

Linsey's Playhouse: Built With Love

What little girl hasn't wished for the perfect playhouse? Despite the large wheelchair six-year-old Linsey is confined to, she is just like any other girl her age. She loves to have teaparties, enjoys pretending to cook and most of all she dreamed of having her very own playhouse. "There are a lot of places that Linsey can't go and be with other children to do some of the things that kids do," stated her mother Chris. "Now she has her own very special place that she can go to and it is perfect for her needs and fully accessible."

Both Linsey and her four-year-old sister Amy were born with spinal muscular atrophy, a form of muscular dystrophy, which causes low muscle tone. To accommodate Linsey's wheelchair, this playhouse would have to be customized. In addition, the kitchen appliances (make believe ones of course) would need to take into consideration that the cook needed plenty of room to maneuver. Volunteer Wish Granters **Philomena Raso** and **Kyle Lambie** were ready to take on the task and what a job they did! The first step was designing the playhouse and they were fortunate enough to enlist the help of **Sam Chereskin**, an architect. Sam met with Linsey and came up with the perfect design to bring Linsey's dream playhouse to life. The **National Association of Catering Executives (NACE)** heard about Linsey's wish and wanted to help. They committed to raising the funds necessary to build the playhouse and held an elegant dinner dance and silent auction that was a great success. Linsey, sister Amy, mom and dad were invited as the guests of honor. What an evening they had!

Before you knew it, lumber, siding and windows were being delivered. We want to thank **Home Depot, ELO Construction, Dixieline Lumber, Frazee Paint and The Roofing Warehouse** for donating product for the playhouse. It was time to put hammers in hand and a great crew of volunteers stepped forward - **Jim, Rob, Ron, Mike, Craig, Jeff, Cory and John** (Linsey's dad) - who spent quite a few weekends and many hours donating their time and energy. A very sincere thank you to each and every one of them! Linsey's playhouse is beautiful. It is because of a very generous group of individuals and organizations that a little girl's dream of her perfect playhouse is now a reality. Built with love, this playhouse will surely ring with a child's laughter for year's to come.



Wish Kid Linsey (right) and sister Amy pose for a holiday snapshot in front of the playhouse.