

Meet Evan, the amazing 10-year old son of Dennis & Kathy with 3 siblings; 11 year old brother - Jessie, 7 year old sister – Isabella and 6 year old sister – Sophia. Evan was diagnosed with an aggressive form of Lymphoma last year and has gone thru the difficult stages of chemotherapy, spinal tap and bone marrow aspiration. His cancer appears to be, by definition, in remission. Evan enjoys life to the fullest, would like to become a Chef, takes pleasure in Mario Bros. games and is always happy to share his thankfulness for having another day with family and friends.

Make-A-Wish will grant Evan’s wish to have his unfinished basement transformed into a play area that he can enjoy with his brothers, sisters and neighbor friends who have been supportive and helpful thru his recent struggles. They are a family that bonds over traditions that promote fun, togetherness and communication. Evan has a very understanding grasp of his

illness and has pushed away the struggles he has gone thru looking forward to ensure that when asked “what was your favorite part of your day” his answer is “everything about this day was good because I am here!”



The parents met with HBA & Make-A-Wish representative to review the plans for the basement renovation.

Local Make-A-Wish representatives contacted Evan upon initial approval of the wish and started the search for the “contractor” to take on the project. They contacted Mark Fulford with Fulford Homes who immediately agreed to look into what is involved in this project. Mr. Fulford turned to the Home Builders Association of Greater Southwest Illinois (HBA), of which he served as a Past President and very active member for over 20 years. Mr. Fulford asked the HBA Board of Directors for approval to work together as an organization to take on this project as was respectfully given 100% support.

Quickly all the details and plans were put together to get final approval for the scope of the project. With final authorization from Make-A-Wish Illinois, the Home Builders Association members came together thru an outreach program to over 200 members asking to provide materials and labor to make Evan’s wish a reality. In less than 2 weeks the HBA members have confirmed their donations of materials and labor for framing, flooring, drywall, HVAC, Insulation, material hauling, clean up, etc. The project is scheduled to take approximately 3 weeks to complete.

Please follow this “work in progress” in making Evan’s wish come true. The following Home Builders Association members are contributing to Evan thru Make-A-Wish:

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Archway Cooling & Heating | Butler Supply           | C.A. Jones, Inc.  | Classic Painting       |
| Custom Floors             | Fulford Home Remodeling | Fulford Homes     | Goley Inc.             |
| Heartland Homes           | Homes by Deesign        | John Bender, Inc. | Liese Lumber           |
| Light Brite Distributing  | Mattingly Lumber        | McDar Drywall     | Negwer Materials, Inc. |
| Synergy Electric, LLC     | Windoor Company, Inc.   |                   |                        |

**About Make-A-Wish Illinois**

Make-A-Wish Illinois grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich their lives with hope, strength and joy. Since being founded locally in 1985, the chapter has granted more than 11,000 wishes and continues its mission to share the power of a wish® with special children across the state. For more information or to find out how you can help, call 217.544.9470 or visit [www.wishes.org](http://www.wishes.org).

The Home Builders Association of Greater Southwest Illinois represents hundreds of professionals in the building industry. Visit [www.hbaswil.org](http://www.hbaswil.org) to learn about the building professionals within our organization. The HBA’s mission is to be the voice of the building industry throughout the 9 counties it represents. The HBA members are honored and humbled to be part of such an incredible wish for such a deserving young man, Evan, from our local community.