OUWB Students Make Dreams Come True for Leukemia Patient

It may have been drizzling rain outside but the Glee-inspired voices of the children's choir and the cheering community warmed the air as Alayna moved along the red carpet runner on her driveway. The tiara on the 13-year-old's freshly styled hair and the "paparazzi" glammed up her entrance and signaled the start of the lively animal-themed, Make-A-Wish party at her home in Lake Orion, Mich. The permanent smile on Alayna's face revealed complete happiness and brought utter joy to those surrounding her. Lauren Singer, Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) School of Medicine class of 2017, explained that the reaction is the power of the wish.

As a volunteer for Make-A-Wish Michigan, Singer met Alayna and her family a mere 10 days prior to the party to gather details so she could make it a magical event. The family told her that Alayna dreamed of being a movie star. Armed with that knowledge, Singer and her classmate, Jon Fergus, worked diligently to combine Alayna's love for animals with her dream of being a celebrity. They started by asking fellow OUWB classmates to play the role of paparazzi by lining the red carpet, calling her name and clicking off photos that would capture Alayna's expressions. They hope the photos will serve as fond memories of the day when everyone forgot their cheeks and foreheads.

"The beauty of Make-A-Wish is that it takes the illness out of the equation," said Singer of the not-for-profit organization that was founded in 1983.

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