

WENDY'S WISH

*"Our lives are like quilts - bits and pieces,
joy and sorrow, stitched with love."
- Author Unknown*

Wendy was always thinking of others ... even in the final week of her life on this earth. While battling Stage 4 colon cancer, Wendy laid out her wishes to her husband, Al, and their closest friends – she wanted a fund established to help pay for cancer education and screenings for low-income and underinsured families.

Thirty-five years ago when Al Huntley and Wendy Barrett were second-year teachers at a small junior high school, they were sent on an assignment to find a Christmas tree. That mission blossomed into a love story that continues today through the Wendy's Wish Fund.

Matchmaking

Wendy and Al were part of a group of 13 brand-new teachers at the same junior high school in Bend, Oregon, in 1973. Wendy taught science and Al was an industrial arts teacher.

Late in the fall of their second year of teaching, their co-workers—in an obvious effort at matchmaking—sent Al and Wendy to pick out the Christmas tree for the school's entry hall. The couple drove up into the mountains, found the perfect evergreen and cut it down in the headlights of Al's '73 GMC pick-up truck. After dropping Wendy off, Al drove home, backed his truck into the garage ... and broke the top out of the tree.

The next day, Wendy arrived at school excited to see "their" tree on display. But there was no tree. Al was at home gluing the top back on and wiring it in place!

Wendy must have been impressed with Al's resourcefulness because she agreed to attend the staff Christmas party with him. It was their first official date.

Wendy's parents owned 40 acres on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State with 300 feet of waterfront. Al and Wendy exchanged wedding vows the summer of 1975 in the beautiful outdoor setting of the Barrett's backyard overlooking the tidal bay.