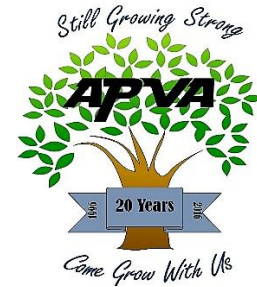


APVA Member Spotlight



June 2016

www.apvali.org

Alexis Alpert, Make-A-Wish Foundation® Suffolk County



How I became a Community Relations Coordinator:

My experience with the Make-A-Wish Foundation® Suffolk County, NY began when I eight years old. It was at this time that I was diagnosed with Leukemia and was referred to the foundation to be granted a wish. My wish was to go to Walt Disney World and the experiences I had while there helped both myself and my family forget all of the distress we were enduring due to my illness. The memories from my wish stayed with me and in my Junior year of college, I applied and was taken on as an intern with the Make-A-Wish® Suffolk County Chapter. Soon after, I joined their Wish Alumni group where I was able to meet and connect with many people who like myself had been through similar experiences.

Just recently, I graduated from Stony Brook University and was offered a position with the chapter. I have only been working here for two weeks but I have already seen the impact my work has had on our wish families. I look forward to the future that I have with this amazing organization and I hope that I will be able to give to other families what Make-A-Wish® gave to me.

My role as a Community Relations Coordinator includes educating volunteers, identifying volunteer opportunities within the organization which fit their skill sets and acknowledging volunteers for their dedication to the Foundation. I will also be hosting volunteer orientations where I will inform new volunteers of our mission and provide the necessary training they will need to participate in the various community and outreach events that take place throughout the year. One of the responsibilities is to ensure that the Foundation is represented in a positive professional manner. Since our chapter has just a staff of seven, our volunteers are a huge part of our success.

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Make-A-Wish ® Foundation Suffolk County:

The mission of the Make-A-Wish ® Foundation is to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. A child that is eligible for a wish can wish for almost anything. The wishes we grant usually fall into one of the following categories: I wish to go, I wish to have, I wish to meet, I wish to be or I wish to give. Our chapter serves children in Suffolk County. We currently have over a hundred fifty volunteers who help us with events, the wish granting process and office tasks. Without their commitment to this organization our job here at Make-A-Wish® would not be possible.



Make-A-Wish ® Foundation Suffolk County Volunteer Marie Pacinello

One of our outstanding volunteers, Marie Pacinello, has been dedicated to the Make-A-Wish® mission for almost a decade! Every day, there are many tasks that need to be completed in our office. Regardless of how tedious the task may be, Marie is always willing to lend a helping hand. She assists our organization with mailings, sorting items, and organizing the materials we need for our events. Marie provides us with the extra magic that goes on behind the scenes to make wishes come true.

