

We're Going to Disney World!

July 17, 2010

WISH #44

Broadway, NC

Michael Nelson is an Army National Guardsman, who has served our country with honor. Injured in an IED explosion in Iraq in 2005, he returned to Iraq in 2009, but was flown home due to life-threatening complications from his previous injuries.

He has been in the Warrior Transition Battalion on Ft. Bragg for the past 16 months, recovering and undergoing therapy. The time Michael has been away has been extremely hard on his family, in particular, his 3 kids, Charlie, Grace (who is 4 years old with special needs), and Molly.



To keep their children focused on the positive, Michael and his wife, Sabrina, promised a trip to Disney World when Michael was well enough to return home. Luckily, that time has come. However, incurred medical bills and other expenses caused the family to put their dream vacation on hold indefinitely.

Michael's wife, Sabrina Nelson, heard about *Phoenix Wish For Our Heroes* through the Pepsi Refresh Project. She wrote:

"Due to the incurred medical bills from our daughter Grace (born prematurely), the everyday bills & the cost of having to take Michael to all of his appointments, we are very much in debt. He is working very hard to return to his civilian job as a police officer, but with his injuries we are not sure he will be able to do that. He will most likely have to train for a new job & I don't know how we will make ends meet until then. Unfortunately Disney World is on permanent hold. Our kids are really awesome kids. They have been through so much since 2005. For them to just have 1 day to not worry about their daddy & just have fun is all I ask for. I heard about this program & I know we are a long shot but I'm hoping this might be the answer to our prayers."

Phoenix Wish For Our Heroes posted this wish on the webpage and the response was phenomenal. Thanks to our fans, and a wonderful former Wish recipient who paid it forward by donating the use of their timeshare in Orlando, we were able to give the Nelson children much deserved time with their father, where they didn't have to worry about his health and safety, but could just have fun being a family at Disney!

Wish For Our Heroes was able to provide:

- A rental car for the week
- Disney 3-day park-hopper passes including water park passes (a value of \$1,275)
- Dinner at Arabian Nights (Medieval dinner theatre)
- Time share incidentals

Sabrina wrote *Wish For Our Heroes*,

“Our trip to Disney World was AMAZING!!! Everything from Grace being picked to be the "princess" at the Beauty & the Beast musical at Animal Kingdom to Charlie & Michael riding all the "scary" rides together, we had the time of our lives. We took tons of pictures with lots of characters & saw princesses, 2 parades & 3 fireworks shows. The kids had so much fun. It was the best vacation we have ever had. It was wonderful to be able to spend almost an entire week together & not have to worry about seizures, doctor's appointments, finances or time constraints. We had all the time in the world to just do whatever we felt like doing. Thank you will never be enough. This trip was our lifeline. It saved my family. Disney World gave my kids something to look forward to all those months that their daddy was gone. They have been through 4 deployments & countless months of their dad being in different hospitals. It was worth every minute of planning & time I know you took to make it all perfect. It really was perfect.



Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

-Sabrina Nelson



Michael and Sabrina, we are proud and happy to be able to provide this for you and your family. Your service is deeply appreciated. We are grateful to the fans for donating, and our former wish recipients, who helped make this wish come true by paying it forward.



Pictured above left: Nelson kids when they found out they were going to Disney!

