

## Record Breaking Wish Ball

### \$2 Million Raised for Illinois Chapter at Annual Wish Ball!



#### ***Jay Leno with Benefit Auctioneer David Goodman – Live Auction Raises almost \$1,000,000!***

As the sun set over Navy Pier on Saturday, May 16, the inside of the Grand Ballroom became lush with color as more than one thousand supporters gathered to help children Wish in Full Color at Wish Ball, the largest annual fundraiser for Make-A-Wish Illinois. More than \$2 million was raised to support the Make-A-Wish Illinois goal of reaching all eligible children with a life-changing wish experience.

Guided through the evening by NBC 5 Chicago’s morning team, Zoraida Sambolin and Stefan Holt, guests heard from Marie Guthrie, a wish parent from Algonquin on the life-changing impact her daughter Leah’s wish had on their entire family. Leah’s wish to visit Paris was granted in 2013.

“It was as though a cloud lifted,” Guthrie said of Leah’s wish experience. “Leah’s wish trip gave us something positive on which to focus during Leah’s difficult treatment, bringing color back into our lives.”

While in Paris, Leah was disappointed to have forgotten a lock to put on the famous Love Lock Bridge. As a tribute to Leah, Make-A-Wish Illinois enlisted the help of Make-A-Wish France to place a custom lock in Leah’s memory on the very bridge that Leah had visited. A matching lock was presented to Leah’s mom at Wish Ball.

“This Wish Ball was an extraordinary evening, full of celebration and touching moments,” said Stephanie Springs, Chief Executive Officer of Make-A-Wish Illinois. “The money raised is so important to our vision of reaching every eligible child with a wish experience. We know that three children in Illinois are newly diagnosed every day, and we want them all to have the opportunity to feel uplifted with a wish.”

**Guests enjoyed a performance by legendary late night host Jay Leno, which he capped off by auctioning with Benefit Auctioneer David Goodman of Auction Results four personal experience packages with him at his Big Dog Garage for \$100,000!** The evening ended with guests dancing into the perfect night on the Lakeview Terrace Rooftop at Navy Pier. Wish Ball 2015 was presented by Balasa Dinverno Foltz LLC, and supported by many other generous sponsors including Advocate Health Care, GATX Corporation, MARC USA, David and Teryl Schawk Family Foundation, UGN, Inc, and Unum.