



What We're Working on @ HQ

May 2021

What a difference a year can make! Just yesterday a picture popped up in my social media feed from year ago to the day. It was a picture of Steph, Staci and me celebrating a fresh haircut for the first time in months. The smallest sign of normal was a welcome relief. Here we (Dream Factory) are today, a year later, with guarded optimism for the upcoming summer and beyond. Understandably, there were few if any dreams completed last May. Most nearly all our energies were spent on reaching out to families to postpone dreams, with no answers to the question of “when can the dream occur?”

We are certainly in a better place than a year ago. We have shifted from waiting for the announcement of the next round of restrictions to now waiting for the next announcement of lifting of the restrictions. Our energies and efforts have shifted from postponing dreams to working together to schedule dreams.

The gate has not swung wide open, but it has definitely opened up. **As the gate opens wider and wider, it is important to remember that this is not a race. Each chapter, depending on local variables, will move forward at their own pace. This is more than okay!** Do not allow a feeling of urgency to develop because of increasing referral numbers. Factors, such as other dream granting organizations cancelling all dreams and kids still getting sick during the pandemic, have created the increase in referrals. You and your chapter have not created this situation. We will take it one referral and one dream at a time. In reading the minutes of the chapters and talking with volunteers, optimism and hope are in the process of replacing pessimism and frustration.

The light of hope that each of you represents to our children and families is shining brighter every day! It is going to be a slow, intentional climb back to where we were in 2019 in terms of granting dreams and raising funds to complete those dreams. Our return to 2019 levels is going to take time and patience. There will inevitably be setbacks but working together, there is no doubt we will overcome the setbacks and reach even newer heights.

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Convention 2021-We are excited to announce that we will be in Louisville, KY for Convention 2021. **The dates are September 24-25, 2021.** It will look different but we will see each other, share stories, learn from each other and celebrate the kids and families we serve!! We will be safe and follow all guidelines in place at that time. Please remember that we are required to have a minimum number of room nights at the hotel.



Room reservation info:

- Link: [The Dream Factory Annual Conference](#)
- Code: 090921DRE
- Deadline for reduced rate: Friday, August 20th

BOD quarterly meeting-Saturday June 5th at 11:00 am EST. Call in information is:

319-527-2791

Code:494170

Please send the name of the person representing your chapter on this call to Mike.

Dreams-Dream Week-every child and family staying at GKTW the week of June 20-June 26 are Dream Factory dream recipients!!! Super exciting to think about the impact on these families and children. Chapters include Kansas City, Memphis, Oregon, Sedalia, Southwest Missouri, Lake of the Ozarks, South Dakota, Central New York, Brooklyn, Clarksville, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, St. Louis, York Maine and Central Missouri. **25 dreams in one week!!**



**DREAM
FACTORY**

Chapter Highlights(while it is impossible to share all the great things going on in all the chapters, this section is designed to share some of those great things each month)

- **Jersey Shore**-there is a local person who sends \$100 to each dream child on their birthday!! Due in no part to the reputation of the Jersey Shore chapter.
- **Lexington and HQ**-partnered on a very successful golf scramble. A special thanks to Lexington for donating raffle items, goodies for tee bags and other items.
- **Arizona, Phoenix, St. Louis, Iowa** (possibly other Missouri chapters) –we are in the early stages of planning for the annual Kurt Warner week at Disney from July 11-17. A great dream for the kids.
- **Nebraska**-is hosting a golf tournament on June 5-good luck
- **Oregon**-3 dreams scheduled for June and all three are to Disney in Florida!
- **Kansas City**-recently completed their annual Rockin For Dreams event-they had a very successful event.

Theme park mask update-be sure to check with the specific theme park to determine their mask requirement. There is some variance from park to park.

Email-All chapter email accounts should have a new and more secured password. This safety measures went into effect on April 1. If any chapter is having difficulties with creating a new password then reach out to tommie.kendall@dreamfactoryinc.org. In addition, if you receive an email indicating that your chapter is using photographs illegally and without permission, DO NOT open it. DO NOT respond to the email. It is the latest scam.

