyone involved.” 11 yr. old boy

“God is awesome, and has given us a glimpse of just how precious life is. We appreciate every day. No matter how many years he has, they're going to be good years, and people like this help make that special.” Mother of 13 yr. old boy“

"My child's whole attitude has changed, he's got a whole new perspective on life now because of you all being strangers, but strangers who really care. And he saw that and now he's driving on with a purpose instead of day to day. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts. We love you all. God bless each one of you!" Parents of a 16 yr. old boy

“Thanks for ALL that you all have done. This is an experience that just keeps giving and we love you all for it.” Mother of 13 yr. old boy

“Thank you for all that you have done for us. Our entire family is very appreciative to you and the organization. We have memories that the boys will never forget and we are telling everyone to go to the web site to read about Catch-A-Dream to get the awareness out so that maybe more people will donate to you. We hope more families will be able to cherish their time with their children in the same wonderful environment we have experienced. We hope God blesses you, your family, and the organization. Bill was a wonderful host and the Bozemans really made us feel welcomed and a part of their family. I hope they are able to continue to participate because they really make dreams come true through their caring and love.” Parents of two boys, ages 16 and 11

