

I wish to have an adventure!

Ryker, wish granted 2018
kidney transplant



The first three years of Ryker's young life were tough. He spent his first year hooked up to a machine 12-hours a day as he endured a critical kidney illness that required dialysis, and he needed a kidney transplant before his third birthday. He had yet another surgery six months later. After a tough start like that, a wish was a great way to celebrate his new lease on life.

Trailblaze for wishes is the perfect fit for Ryker (now age 6) and Magda, Ryker's mom, as a way to give back to Make-A-Wish.

"I very much enjoy hiking," says Magda. "It's my little escape from all the medical stuff that's going on and just any time I need to get out into nature. As soon as I heard that Make-A-Wish was doing Trailblaze as a fundraiser - count me in."

Magda says that Ryker is just as enthusiastic as she is about the event.

"I told Ryker about the different lengths this year and he's already said he wants to do the 200-kilometre challenge!"

Magda says that her motivation is simple: give other families the opportunity to have a wish granted, just like her family did.

"Whatever it is, those kids are just so excited to do something fun and not have to worry about anything else for a little bit," she says. "If we can help generate some hope and joy through our efforts, then it's all worth it."

Magda said that having Ryker's wish granted ended three years of their lives revolving around dialysis, and she still looks through the scrapbook of memories from the granted wish.

"I'm forever going to remember that wish, and so is he."