In many hospital rooms and homes across the country, there are people who would love to go hunting but are limited by a serious or life threatening illness. Many of these people are children who dream of being able to share in the family tradition of hunting, or who have seen outdoor shows and articles about being out in the wild with hopes of taking a trophy buck. Many would believe that they could never have the chance to experience those magic moments of unexplainable fulfillment upon seeing that first deer finally come into range. How do you get a person with a serious disability or a child with cancer to realize that dream? The answer would lie in the hearts of very caring and generous people such as those who operate the Texas Deer Association.

Being a full time entrepreneur, Brigid O’Donoghue found that breaking common barriers, working hard and staying focused in the right direction will bring success in most business risks one takes. The first few years of existence in any business venture or organization are always the most trying to survive. Many seemingly good ideas are either made or broken in the first few years, with the “sinks” usually outnumbering the “swimmers” by a substantial margin.

Animal rights activism has successfully invaded some of the major mainstream dream wish charities by cohering them into abandoning hunting and fishing opportunities for less fortunate
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 54

Americans. The result of wish granting charities that cave into the insanity of these animal rights groups has left many Americans without opportunity to experience hunting and fishing the way most of us can.

To combat this disturbing trend, in the fall of 2000 while running her company, Bio-Tec Research, Inc., Brigid founded a 100% volunteer wish granting charity, the United Special Sportsman Alliance (USSA). USSA specializes in providing the dream wishes other charities cannot grant due to the influence of extremist animal rights organizations and their agendas.

The idea was to incorporate teaching safety, conservation, sportsmanship and respect for our game resources while providing the opportunity to participate in the timeless hunting tradition. The number of children who want to take part in hunting for deer is surprising to many. The USSA began with the goal that no illness, no disability and no limitation could not be overcome for those who had a dream to go hunting. Even age would not be a barrier, as some young children who have a wish to go hunting may not live long enough due to their health condition to go on a hunt later in life.

Whether or not the USSA were to sink or swim would depend largely upon our ability to find hunting opportunities from caring outfitters, ranches and land owners. The Texas Deer Association (TDA) and its membership has been one of the most generous supporters to this valuable community service for those less fortunate. Without question, the TDA has played a key role in the USSA’s early development and continued success. Many special hunting and fishing wishes have been granted by TDA members in Texas, Wisconsin and Alabama. With the support of the TDA, the USSA has granted over 3,400 wishes to critically ill and disabled children since it was founded in 2000. Most of these children are part of the 37 million American families who live in poverty.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58
many who otherwise could only dream of going hunting. The pictures from these special events bring forth the feeling of excitement shared by those who run these TDA events and by those who have realized their dream of taking quality game on an unforgettable hunting trip.

With increasing awareness of the opportunities provided by the USSA, the number of special kids and people who want to experience their dream of hunting is beginning to increase. No longer can disabilities, illness or even animal rights activists stand in the way. The USSA relies solely upon the donations and volunteers such as those from the TDA.

Those who take part by helping the special people who want to enjoy a successful hunt seem to receive blessings of their own. In a blind or in the woods with a seriously ill child, there is no illness, there is no pain and there is no pending death. There is only excitement, the type of excitement that never leaves a person. Brigid, the founder of the USSA will say that we cannot out give God. While it may be difficult to describe or to put into words, it is very easy to see the difference these trips make in the lives of those who take part in them. Never are we so blessed, and never are we so inspired.

Brigid O’Donoghue and the United Special Sportsman Alliance extend their deepest thanks to the TDA and its members for their continued support of this important mission.

For those who know of a child or person who can benefit from the services of the USSA, or would like to donate a hunt or fishing trip contact them by phone at 1-800-518-8019 or, visit www.childswish.com.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 56

Donating these hunting opportunities not only makes wishes come true, but it has put meat in the freezers of many who struggle to afford to buy food. Much to the dismay of the anti-meat eating crowd, lean meats such as deer meat are prescribed by their Dr’s for some who have certain illnesses and who cannot tolerate processed fatty meats. Most of those who know anything about the outdoors know that deer meat is very healthy food. Under the mountain of insurmountable medical bills and other costs, donated deer meat is a blessing to many families who have a loved one with a serious or life-threatening illness.

With outpouring generosity, the TDA has given unforgettable memories and life-long moments of happiness and hope to