

Make-A-Wish®
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N E W S R E L E A S E

Deontay Wilder to help Make-A-Wish® Alabama reveal wish

Tuscaloosa, AL. (September 8, 2016) – After being born with a life-threatening immune system disorder, Adrian – known as “Shug” to his family and friends – had to undergo a bone marrow transplant one month after birth. Since then, a childhood filled with doctor visits and isolation has followed. Shug, now eleven-years-old, lives a much different life than other kids his age. He receives weekly injections and is home schooled due to his medical condition.

Shug loves boxing and wrestling and has dreamed of being in the ring, so Make-A-Wish® Alabama is teaming up with World Heavyweight Boxing Champion and Tuscaloosa native, Deontay Wilder, to deliver some very exciting news—news that will bring Shug and his family the hope, strength, and joy that comes with having a wish granted.

On Saturday, September 10, Wilder and Make-A-Wish Alabama will surprise Shug and reveal to him that his wish to go to Walt Disney World will be granted later this month.

When: Saturday, September 10, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Skyy Gym

123 30th Avenue #10

Northport, Alabama 35476

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ABOUT MAKE-A-WISH® ALABAMA

Make-A-Wish® Alabama grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Make-A-Wish® is the world’s largest wish-granting organization, serving children in nearly 50 countries on five continents. With the help of generous donors and more than 32,000 volunteers worldwide, Make-A-Wish grants a wish somewhere in the world every 21 minutes on average. Since 1980, it has granted more than 350,000 wishes to children around the world.

In September 2012, Make-A-Wish® Alabama was established as an independent 501(c)(3) headquartered in Birmingham and is locally governed by a 16-member board of directors. Make-A-Wish Alabama is one of 62 federated chapters of Make-A-Wish America. Our mission is carried out on the local level – right here in Alabama – with over 500 wishes having been granted over the past four years.

ABOUT DEONTAY WILDER

Deontay Wilder, a life-long resident of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, is the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion. He won a bronze medal for the U.S. Olympic boxing team at the 2008 Beijing Games and after turning pro took on the nickname "The Bronze Bomber."

Wilder, 30, who has a professional record of 37-0 with 36 KOs, got a late start in boxing, taking up the sport to try to earn money when he was 19-years old after learning that his daughter, Naieya, would be born with spina bifida. Before his professional career took off, Wilder worked three jobs to help pay the hospital bills. After his daughter was born he made her a promise that he would become heavyweight champion of the world. He made good on that promise when he defeated Bermane Stiverne for the WBC title on Jan. 17, 2015.

His next goal is to be the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world – the first one since Lennox Lewis in 2000. He is well on his way to accomplishing that goal.