

## **Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Maine**

477 Congress St, Suite 7W

Portland, ME 04101

(207) 221-2306

[www.mainewish.org](http://www.mainewish.org)

E-mail: [lgleeson@maine.wish.org](mailto:lgleeson@maine.wish.org)

### **For Immediate Release: Community News**

Contact: Lisa Gleeson (207.221-2306)

PORTLAND, ME – November 30, 2010 – Lucas Tree Experts of Portland, Maine donated their expertise to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Maine today to help begin granting a wish to have a backyard play set to Alatheia, 12, of Portland who lives with a life-threatening neurological condition. When asked by the Foundation what she would like most in the world, the local girl decided that her dream would be to have a play set in her backyard. However there was one problem: a large and dangerous tree living in the center of the space. Lucas Tree Experts worked with Make-A-Wish Foundation's Program Director Kate Vickery to extract the tree from the site.

"We are so appreciative to Lucas Tree for their assistance with Alatheia's wish," said Vickery. "The need to remove the tree was a huge obstacle to being able to move forward with granting the wish, and the Lucas staff was very understanding and wonderful to work with. The site looks great and will be ready for us to safely install the play set when the ground thaws in the spring."

The normal cost to take down a tree of this size would have been roughly \$2,000, which is now money that can go towards other costs associated with this wish. The average cost of a wish is \$6,000 and a wish is granted to a Maine child about every five days by the Foundation.

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### **ABOUT THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION**

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. The Maine Chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation opened in 1992. As of March 2010, we have granted over 900 wishes. This year, the Foundation expects to grant the greatest wish of over 75 seriously ill Maine children, which is an **average of one wish every five days**. The average cost of a wish is \$6,000. All money raised in Maine stays in Maine. Of the money donated, 77% goes towards program expenses (granting wishes), which is 12% more than the minimum required of non-profits by the Better Business Bureau. All wish expenses are fully covered by the Foundation. The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Maine is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and all contributions are tax deductible.

The Maine chapter has over 200 volunteers statewide, and a staff of six. Our offices are located at 87 Elm Street, in Camden, and 477 Congress Street, Suite 7W, in Portland. For more information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Maine, visit [www.maine.wish.org](http://www.maine.wish.org) and discover how you can share the power of a wish@.