A Wish Came True for Student in After School Care Program

(West Haven, CT 4/17/16) There was hardly a dry eye at Carrigan Intermediate School earlier this afternoon – at least for the adults who were present – as students, staff, family and friends joined children and staff in the Community House’s After School program there in celebrating 11-year-old Angelique Barreiro’s Make-A-Wish Foundation “Bon Voyage” sendoff to Disneyworld.

Well-wishers lined the main hallway at Carrigan School, including After School program students who held up signs with sayings including, “Have Fun in Disney” and “Have Fun, Dream Big - Pinky Princess.

Then, as Angelique guided her wheelchair around the hallway corner, she burst out in a huge, surprised smile as she realized something good was happening. She then saw her parents, Peter and Daisy, and other family members and friends among the gathering.

As she came closer to the big silver banner with pink letters reading, “Princess Angelique,” Carrigan School’s Social Worker, Lisa Flemming then asked Angelique, “Do you know why you’re here?”

“Yeah,” Angelique replied, “My wish is coming true.”

“And what is your wish?” Flemming asked. And in her somewhat tiny but excited voice, Angelique said, “Disney, I think,” as everyone present clapped and cheered.

Angelique has cerebral palsy, a childhood disease that affects muscle movement and posture. According to Community House Children & Youth Services Director Carol James, Angelique has been with the Community House’s After School program since 2010. “She is a wonderful child,” James said, who herself could not hold back the tears as the “Bon Voyage” sendoff continued.

When presented with pink balloons that seemed to be singing, Angelique exclaimed, “I always wanted a singing balloon!”

After greeting well-wishers and posing for pictures, she was then ushered outside to a waiting Mercedes travel car, which was to take her to another Make-A-Wish Foundation party for her in North Haven.

“I am so happy,” she said, as she left the school building and was lifted into the car by her father.

The CT Make-A-Wish Foundation is “dedicated to granting the wishes of children with life threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy.”

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