



Miss Leaf River Valley 2011

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# MAKE · · WISH

At the end of my junior year in high school, my brother Mark was diagnosed with Leukemia. At the age of five, he began treatment at St. Jude's Research Hospital. Through Mark's treatment at St. Jude's, I learned about the mission and impact of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Like thousands of other young children, Mark would become a Make-A-Wish child. After seeing the relief and hope this opportunity gave my family in such a grim time, I knew working to assist the Make-A-Wish Foundation would be an integral part of my life. I then sought out any and all opportunities to aid in the Make-A-Wish Foundation in any way possible.

My brother Mark finally received his wish this summer. I cannot put into words the difference Make-A-Wish has had on my family, not to mention countless others just like mine with a child facing a life threatening illness. For most families, these will be some of the best memories they have with their children; too often, some of the last.

A little boy named Kaden, my brother's best friend, shared my brother's diagnosis but not his success in treatments. Though Kaden no longer can, his family will tell you the impact of Make-A-Wish on his young life, and that their most cherished memories of their son are those of his Wish. His family will never lose those memories of their son and the joy the Make-A-Wish Foundation offered.

I have made it my goal to raise the funds to grant two wishes for Mississippi children in honor of Mark and Kaden. Each day a child is diagnosed with a life threatening illness. For many, time is running out. Join me to help better the life of a child and see their Wish come true.