



# Claire's Story

*I wish to visit my baby cousin  
in Ontario*

Claire, 8  
leukemia

Claire was only two years old when her family was faced with the devastating diagnosis of leukemia. She was immediately admitted to the hospital where she had a port installed and within two days began chemotherapy. This treatment regimen lasted over two years, consisting of several different types of chemotherapy, steroids, over 13 lumbar punctures, and countless pokes. Claire has completed her treatment but still struggles with short term memory loss which makes learning to read a challenge for her.

Just like most eight-year-olds, Claire loves playing with her friends, riding her bike, going to the beach, and all kinds of arts and crafts. When she found out her most heartfelt wish would be coming true, there were lots of possibilities floating around in her imagination. She ultimately decided on going to Ontario where she could meet her new baby cousin. "Being able to take a trip like that together was a very healing and pleasant way to close that chapter in our lives and leave it behind on a high note with good memories," Claire's mom Kelsey shared.

While in Ontario, the family got to explore lots of territory. From Ripley's Aquarium in Toronto to a boat tour and visit to Marineland in Niagara Falls, Claire soaked up as much fun as she could. The main attraction was visiting her new baby cousin and attending the baptism. Claire's favourite moment was seeing different marine animals, especially the whales! Kelsey expressed her gratitude, "We will forever be grateful for that gift that Make-A-Wish and all the hardworking volunteers gave us."