

March 1, 2008

Seattle, Washington

Merchant Services Sponsors Its First Wish - A Child's Quest to Meet Bill Gates

Recognizing the insatiable dream of a young 11-year old to make it big in the world of business, and interested in furthering the goals of a worthy not-for-profit organization, Merchant Services launched its first wish sponsorship with the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Orange County/Inland Empire, helping to make Gabriel's dream of meeting technology magnate Bill Gates a reality.

Gabriel is a bright, spontaneous 11 year-old who loves playing Monopoly in his spare time. Although he is living with hemophilia, a severe blood disorder, Gabriel has dreams of one day becoming successful in business, just like when he plays Monopoly with his siblings. When the time came to meet with the Make-A-Wish Foundation® wish granters, he knew exactly what his wish would be; to meet Bill Gates!

Gabriel and his family were whisked away to Seattle where Gabriel would get the chance to meet his idol. On the day of his wish, Gabriel and his parents visited the nearby Microsoft headquarters for a special behind the scenes tour. Then, after an hour-long tour of the campus, Gabriel was led into a room where Bill Gates was waiting to meet him. Gabriel had been looking forward to this event for quite some time and had even prepared a list of questions to ask. Gabriel wore a smile from ear to ear as he and Bill Gates talked about technology, their families, and what it is like running a successful company.

After an exciting day of touring the Microsoft campus and meeting his idol, Gabriel joined his family for a relaxing dinner at one of Seattle's most prominent landmarks, the Space Needle. Gabriel couldn't wait to share his experience with the rest of his family and excitedly recounted the entire event, taking care not to leave out a single detail.

Meeting Bill Gates exceeded Gabriel's expectations and the experience will continue to bring him endless joy and happiness. Gabriel and his family are very grateful to the Make-A-Wish Foundation® for granting Gabriel's wish and making his one special dream a reality!

The Merchant Services family was proud to launch its partnership with the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Orange County and the Inland Empire through the sponsorship of Gabriel's dream to meet Bill Gates. Merchant Services' corporate culture is grounded in a firm commitment of giving back to the community, and the company stands firm in its commitment to donate a portion of its proceeds to deserving not-for-profit organizations, including its proud support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation®.

Founded in 1995, Merchant Services (Universal Card, Inc.) is a leading provider of e-commerce solutions to businesses throughout the United States. Recognized in 2009 by Inc. Magazine as one of *The 5000 Fastest Growing Privately-Held Companies in the U.S.*, Merchant Services provides sound, reliable and cost-effective bankcard and e-commerce support to tens of thousands of business partners nationwide.

Since 1980, the Make-A-Wish Foundation® has enriched the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions through its wish-granting work. Since its beginning, the organization has reached more than 174,000 children around the world. The Foundation's mission reflects the life-changing impact that a Make-A-Wish® experience has on children, families, and entire communities. To learn more about the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Orange County and the Inland Empire please visit www.wishocie.org.