



2023 COPIC Humanitarian Award: Dr. Grant Syverson

We are proud to announce that Dr. Grant Syverson, a pediatric rheumatologist from Fargo, North Dakota, was chosen as a recipient of the 2023 COPIC Humanitarian Award. Dr. Syverson is recognized for his referral of young people to Make-A-Wish North Dakota. The award was presented to Dr. Syverson at the NDMA Annual Meeting in October 2023.

Dr. Grant Syverson is on a mission to ensure the young people in his care have the “opportunity to have an opportunity.” As a pediatric rheumatologist, he takes time to recommend his patients to the Make-a-Wish program.

Rheumatology patients are often unaware that they qualify for the program, so Dr. Syverson handles the referral process. He verifies diagnoses and informs the program of any advanced prognoses, upcoming surgeries, or physical/cognitive limitations that may impact their wish. In the case of a wish involving travel, he confirms the mode and timing of travel is appropriate for the child.

Dr. Syverson goes above and beyond the traditional role of physician to provide for his patients in a way that medicine cannot. “Wish” patients experience improvements

in wellbeing, self-esteem, and overall quality of life. Whenever possible, he participates in the patient’s wish day. Most recently, he was present when his patient, Mya, received an orange Maine Coon kitten. Now she has a new cuddle partner to be by her side when lupus flares and she doesn’t feel well.

Beyond Make-a-Wish, Dr. Syverson also volunteers with the Arthritis Foundation, including the annual Jingle Bell Run and Camp Sisu for young people with arthritis.

COPIC and NDMA were thrilled to present Dr. Syverson with this award. On Dr. Syverson’s behalf, \$10,000 was donated to Make-a-Wish North Dakota.

To learn more about the COPIC Humanitarian Award or to nominate a physician, visit our website:

www.callcopic.com/about-copic/copic-humanitarian-award

or email Laura Wadleigh at lwadleigh@copic.com.