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**walk**★  
FOR **wishes®**

**SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017**

**STONY POINT FASHION PARK**

**RICHMOND, VA**

Make-A-Wish Foundation is very dear to my heart. When I was in middle school, I didn't really understand what cancer was. That all changed when my best friend Stephanie was diagnosed with Leukemia. We were in eighth grade at the time. During her treatment, she was granted a wish from Make-A-Wish Foundation. Stephanie chose to visit the Virgin Islands and her family was able to go with her. This trip allowed them to spend quality time together in a special place.

Wishes are granted to children who are battling life-threatening medical conditions. These wishes can be anything. The five categories are, I wish to go..., I wish to be..., I wish to meet..., I wish to have..., and I wish to give... These wishes impact everyone involved; they are far more than gifts or singular events in time. Unfortunately, as is the case with many children who are granted wishes, Stephanie is no longer with us. This trip was a gift for not only Stephanie but also her family, the memories that were made are lasting.

This is why it is so important for me to be a part of the Walk for Wishes event. Not only will I walk in her memory, but by taking part in this walk, I will be helping to raise awareness and funds for Make-A-Wish. This event is a major fundraiser, which allows Make-A-Wish to grant more wishes to children who are battling a life-threatening condition.

Walk for Wishes is a great opportunity to get involved in a wonderful cause. Make-A-Wish exists to help people realize what this charity is all about. As an organization, IIAV would like to contribute as much as possible and we are already sponsors of the Walk for Wishes. By joining our team you can help us raise awareness within our community..

**We encourage you to walk with us on May 6, and until then, be visibly supportive of Make-A-Wish and your role in the Walk for Wishes. For ways to do this, please visit our website.**