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N E W S R E L E A S E

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28th Annual ‘Ms. Orange Fan Luncheon’ slated for Oct. 20

*Ladies-only event features lunch, player auction with S.U. Men’s Basketball Team, Coaching Staff
Proceeds benefit Make-A-Wish Central New York*

Syracuse, NY (September 25, 2019) – Make-A-Wish® Central New York, in conjunction with Syracuse University Men’s Basketball Team and Coach Jim and Juli Boeheim, has prepared for the 28th annual Ms. Orange Fan® Luncheon. The ladies-only event is slated to take place on Sunday, Oct. 20 at The Oncenter in Syracuse.

The Ms. Orange Fan Luncheon features a player auction and an opportunity for attendees to dine and interact with the Syracuse University Men’s Basketball team and coaching staff. The event will feature autographs and photo opportunities, as well as entertainment provided by Otto the Orange, the Sour Citrus Society and the S.U. cheerleading and dance teams. A silent auction, basket raffles and special merchandise are also planned. Among this year’s raffles is an exquisite Rolex Oyster Perpetual watch, which has been generously donated by Henry Wilson Jewelers. The watch is valued at \$5,000 and tickets will be available at the event.

Since inception in 1991, the Ms. Orange Fan Luncheon has raised more than \$1.2 million in support of local wishes.

How it began

Twenty-seven years ago, Syracuse University Men’s Basketball Coach Jim Boeheim envisioned a Make-A-Wish benefit that would involve his team and a very important audience— female S.U. fans. His idea was to bring players and fans together in a unique manner to benefit Central New York children living with critical illness. The result was the annual Ms. Orange Fan Luncheon, a festive day celebrating wishes and Orange basketball!

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“This event is special not only because of the extraordinary support of Coach and Juli Boeheim, the coaching staff and players, but also because of the generosity and commitment shown by the attendees who join us year after year,” said Make-A-Wish Central New York President and CEO Diane Kuppermann. “Through their support, they make wishes come true and we couldn’t be more grateful!”

How it works

The event will be kicked off with a crowd warm-up featuring The Sour Citrus Society, Syracuse University cheer and dance teams and Otto the Orange. An autograph session with players and coaches follows, then transitions to a live auction where attendees can place bids to have a player or coach join their table for lunch. Raffles, a silent auction and merchandise sales also take place during the event.

Tailgating in The Oncenter parking garage begins at 9:00 a.m.; doors open at 10:00 a.m. and the luncheon begins promptly at 10:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$75 per person and must be purchased in advance. Reservations are required by Oct. 11th. This event sells out every year, so be sure to reserve your seat early! For more information, or to make a reservation, call (315) 475-WISH (9474) or e-mail info@makeawishcny.org.

For more information about Make-A-Wish Central New York, visit cny.wish.org.

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PHOTO Caption:

1. Wish kids Amelia Spencer and Gabriella Laubisch walk the runway, accompanied by Syracuse University Basketball players Adrian Autry and Marek Dolezaj, at the 27th annual Ms. Orange Fan Luncheon on October 21, 2018.
2. Syracuse University Men’s Basketball Players and Coaching Staff pose for photos with Ms. Orange Fan participants at the 27th annual Ms. Orange Fan Luncheon on October 21, 2018.

About Make-A-Wish Central New York

Make-A-Wish Central New York is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to granting life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. We are on a quest to bring every eligible child's wish to life because a wish is an integral part of a child's treatment journey. Research shows children who experience wishes can build the physical and emotional strength they need to fight critical illness. Make-A-Wish Central New York continues to **share the power of a wish**® thanks to monetary contributions, airline mile donations, and the overall generous support of individuals and corporations throughout its 15-county region, which includes Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Otsego, St. Lawrence, Tioga and Tompkins counties. Together, we transform lives one wish at a time. For more information, call 315-475-WISH or visit cny.wish.org.

