



THE WISH EXPRESS • SEPTEMBER 2026 - SEPTEMBER 2027

Purpose

Thank you, Partners, for electing me as your 2026–2027 Le Chapeau National. I welcome you to hop on the train with me this year, because Every Mile Matters for Our Special Children.

During my year as Le Chapeau National, my goal is to bring our Departementaux, Les Petits Salons, and Partners together around our shared commitment to Our Special Children while strengthening partnerships, encouraging participation, supporting our National Programs, and preparing Eight and Forty for the generations that will follow us.

My theme this year is “All Aboard for Our Special Children — Hop on the Train, Every Mile Matters.” It is a reminder that no contribution is too small and that every act of service can carry us another mile toward making a difference.

The Wish Express is especially meaningful to me and my family. My daughter, Amber, was a Make-A-Wish child because of severe asthma and lung disease, giving me a very personal understanding of the challenges faced by Our Special Children and their families. I have seen firsthand how a wish can bring hope, joy, and something extraordinary to look forward to during some of life’s most difficult moments. That experience has remained close to my heart and makes this journey especially personal to me.

So, I invite each of you to hop aboard The Wish Express as we turn compassion into action, hope into possibility, and work together to help make wishes come true for Our Special Children.

Every Partner has something to offer. Every Departementaux and Les Petits Salons has a purpose. Every act of service moves us another mile forward.

Departementaux - Les Petits Salons

Different miles.

Be Kind

One Mission.

1. Our Special Children - Mission First

Our mission is to offer aid and support with the prevention and control of all lung diseases in children. Our Special Children remain at the heart of everything we do.

My Chapeau Project or All Partners Project will support the NICU/Post-NICU initiative presented by National Jewish Health. My goal is to help fund four epoc® Blood Analysis Systems, which National Jewish Health estimates at approximately \$5,000 each. As a young mother spending many nights with my children in a hospital room I know first hand how this would impact the family of our special children.

MY PLAN

- Encourage every Partner to contribute \$8.40 toward the National Chapeau Project.
- Work toward the goal of funding four systems during this year.
- Encourage Departementaux, Les Petits Salons and Partners to share the project and its purpose when fundraising.
- Continue encouraging participation in the Eight and Forty Nurses' Scholarship Program by distributing scholarship applications and/or contributing financially to support the program.

OUR DESTINATION: Bring together many individual contributions to create a much larger impact for Our Special Children.

\$8.40 may seem like one small mile. Together, those miles can travel a very long way.

2. Partnership - Hop Aboard

Eight and Forty has a proud history, but protecting that history means building its future. Every current Partner can play a role in introducing someone new to our organization.

MY PLAN

- Talk to five potential new partners/Estrangers about Eight and Forty.
- Personally work toward recruiting at least one new Partner during the year.
- Wear the Eight and Forty emblem to a meeting and use it as an opportunity to talk about our organization.
- Welcome new and younger Partners and encourage them to become active participants.
- Share not only what Eight and Forty does, but why our mission matters.

OUR DESTINATION: Strengthen our 8 and Forty organization while bringing new Estrangers and another generation aboard.

There is always room for another passenger on the Wish Express.

3. Connection - Miles Across America

No Departementaux or Les Petits Salons should feel that distance or size makes its contribution less important. Throughout this year, I want to strengthen our connection between Nationale, Departementaux, Les Petits Salons and Partners. The Wish Express Passport will encourage partners to participate in the journey.

PASSPORT STOPS

- Contribute \$8.40 toward the National Chapeau Project.
- Talk to five potential new Partners/Estrangers.
- Recruit one new Partner.
- Wear your Eight and Forty emblem to a meeting.
- Donate to the American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation (CWF).
- Send a prayer to the L'Aumonier National.
- Distribute Nurses' Scholarship applications and contribute to support the scholarship program.
- Complete a Personal Historie.
- Join the Eight and Forty La Boutique Nationale Facebook page.
- Send a letter of encouragement to another Partner.

BONUS STOP: See you in Normal, Illinois!

The Passport is not intended to create more work. It is a fun way to encourage participation in the programs and traditions that already make Eight and Forty special.

OUR DESTINATION: Create a stronger sense that we are not traveling alone.

4. Recognition - Every Mile Matters

Some of the most important work in Eight and Forty happens quietly.

Not every contribution comes with a title, award, or large fundraiser. This year, I want Partners to remember that participation itself matters.

MY PLAN

- Celebrate Partners and Les Petit Salons participating in the Wish Express journey.
- Encourage the sharing of accomplishments, projects, partnership successes, and meaningful moments.
- Recognize Partners who complete their Wish Express Passport journey.
- Celebrate both longtime Partners who have helped build Eight and Forty and new Partners beginning their journey.
- Remind smaller and struggling Petit Salons that their contributions are just as much a part of our National journey as those of larger Petit Salons.

OUR DESTINATION: Create a culture where Partners know that their time, service, ideas, and contributions are valued.

You don't have to travel the most miles for your mile to matter.

5. Future - Carry the Lantern Forward

Eight and Forty exists today because generations before us believed its mission was worth protecting.

Now the lantern is in our hands to make this organization continue for years to come.

Our responsibility is not only to honor our history but to make sure someone is there to carry it after us.

MY PLAN

- Preserve our history by completing Personal Histories.
- Recruit and welcome new Partners.
- Encourage younger women to become involved.
- Share knowledge and traditions with newer Partners.
- Support Nurses's Scholarships and programs connected to Our Special Children.
- Strengthen relationships between Partners through encouragement, prayer, communication, and service.
- Remain open to new ideas while preserving the traditions and mission that make Eight and Forty who we are.

OUR DESTINATION THIS YEAR: Leave Eight and Forty stronger, more connected, and better prepared for the next generation.

We honor those who carried the lantern before us by making sure its light continues after us.

The Wish Express Challenge

My request to every Partner during 2026-2027 is simple:

Get your passport ready and hop aboard the train.

- Find your mile.
- Complete as many Passport stops as you can.
- Support Our Special Children.
- Talk about Eight and Forty, our future is in our hands.
- Invite someone aboard. Use your voice, fill the train and tell others about why we are Important!
- Encourage another Partner. No one is on this train alone.
- Submit activities of the Departementaux and Les Petits Salons through social media, newspapers, radio and television. Departmentals and Le Petit Salons create a newsletter to stay in contact with Partners.
- Submit your Personal Histoire and send to L'Archiviste Nationale
- Support our Eight and Forty programs.

And remember that you do not have to accomplish something enormous to make a difference.

One Partner contributes \$8.40. One Partner talks to five women. One Partner recruits one new Partner.

One Partner sends one encouraging letter. One Partner submits their Personal Historie.

Then another partner does the same. And another. And another.

That is how one small mile becomes a journey stretching across America.

Chapeau Lisa's Commitment

As your Chapeau National, I will do my best to lead with purpose, listen to our Partners, encourage our Departmentals and Le Petit Salons, celebrate our accomplishments, honor those who came before us, and help prepare Eight and Forty for those who will come after us.

I am not asking every Departementaux and Les Petits Salons or Partners to do everything.

I am asking each of you to find your mile and travel it.

Because one Chapeau National cannot carry this organization. One Departementaux and Les Petits Salon cannot carry it. One generation cannot carry it forever. But when we travel together, there is no telling how far hope can go.

Our Special Children are our purpose.

Hope is our cargo.

Service is our track.

Our Partners are the engine.

And our future is waiting at the next station.

Guided by hope and carried forward together, every mile of this journey is dedicated to Our Special Children.

Remember to use your Be Kind signs throughout the year!

ALL ABOARD!

Hop on the Train - Every Mile Matters.
Together, let's see just how far hope can travel.

