

Laying the foundation for the future

We were pleased that the Community Foundation of Johnson County reported that its assets grew by 30 percent this year, despite the fact that the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up only 6 percent on the year. The growth came from continued donations to the foundation, which specializes in helping other nonprofits grow their endowments, ensuring that charitable work comes in good times and bad.

The real driver of those donations is the Endow Iowa program, which offers a 25 percent Iowa income tax break to donations to community foundations.

The program is an incentive to keep the accumulated wealth of Iowa's Baby Boomers from going to their out-of-state children.

But there are only 16 programs in the state that qualify for the tax break.

Perhaps a more aggressive expansion of the program is in order, as the benefits are clearly evident.

UI Wishmakers

A new University of Iowa student organization, the UI Wishmakers, hope to

raise \$5,000 a year to help fund the wish of a child through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, a national nonprofit that helps grant wishes for children with life-threatening medical conditions.

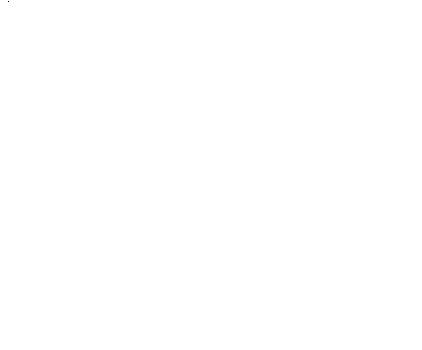
All of the money raised through the UI chapter will be used to grant wishes for children in the Iowa City area.

The group is planning a number of events to help raise money for Make-A-Wish, including a late-night pancake supper, a battle of the bands, a basketball tournament and a raffle in which participants enter for a chance to have their own \$500 wish granted.

Jarrett McGuigan, a 19-year-old UI sophomore from Waterloo and president of the group, said he is excited to start raising money to help grant wishes.

"It's a life-changing thing for the children and for us," he said. "You see so much strength and happiness out of a simple wish granted to them."

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According to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, there have been 216,158 wishes granted since 1980, and a wish is granted every 40 minutes. The foundation says the cost associated with coordinating a wish varies depending on the type of wish, but as of March 2010, the average cost of a wish was \$7,205.

The foundation said the most common wishes fall into one of four categories: I wish to go; I wish to meet; I wish to be; and I wish to have. To date, the Iowa Chapter of Make-A-Wish says it has fulfilled more than 2,400 wishes.

Our wish is that this new group succeeds in its mission to enrich the lives of sick children and their families, to give them something to look forward to other than more tests and treatments.

We encourage the community to help make these dreams come true.

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