



“Thank you for putting a smile on my daughter’s face and making her journey through cancer that much better.”

I wish to have a room redo

Ava, 14
cancer

Dear Make-A-Wish[®] Michigan Supporter,

After constant complaints about knee pain, we took my daughter Ava to see her primary care doctor. We were shocked when she said it was cancer. The following week, we made the two-and-a-half-hour drive to Grand Rapids to see specialists at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. Doctors diagnosed Ava with osteosarcoma.

I was scared. I didn’t know anything about her cancer at this point. All I knew was that it would be a long and hard road.

We quickly learned that she would have to go through nine months of chemotherapy and undergo limb salvage surgery where they would remove the tumor in her femur and put a titanium rod in its place. Ava was in the hospital for seven days after her surgery. She later told me that it was one of the darkest times of her life.

We found out about Make-A-Wish when a social worker said she was a candidate for it. I was super excited and kind of surprised too. Ava was really, really excited. At the time, Ava was a typical 13-year-old girl. She loved to spend time in her room, but it wasn’t the prettiest, so she decided on a bedroom redo.

Ava knew exactly what she wanted in her room. Ava loves makeup, so she most desired a beautiful vanity. Wearing makeup made her feel more girly while battling cancer without hair, so I wasn’t surprised that a vanity was most important to her.

Ava also really wanted mirror sliding glass closet doors. The mirror doors made her small room feel larger. When her friends came over, they could all get ready at once in front of the mirror doors. They could do everything right in the comfort of her own bedroom.

After she saw her room, she was in awe. It looks like a movie-star room, especially with that vanity with the big lights on it. It’s very peaceful. It’s very bright. I’m sure every teenage girl would absolutely love her room.

I feel like her room was a huge game changer for Ava. I can just see the smile on her face. Her room put a lot of light in her life. It really made a difference and was very comforting for her too. I noticed that her room was always clean.

Prior to deciding on her wish, I just wanted Ava to feel freedom. I wanted her to be happy because she had gone through some really difficult times. While Ava battled osteosarcoma, she spent a lot of time in her room because it was her happy place. It was a place of respite for her during this pandemic.

There is a lot of depression and heartache that comes with a cancer diagnosis. Make-A-Wish is one thing that they can look forward to. Something good in their life at that time while going through treatment. Make-A-Wish goes over, above and beyond to make the wish just perfect for the kids.

Now more than ever, Michigan wish kids need the hope that a life-changing wish provides. I would like to personally ask you to make a tax-deductible donation today, so that more Michigan children like my daughter can experience the hope and joy of a wish come true.

Thank you for putting a smile on my daughter’s face and making her journey through cancer that much better,

Jodi, wish mom

“Ava spent a lot of time in her room because it was her happy place.”



Photos of Ava by Krista Tacey-Cater, Houghton Lake Resorter