



Carolyn helped her daughter, Krystal, pick out the perfect wedding dress—thanks to you!

Your gifts meant that Carolyn and Krystal didn't miss out on a mother/daughter milestone!

Carolyn and her daughter Krystal always imagined picking out Krystal's wedding dress together one day. But then Carolyn was told that her cancer was terminal.

When she remembers her mother, Carolyn, Krystal can't help choking up.

"My mom lived an incredibly hard life," Krystal says. "She was in and out of about a hundred different foster homes, and most of them were horrifying."

You can help make end-of-life Dreams come true with a gift of \$25.

You may have heard Krystal sharing the story of her mother's Dream before, but we wanted to share it again here because it speaks to the power of the Dreams you make possible that bring healing to a time of heartbreak and loss.

Krystal is the youngest of three sisters. Carolyn became pregnant with Krystal's eldest sister when she was 17, homeless, and penniless. But she did whatever she could, including mowing lawns in the summer, to ensure that her daughters never went without.

As Krystal says, "I had an amazing childhood. We were safe, warm, fed, and happy, thanks to her."

Krystal vowed to share every one of life's special moments with her mother. They loved to watch "Say Yes to the Dress" together. Krystal says, "We would gush about the gorgeous gowns, and she and I planned what we could do for my own wedding one day."

Then, Krystal's mother found out she had cancer. Krystal says, "It was in her lungs, her bones, and was moving into her brain. She wouldn't have very long. We were both quietly aware these dreams were now just that: Dreams."

"My mom's battle ended in 2017, but the moment you gave us will live forever."

Even though no wedding was on the horizon, Carolyn and Krystal knew that they couldn't wait. And thanks to you, they didn't have to. You made Carolyn's Dream of shopping for a wedding dress with Krystal come true.

"It was one of the most beautiful memories I have with my mom," says Krystal. "She curled



Krystal will always be grateful that you helped her and her mother share a moment they had looked forward to for years.

her hair, dressed up, smiled, laughed, even though she was hurting from her illness and sick from the chemo. She wanted to make sure it was just as special for me, so that I would have this lasting memory after she was gone."

They picked out the perfect dress for a wedding they both knew Carolyn would not be able to attend.

But Krystal has the memory of her mother's Dream woven into her wedding dress. She says, "One day, when I finally walk down the garden pathway, under fairy lights and surrounded by flowers, friends, and family, towards my future partner, the ivory dress I chose will be wrapped around me like my mom's embrace, and I know she will be there."



Visitors from West Coast Financial took time to make cards for our Flower Empower program during their visit to our Santa Barbara office.

West Coast Financial helps make Dreams come true!

Employees of Santa Barbara-based financial services company, West Coast Financial, visited our Santa Barbara office. They got a first-hand look at how Dreams are brought to life and what Dreams mean to Dream recipients and their families.

As part of their visit, they sat down with Dream coordinators for a question-and-answer session. They especially loved hearing all the different Dream stories.

And before they left, West Coast Financial also made a generous gift of \$5,750 to help give life to final Dreams!



Buy a blanket for a Dream recipient!

These cozy, super soft throw blankets keep Dream recipients warm at home, while they are at medical appointments, or on Dream trips! Buy one for a Dream recipient from our [Amazon Wish List](#) today!

Gilead Sciences employees run a 5k to help make veterans' Dreams come true!

When biopharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences challenged employees to run 5k to raise funds for our Dreams for Veterans program, 124 people signed up!

The event was led by the MAIN/GVet planning team. Participants from California to Florida ran to honor family members who were veterans or to show their support for those who serve. The event raised over \$15,000—enough to fulfill over six Dreams for veterans—and everyone loved taking part!

"This is a Monday morning kick off!" one participant posted on the live chat that kept the group connected during the event, while another posted, "Thank you organizers...this was awesome!" We say, thank YOU!

[See more ways to help.](#)



"It was an honor to run!" Participants in the Gilead Sciences 5k challenge raised \$15,000 for Dreams for Veterans!

Welcome to your January Dream Journal!

I wanted to begin with a personal thank you to Kenny Slaughter. After a decade's service, he is relinquishing the role of Dream Foundation's board chair to Mario Murredda.



We have a lot to thank Kenny for. He has supported Dream Foundation since its inception. We passed the 30,000 Dreams served milestone with him at the helm. He helped us launch our Dreams for Veterans program and chaperoned countless partnerships and leadership appointments, all of which are vital to our work today.

Thankfully, this is not goodbye. Kenny will continue to serve as vice chair under Mario, who takes up the role of chair.

Mario is currently a member of our board, and co-chair of our New York Advisory Council. He shares our passion for Dreams and I know that we are going forward in the safe hands of someone who truly cares about Dream recipients and their families.

With appreciation,



Kisa Heyer
CEO, Dream Foundation

Just two of the Dreams currently in progress!

Virginia dreams of visiting her son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren in New Jersey.

She hasn't been able to see them for a year, and now her time is running out. She says, "My family is the most important thing in my life and now, more than ever, I need to see them."

Kirby's hospice social worker wrote to us in support of his application to see the Gulf Coast with his wife for the first time,

saying, "Since his admission, his resilience, determination and kind heart have shown through. I cannot think of a more deserving couple."

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