

MEET SHELBY

Shelby is a twelve-year-old tom girl who combines maturity and silliness all in one! Shelby's dad, Walter, says, 'Shelby is such a good kid, she gives me no grief. In spite of her challenges, Shelby is always upbeat and she is such a loving and caring person.' Shelby recently took up the ukulele and is also very interested in learning to play the drums, preparing for the day she gets to have her own band.

At 15 months old, Shelby was diagnosed with Ulcerative Colitis, a condition where her large intestine was being attacked by her immune system, one of the youngest people ever diagnosed with it in Canada. She had to have a life-saving operation at only two years old to have her entire large intestine removed. Shelby now lives with an ileostomy, where her small intestine protrudes outside her abdominal wall and a bag is attached which assists in meeting her daily care needs. In addition to the surgery, Shelby was treated with varying medications which caused her to be immunosuppressed, meaning Shelby became sick more often. A flu meant she had to be rushed to emergency or else risk severe dehydration and worse. Living with the ileostomy is a challenge for her for many reasons. The ileostomy can be a social challenge as well, with the bag being a curiosity for kids her age. Going swimming with her friends or wearing clothing that reveals her abdomen can make her uncomfortable and slightly self-conscious but she is learning to embrace the fact that the ileostomy saved her life and it is a manageable necessity.



Shelby has yet to choose her Wish. She has a zest for life and is very excited about the many things she would like to experience. Making up her mind has been tough! Whether it would be meeting the band Twenty One Pilots or going to the Bahamas, Disneyworld or a visit to Australia, she has lots of time! Shelby has five years to decide on her wish and she is giving it some serious thought.

Children with a life-threatening illness have to grow up very quickly. Having to be brave and strong at such a young age, our Wish children are sometimes not given time to be a kid. Your donations give them experiences that kids need for a true childhood: a childhood full of wonderful memories.