

## Olivia's Story

*I wish to meet my favourite characters*

**Olivia, 9**  
wish granted, 2019  
nervous system disorder (Ataxia Telangiectasia)



After extensive testing, Olivia was diagnosed with a nervous system disorder (Ataxia Telangiectasia) in 2018. This disorder slowly affects Olivia's mobility and speech, increases her risk of cancer and impacts her immune system (making her more prone to infections). Upon learning Olivia's diagnosis, her parents, Amy and Scott, were devastated. However, their focus remained on caring for Olivia and ensuring her happiness.

Olivia, now nine-years-old, her parents, and with the help of her healthcare team, are managing Olivia's symptoms as they progressively change. One of Olivia's favourite hobbies is working on strength training with her parents in their home gym to help in keeping her legs strong.

Olivia has the brightest smile framed by the most endearing dimples, one on each cheek and one in the center of her chin - a trait that lights up any room she enters. She also loves to fill those around her with joy; she has a special-squishy-nosed-face she makes that always guarantees her family keeling over in laughter. Despite any obstacles that get in her way, Olivia perseveres and inspires those around her with her undeterred determination.

Having never had a family vacation outside of their home province of Nova Scotia, and with the hope of one day meeting her favourite characters, it was no surprise that Olivia and her family wished for a destination trip with Olivia's cousin. Upon their return, Olivia's mom, Amy, summed their vacation up perfectly by stating, "seeing our beautiful girl happy and enjoying herself, there's nothing better."

Amy went on to say, "Olivia's wish made her feel happy and excited. That week away together and sharing it with her cousin has given us the most amazing memories."

Hope is essential for children with critical illnesses, and its life-changing power is unlocked when wishes like Olivia's are granted. Thanks to the generosity of our donor community, we can continue to transform lives, one wish at a time.

