

# C&L Electric Employees Help Make Wish Come True

In 2019, C & L Electric Cooperative employees partnered with Make-A-Wish Foundation to help create life-changing experiences for wish kids in south Arkansas. Employees received news in late June that their generous donations would grant a wish for Jacob.

At birth, Jacob had a less than 5% chance of survival when he was diagnosed with end-stage kidney disease and chronic lung disease. Both diseases were caused by a rare condition called prune belly syndrome.

In August 2018, Jacob had surgery to remove both kidneys. For the next two years, Jacob received nutrition, fluids and medicine through a tube in his stomach and underwent dialysis at home – for 10 to 14 hours every single day.

Everything Jacob had endured since birth had one goal – to keep him alive long enough to receive a new life through a kidney transplant. In March 2021, that dream came true. Jacob would get a new kidney.

Two years later, Jacob loves dancing, singing and cooking. Before he received his new kidney, he wasn't strong enough to walk. Now, according to his mom, Jacob doesn't just walk – he runs and jumps, too!

This summer, Jacob wished for a swimming pool so he could swim anytime he wanted! Thanks to Make-A-Wish and the C & L Electric employees who donated through payroll deduction, Jacob was granted his very own swimming pool on June 29. He was all smiles when presented with loads of pool toys, beach towels and cookies. He excitedly exclaimed, "This is the best day ever!"

Just as one of the seven guiding principles of the electric cooperatives adheres to states, "The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas work hard for their communities because they are a part of the communities they serve." Hats off to the men and women of C & L Electric Cooperative, who donate a portion of their payroll check to the Make-A-Wish organization. Because of their generosity, wishes in the area they serve are being granted to children in hopes their "fear is replaced with confidence, sadness with joy, and anxiety with hope," as stated on the Make-A-Wish website. *(Medical information provided by article in Arkansas Children's Hospital magazine.)*



ABOVE Through the generosity of C&L Electric employees, Jacob's wish came true.

LEFT Jacob can now spend his summers swimming in his new pool.

BELOW Jacob is one of the many Make-A-Wish Foundation's success stories.