

# AWESOME AWGO TIPS



Association of Wish Granting Organizations (AWGO)  
Kathleen B. Breaux, AWGO Vice President, Editor  
Board Member of A Child's Wish of Greater New Orleans

March 2010

Hi Everyone!

Greetings from the Super Bowl Champion city!! New Orleans will never be the same! ☺ I hope this finds everybody well! Spring is right around the corner and with it comes the opportunity to renew, regroup, refresh and recharge our batteries.

We're trying to increase our membership again this year, so if you know of any wish granting organizations that might be interested in joining our group, please contact them directly and follow up with a note. Perhaps you could also enclose a copy of our "Scholarships" newsletter as a token of good will. (There is more than enough scholarship money to go around, and I would hate to see it go unused.) Hopefully, they will be interested and may even choose to join us in Atlantic City in June. Our members are such a fantastic, knowledgeable, caring group of people, that it would be wonderful to share them with other organizations.

The featured organization for this newsletter is Rayann Vasko's group, Dream Come True in Lehigh Valley, PA. Please check them out on page 3. They're an awesome group!

As you are aware, our **2010 conference** will be held **in Atlantic City on June 17-18**. Mark your calendars now for another memorable conference! Check out the details on pages 4-6.

**Prescription (Rx) Assistance** is the topic for this newsletter. There is an ever present need for families to be able to explore prescription options and this will be a great opportunity for them to do so. Fortunately, this information is relevant for adult patients, as well as children, so we should get a lot of mileage out of this newsletter! ☺

Take care,  
Kathleen B. Breaux

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**Needy Meds** – Needy Meds is a 501 C non-profit organization with the mission of helping people who can't afford to pay for their medications. They will assist with the cost of prescriptions, co-pays, premiums and disease related expenses. Needy Meds has information on more than 2,400 programs that are available at no cost, requires no registration and is always up-to-date. There is also a database of clinics that offer healthcare at no cost, for a small fee, or on a sliding scale basis. The free Needy Meds Drug Discount card can save you up to 75% on prescriptions, requires no financial, age or residency restrictions, **but cannot be used with insurance**. Download, print, clip and save your card at [www.needy meds.org](http://www.needy meds.org).

**RxAssist** is a website with information, news and a database that are all designed to help you find out about ways to get affordable, or free, medications. The database includes information on the pharmaceutical companies' patient assistance programs, or programs that provide free or low cost medication to low-income patients. RxAssist was created by Volunteers in Health Care, a national nonprofit resource center for health care programs working with the uninsured. Check out their website at [www.rxassist.org](http://www.rxassist.org) or call them directly at 401-729-3284.

Gratitude unlocks the fullness  
of life. It turns what we have  
into enough, and more.  
Melody Beattie

**The Partnership for Prescription Assistance** brings together America's pharmaceutical companies, doctors, other health care providers, patient advocacy and community groups to help qualifying patients without prescription drug coverage get free or low-cost medicines through the public or private program that's right for them. Visit their website at [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org) for more information or call them at 888-477-2669.

**SCBN Prescription Advocacy** is a patient advocate organization that specializes in helping uninsured, low income Americans access help with prescriptions on an ongoing basis from Patient Assistance Programs. Since 2002, they have helped over 15,000 Americans get over \$100,000,000 of medicine directly from the pharmaceutical companies. They work one on one with you to get you the maximum amount of help with prescriptions possible. You can find them at [www.scbn.org](http://www.scbn.org) or you can call them at 888-331-1002 and speak with someone directly.

Do more than exist, live.  
Do more than touch, feel.  
Do more than look, observe.  
Do more than read, absorb.  
Do more than hear, listen.  
Do more than think, ponder  
Do more than talk, say something.  
John H. Rhoades

**Prescriptions in England** – Patients can apply for five-year exemption certificates entitling them to all of their NHS prescriptions free of charge, not just those for cancer. Application forms can be collected from GP surgeries and hospital clinics. Applications received by March 24 will be processed in time for the start of the program on April 1. For the entire article, go to [www.news.bbc.co.uk](http://www.news.bbc.co.uk) for more details.

**Importing Prescription Medications from Canada** – I've heard for years about people who choose to have their prescriptions filled in Canada and shipped back to the U.S., so I investigated that option. Unfortunately, at this time, the practice is still illegal in the U.S. I've decided, therefore, not to share the results of my internet research due to the possible perception of encouraging anyone to break the law! If and when that law is changed, I will share the details of getting your prescriptions filled across the border. Sorry...

#### The Knots Prayer

Dear God, please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life. Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots, may nots, might nots that may find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life all of the "am nots" that I have allowed to hold me back, especially the thought that I am not good enough. Amen  
Author Known to God

## **Dream Come True of the Lehigh Valley, PA.**

Dream Come True of the Lehigh Valley was founded in 1984 by local businessman Kostas Kalogeropoulos. Kostas was sitting in the lounge of the hotel he owns in Allentown PA when he overheard a conversation regarding a young child who had aggressive cancer. Her family wanted to take her to Disney world before anything happened to her but could not afford it. That night Kostas couldn't sleep knowing there was a child who could not realize her dream. The next day he found a way to contact the family and out of his own pocket gave her a Disney world trip. Afterwards he thought if there is one child there must be many more who are sick and want a dream. He held a press conference asking for money, volunteers and children. That first year we fulfilled 2 dreams and 25 years later Dream Come True has fulfilled 1,000 dreams for kids who are seriously, chronically or terminally ill. In 1993 we added a part time employee, Executive Director Rayann Vasko, who had been a volunteer for many years.

Dreams range from the most common, Disneyworld, to many unique ones. One young boy was GI Joe for the day and was made a five star general. Another boy's dream was to visit Dinosaur Land in Utah. Unique dreams included spending the day with Broadway star Helen Hayes and Eartha Kitt, meeting Princess Diana, riding in a Russian fighter jet, meeting Duke University Basketball Coach Krzyzewski. Many children dream of swimming pools, redecorated bedrooms, computers and more. We are not government funded and rely on private donations.

We offer our Dream Come True children various activities throughout the year. We host a picnic and holiday party. We also host a "North Pole Express" where we fly some of our kids on an airplane to the "North Pole". Once they land at the "North Pole" the children spend the day with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

In 2002 Dream Come True expanded our services to include helping any child who had a dream from us with college. Each Dream Come True child is eligible for an annual scholarship. We also help families with funeral expenses should a child unfortunately pass away.

We partner with other organizations such as The Leukemia Lymphoma Society, American Cancer Society, Specialty Care Clinic, Pediatric Cancer Support Group, The Wellness Community, Camelot for Children, Angel34 to offer our children and families many more much needed services.

Rayann Vasko  
Executive Director



## **“The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of The Association of Wish Granting Organizations, Inc.”**

[www.awgo.org](http://www.awgo.org) -- Est. 1995

**June 17<sup>th</sup> & June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Atlantic City, NJ**

### **Hotel Accommodations**

at

**“The Chelsea”  
111 South Chelsea Avenue  
Atlantic City, NJ**

**1-800-548-3030 x 1**

[www.thechelsea-ac.com](http://www.thechelsea-ac.com)

- Located right on the Boardwalk!
- Special rates for **Luxe Rooms \$131.90 including tax** > 2 queen beds or 1 king bed)
- The guestrooms sit high above Chelsea Ave in the Luxe tower with city views, ultra comfortable beds with custom linens, a luxurious bathroom, iPod docking station, 37” flat screen TV w/ On-Demand service, mini bar, stylish desk w/ample working space, complimentary wireless internet access.
- Other special complimentary amenities included by the hotel: Secure valet parking, 2 signature restaurants, bicycles available for rent, fitness center, ground floor outdoor saltwater swimming pool, rooftop swimming pool, with full service rooftop bar, direct beach and boardwalk access, exclusive beach service including towels, lounge chairs and sun umbrellas with private set-up.
- **18 Luxe Rooms are reserved at this special rate - Call and reserve your rooms today!** \*\*\* Be sure when you call 1-800-548-3030 x 1 you state you are signing up for the Association of Wish Granting Conference – June 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>!! (These rates apply for the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> for those who would like to spend a little more time in Atlantic City.)

**JOIN US** –on Thursday at “Carmine’s” as we get together, go out to dinner and do some excellent networking! More info to follow!

**DON’T MISS OUT!!** Complete the enclosed conference registration form and mail with your check as soon as possible!

**“The Association of Wish Granting Organizations, Inc.”**

Providing the Highest of Standards in Wish Granting Throughout the World  
www.awgo.org - Est. 1995

19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

June 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Atlantic City, NJ

**Registration Form**

The 2010 AWGO Conference will be held at the beautiful ***The Chelsea, 111 South Chelsea Avenue, Atlantic City, NJ 08401***. To make your reservation call: **1-800-548-3030 x 1**. Be sure to mention you are registering for the **“The Association of Wish Granting Conference”**.

Our **special room rates** are for the **Luxe Room** at **\$131.90 (tax included) - select either 2 queen beds or 1 king**. There are only 18 Luxe Rooms held at the **“AWGO”** conference special rate so book early! This special rate is only available until **May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. **We look forward to seeing you!**

Please return this form to Rosemary Bowers at ***A Wish Come True, Inc.*** along with your check made payable to “AWGO”. For more information you may email: Rosemary@awishcometrue.org. We need to get a general consensus of attendees to insure adequate meeting space.

**Registration fee for AWGO members is \$125.00 for first person with a fee of \$49 per additional attendees and non-members \$150.00 for first person with a fee of \$49.00 per additional attendees.** This price includes Breakfast and Lunch Thursday and Friday.

**Checks made payable to “AWGO” and mail with this form by **May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010** to:**  
**Rosemary Bowers, A Wish Come True, Inc., 161 Furey Ave., Tiverton, RI 02878**  
(A portion of the registration fee may be used to support the operational costs of AWGO)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FAX: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Titles of Attendees:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

- \*There is a special "Scholarship Fund" set up for organizations wishing to attend the conference that need some financial assistance. For information contact: Susan Ponton, Special Wishes, Inc., P.O. Box 391, Oakville, CT 06779 (phone: 866-999-5224 or email: [s.ponton@snet.net](mailto:s.ponton@snet.net).)

**2009-2010 EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS**

President – Rosemary Bowers, A Wish Come True, Rhode Island  
Vice President – Kathleen B. Breaux, A Child’s Wish of Greater New Orleans  
Secretary – Rayann Vasko, Dream Come True of Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania  
Treasurer – Dave Ferrell, Wishes Can Happen, Ohio

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Elaine Tozer – Cystic Fibrosis Dream Holidays, England  
James Dubois – Dare to Dream Foundation, New Jersey  
Roxanne Rosenberg – The Rainbow Society of Alberta, Canada  
Sue Ponton – Special Wishes, Connecticut  
Cyndi Morrow – Wishes Can Happen, Ohio

**Hope to see all of you at the conference!!**