

Wish comes true for local youngster

By [CHARLES DUNCAN](#), [Dawson News & Advertiser](#)

Samuel Faille is living proof that a 7-year-old boy's dreams can come true.

Samuel, who suffers from Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy, dreamt of a custom-built playground so that he could discover new adventures in his own backyard.

His wish not only would offer a chance for him to have fun and forget his physical woes, it also offered an opportunity for him to share his greatest desire with his five brothers and sisters. Samuel's goal: creating family memories to stand the test of time.

Samuel loves playing outside. Being physically challenged doesn't slow this little man down one bit and he isn't afraid to think outside the box when it comes to playtime.

Samuel, who attends Robinson Elementary School, wakes up in the morning asking to go outside. He spends at least two hours a day adventuring outside. He always wanted a playground in his own backyard to allow him to play - all the time, his mother Shawn Faille said.

"Despite Samuel's physical limitations, he isn't afraid to try anything," Shawn Faille said. "He wants to do the things all boys his age like to do. He's an inspiration to us all."

The Make-A-Wish Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to granting wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions, and members of the Dawsonville business community recently united to make Samuel's dream a Christmas reality.

Samuel has life threatening seizures, which provided the clearance that qualified him to receive a Wish via the Foundation, Shawn Faille said.

"This past summer Samuel went through three separate corrective surgeries for his CP, Shawn Faille said. "He spent time in the hospital and in many casts. He never once complained and always had a smile on his face. Samuel is an inspiration to all who know him and is always a great reminder of having joy in the journey."

Prior to the Christmas holidays, Samuel met with his Wish volunteers to map out plans for his permanent backyard quest.

Without a doubt, Samuel wanted - a playground and following a lengthy debate and planning session. he and his Wish team came up with plans for his ideal play

set. The playground would include slides, a climbing wall and swings. Samuel's vision soon became a Wish come true with a little help from his Dawsonville friends.

Samuel now enjoys his playground with his siblings: Caleb, 13. Elijah, 12. Abigail, 10, Hannah, 8, and Raima is almost 2. His sister, Hope, died in 2000 at the age of 2.

Pastor Don Allen, of War Hill Christian Fellowship, is excited for the young man that he says is a blessing to everyone he meets.

"Samuel is always passing out blessings with his big smile and loving heart," Allen said. "It was wonderful to see that you reap what you sow when he received his special blessing this Christmas.

"When I arrived at Samuel's home I felt a tug at my coat, I turned to see little Samuel all smiles with open arms," Allen said. "As I hugged him, he whispered 'pastor you have to come see my playground.' He proudly led me to the back deck that overlooked his Christmas blessing."

Donna Grace, Samuel's physical therapist, said the young man is truly an inspiration to his many friends and family.

"He always considers others in his wishes and I rarely see Sam without a huge smile on his face even when he is doing things he'd rather not do," Grace said. "I thank God for precious gifts like Sam."

Richard Faille, Samuel's father, said his son's new playground was heaven sent. He extends special thanks for all who pitched in with materials and labor to make the playground a reality for Samuel.

"We don't want people to think we consider him the perfect child - Samuel is far from it . . . yet every time I step back and look at Sammy he is the reminder to me that when there doesn't seem to be a way, God makes, directs, and He Himself is the way," Richard Faille said.

Richard and Shawn Faille extend many thanks to Development Planning and Engineering, Inc. in Dawsonville, for donated labor, materials and heavy equipment to prepare the backyard for Samuel's playground, Williams Brother Lumber, MATRIX Development Group, LLC., Pacific Erosion Control and Bowen & Bowen, Millard Bowen Communities. Samuel now enjoys daily adventures in his own backyard thanks to a helping hand from a portion of Dawson's business community.

Wishes like Samuel's are granted by Make-A-Wish year-round. funded solely by

private donations.

Other wishes for Dawsonville children are available for sponsorship via Make-A-Wish's new Adopt-A-Wish program.

For details, contact Elizabeth Morris at (770) 916-9474 Extension 24, or emorris@ngal.wish.org