

Brianna, 18

I wish to go to Rome

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana

Brianna's wish truly began when she boarded a plane headed to Rome. But the Make-A-Wish[®] volunteers who granted her wish delivered the invaluable gift of hope long before she ever picked up her boarding pass and guidebook of Italy.

"From our first correspondence ... Brianna has had something to look forward to other than the inevitable truth that comes with a life-threatening disease," her mother, Amy, wrote to the Foundation.

While being treated for thyroid cancer, the Kentucky teen thought of her upcoming trip whenever she needed an emotional lift. As the calendar counted down to her departure, Brianna could barely contain her excitement at seeing Rome's historic sites. Her wish granters arranged a trip through Monograms Travel, drawing on its experts' knowledge to craft an itinerary that would delight Brianna and her family.

From Vatican City to the Galleria Borghese, Brianna led her family through some of Rome's most famous landmarks and monuments. They discovered the warmth of the Italian culture – and re-discovered the joys of being a regular family, free from the burdens of cancer treatments.

Brianna even experienced her first trip to a beach: At Castelfusano, she spent hours sitting in the shallow water and reveling in being just another traveler at the beach. For Amy, the greatest joy was seeing Brianna's dream of traveling to Rome "unfold into a beautiful reality."

"I have never seen her happier, and we will hold the memories we made in Rome forever in our hearts," Amy wrote.