

Meet Andrew

Andrew is a considerate, observant fourteen-year-old boy. To most, he appears quiet and introverted, but when he feels comfortable he opens up into a funny, gregarious kid with a dry sense of humour. Andrew has an artistic sensibility, as well, with his love of comic books, especially Marvel, and building with LEGO.

Andrew was diagnosed at 17 months with a life-threatening disease called Cystinosis. Cystinosis is an ultra-rare metabolic disease that afflicts only 2,000 children and adults around the world. The amino acid known as cystine accumulates and crystallizes in the cells. This build-up eventually destroys every organ in the body including the kidneys, liver, muscles, white blood cells, eyes, and central nervous system. Fortunately, advancements in drugs which slow the progression of Cystinosis are making life easier - but they are not a cure. There are less than 100 known cases in Canada and with no known cure, Andrew's condition is degenerative. To combat his condition, Andrew has to take medication every six hours, 24/7 and requires the use of a gastrointestinal tube.



Andrew recently underwent surgery on both of his knees to help straighten his legs; another complication of Cystinosis. He is doing incredibly well and is slowly returning to all his regular activities and is looking forward to starting soccer again in the fall. He is hoping for a Wish that would put him in London during the filming of *Fantastic Beasts 2*.

A Wish can give Andrew the hope and joy to persevere. His Wish will provide immediate joy and, as time passes, the memories to look back on.