

Bethel Patch

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Thomas Fritch Learning Center Completed at Bethel Middle School

By Michael Dominick

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The family of Thomas Fritch walked into a brand new learning center at Bethel Middle School recently, where new bookshelves, whiteboards, carpeting, lighting, tables and chairs filled the space all thanks to the wish of their beloved son. The center's transformation was made possible by Make-A-Wish Connecticut, whose mission is to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions.

A colorful mural welcomed Thomas' family to the center, as they took in the beautiful room that will benefit countless children at Bethel for years to come and forever carry Thomas' name and memory. The Fritch family was joined by members of the Make-A-Wish Connecticut staff, along with Nannette Trinkaus, Artistic Director, Kate Trinkaus, who assisted with the exterior mural, Debbie Albert of Pilgrim Furniture City; Lucille Newton, Steve Trinkaus, the Bethel Chamber of Commerce, BMS Staff and their families, in addition to members of the Board of Education. The family was presented with a beautiful painting of the exterior mural, given by Dave Newton, a generous artist of the Bethel Community.

FrontStreet Facility Solutions (FrontStreet), an innovative facility management company utilizing a comprehensive approach to cost-effective and industry-leading best practices, again proudly volunteered to partner with Make-A-Wish and assist with the in-kind completion of granting Thomas' wish for Bethel students. FrontStreet's relationship with Make-A-Wish began with a room makeover for wish recipient Andrew in April and continues to develop on a shared goal of giving back.

"We are honored to once again have the support of FrontStreet, along with so many community groups, companies, individuals and organizations to make this legacy wish come true," commented Michael Dominick, Community & Media Relations Manager for Make-A-Wish Connecticut. "This wish would not have been possible without the hard work of our friends at FrontStreet, Nannette Trinkaus of NT Studios, Lowe's, Home Depot, Pilgrim Furniture City, Colonial Carpet of Bethel, Flying Colors Roofing and Painting, CP Electric, Panificio Navona Bakery, and the Bethel Chamber of Commerce."

Make-A-Wish also extends its deepest thanks to the Bethel Middle School staff, principal, superintendent, custodial staff, Lana and Bronte Pirulli, Dave Newton Bruce Kubisek, Donna Burns, Chris Von Kaenal, David

Trinkaus, Chella Wolf and so many others who worked tirelessly to make the Thomas Fritch Learning Center a place of hope, strength and joy for kids to learn and grow for years to come.

“The coming together of so many organizations from surrounding communities, bringing different skills and different abilities to the table, and the working together as one community to honor Thomas and his family with this learning center - it is an incredible statement about each and every person who had a hand in completing this wish,” continued Dominick. “It was an honor for Make-A-Wish to see such teamwork, working together towards a meaningful and lasting wish-come-true.”

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