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Alyssa Gilkie meets Justin Bieber.. The Make A Wish Foundation and its sponsors help make a dream come true

Alyssa meets "the Biebe"

by Lorrie Boylen

Have you ever dreamed about rappelling down the side of a tall building? Facing your fears? Getting a bird's eye view of the city? How about doing all that while raising money to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions? If you'd like to channel your inner hero then strap on your superhero cape for Rope for Hope's 6th annual event on Friday, June 22, 2018 at the Westin Nova Scotia. Each participant who registers must raise \$1,500 for Make-A-Wish. The organization provides some "how to" tools to assist participants in achieving this fundraising goal.

The Hope for Rope event for the Make A Wish Foundation will be taking place in Halifax on June 22

Nicole Gilkie, one of this year's event organizers, knows firsthand about the important work the Make-A-Wish Foundation does. Her daughter Alyssa was diagnosed with Von Hippel Lindou Syndrome (VHL), which is a rare genetic disorder causing tumour growth in blood-rich organs and tissues of the body. Regular screening is needed and when a problem is recognised, surgery is needed. Alyssa underwent emergency brain surgery in 2015.

At that time, Nicole was given a pamphlet about the Make-A-Wish foundation which talked about how the power of a wish can change a child's outlook on life as well as give hope, strength, and joy to a child faced with fear, uncertainty, pain, and exhaustion. She submitted an application and fairly quickly learned that

Alyssa was approved.

Wish Grantors came to their home to talk to Alyssa and explain with great care the process and the importance of making the most of her wish and getting the exact one she wanted. The organization encourages children to wish for three things in order of importance to them. During this planning process, something magical happens as they are encouraged to dream their biggest dreams and wish their wildest wish. They begin to forget about being sick, attending doctor's appointments, tests and treatments.

Alyssa's #1 wish was to meet Justin Bieber in person and attend one of his concerts. Within a month of her making her wish, she was asked to attend an event at the Halifax Shopping Centre, where she received the red carpet treatment with balloons, gifts and cupcakes. The shopping centre was sponsoring her wish, and she was told she would be travelling to Quebec City to attend a Justin Bieber concert.

(See Alyssa meets on page 2)

Easter at St. Paul's United Church

by Carolyn Mont

One of the many things I like about living in the northern hemisphere is the changing seasons. If I had to pick a favourite, I think it would be spring, mainly because it is a time of awakening, of new growth, and of rebirth.

That change of seasons is also found in churches. Most churches

(See Easter on page 2)

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