

GENERAL NEWS

Kids Wish Network project benefits local youth

By Stephen Scalf
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www.mercurynews.com

Nicholas County resident Eliza Wagner has been a long-time donor to the Kids Wish Network, a charitable organization in Holiday, Florida that grants wishes to kids between the ages of 3 and 18 who are battling life-threatening conditions. Two or three years ago, when the organization contacted Eliza for her annual donation, they asked if she knew of any children in Nicholas County

who might benefit from their assistance. Eliza immediately thought of her great-nephew, Trenton Campbell.

Trenton was born with spina bifida, a condition where a portion of the spine fails to join together, leaving their spinal cord open and causing different degrees of paralysis and deformation of the hips, knees and feet. As a result of this condition, Trenton is paralyzed from the waist down. He also has hydrocephalus, which is a build-up of fluid in the

skull. Trenton had to have a shunt placed in his skull to relieve pressure from the fluid and since its emplacement has had to undergo four almost revision surgeries. Additionally, Trenton has progressive stropthy of the left kidney.

When Kids Wish Network learned about Trenton, they assigned Jennifer Casparovic to be his Wish Coordinator. About nine months ago, Jennifer called Trenton and asked him what he wished for. Trenton told Jennifer how he loves horses

and had a horse, named Buddy, who died recently. He talked about how much he likes the television series "Little House on the Prairie." He explained that because of his condition, he has to be home schooled and how Nicholas County Schools sends two teachers out each week to help with his education. Trenton thought it would be nice to have a place that combined everything — a structure that looks something like a horse stable that he could use as a school house, and a private place of his own where he could go in the afternoons to enjoy the peace and quiet.

The charity had plans drawn up and sent them to local home builder, Eugene Hall, and asked if he would be willing to lead the project, including rounding up a local volunteer work force. This past week, the foundation was poured and building materials arrived from the Richmond Rd. Home Depot in Lexington and the Home Depot in Harrodsburg.

Saturday Judge Jay Delaney and City Councilman Eugene Hall set the door header while Dr. Reyes and Carlo Kelley build rafters for the roof.



Trenton shares a smile with his great-uncle Eliza Wagner, who contacted Kids Wish Network about the project.

morning the work crew arrived and began framing so he could watch the beginning of the Caring Hearts benefit ride, but when he got home and saw the progress, his eyes lit up as he said, "I am so excited. I want to thank everyone who helped out to make my wish come true."

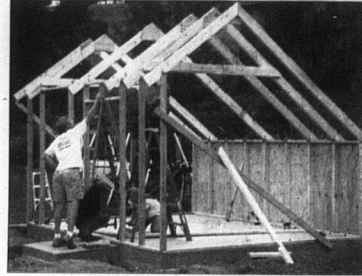


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