



## **“THE BOND”**

### **Two Hearts - One Spirit**

**A Monument Honoring the Horse/Human Connection  
through Cody's Wish & Cody Dorman**



## Two Hearts - One Spirit: Cody Dorman & Cody's Wish

***One of horse racing's most inspiring stories involves the almost mystical connection between the 2023 Horse of the Year Cody's Wish, and his namesake, Cody Dorman, a young man who was born with a rare genetic disorder, Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome, that confined him to a life in a wheelchair, unable to walk or communicate.***

Cody, who defied the grim prognoses, was never expected to live past the age of two, yet he first showed the fight in him when he was five weeks old when he survived open-heart surgery after an initial procedure failed. He then survived two strokes and almost 50 surgeries over his 17 years. Through subtle head movements he found that he was able to communicate on a tablet.

It all started in 2018 when Cody met the bay son of Curlin when he was a foal at Godolphin's Gainsborough Farm in Versailles, KY, as part of a collaboration between Keeneland and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Everyone was concerned about how the visit might go due to the horse's unfamiliarity with a wheelchair.

The foal eyed his special visitor and approached slowly. He sniffed around some before burying his head in Cody's lap. That was the moment that forever changed their lives. The unique and special bond between the young horse and Cody led to the naming of the horse as "Cody's Wish." Cody drew the same reaction in succeeding visits over the years, and Cody's Wish never failed to acknowledge the young man's presence. It's a tribute and recognition of the profound

connection and friendship that developed between the boy and the horse.

*"These two just had some type of language they used to communicate with each other,"* said Kelly Dorman, Cody's father. *"You couldn't hear it, but you could see it and you could certainly feel it. It was pretty amazing."*

Kelly described Cody's Wish as his son's "best friend." He noted a profound difference in the boy after the horse entered their lives. Cody no

longer battled depression, and became stronger and more dedicated to his therapy and schoolwork. He celebrated birthdays with his namesake and attended almost every single race Cody's Wish ran after 2022. Cody even attended his high school prom - which is a true testament to his indomitable spirit and the transformative impact of this extraordinary equine connection.

Their friendship changed each other on a deep level, and their common bond was their determination - determination to survive for Cody Dorman, and determination to win for Cody's Wish.

On November 4, 2023, the Dorman Family were at Santa Anita Racetrack in California to watch Cody's Wish race for a repeat win in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile. This would be the final run for Cody's

Wish, and Cody was in the Winner's Circle to honor his best friend's win. On his way home the next day, Cody Dorman suffered a medical event on the plane and died at the age of 17.

"With Cody's diagnosis at birth, we always knew this day would come, but we were determined to help Cody live his best life for however long we had him," his parents said. "Anyone who has seen him at the racetrack, especially around Cody's Wish, understands that in many ways he taught us all how to live, always keeping a positive attitude and being more concerned about those around

him than himself ... We have been completely amazed to experience the impact Cody has had on so many people, through the journey that this wondrous racehorse has taken us all on."

***'The Bond: Two Hearts-One Spirit'*** has the beating heart of an incredible story - a story of friendship, resilience, and the extraordinary power of a shared bond between a young man and his very special horse.

***Their story will now live on for the ages through this beautiful monument by artist Jocelyn Russell, and it is our hope that everyone will not only feel their Bond, but experience an incredible Bond of their own.***





# A Monument Honoring the Horse/Human Connection

## *A Monument to Courage, Love, and Connection*

By acclaimed artist **Jocelyn Russell**

Some bonds change the world. When young **Cody Dorman** met the extraordinary racehorse **Cody's Wish**, something remarkable happened. Each time they were together, Cody's Wish would gently rest his head in Cody's lap — a simple gesture that spoke volumes. It was a moment of trust, love, and recognition between two hearts who shared the same spirit.

Their connection inspired millions — a reminder that courage, kindness, and hope can transcend every obstacle.

Now, through the creation of *“The Bond — Two Hearts, One Spirit,”* we invite you to help share that story with the world.

### **A Monument You Can Feel**

This life-size **bronze sculpture** by artist **Jocelyn Russell** will allow every visitor to experience the power of that bond.

- Visitors using **wheelchairs** can roll directly beneath the head of Cody's Wish, place their hand on his muzzle, and look into his lifelike eyes — just as Cody Dorman once did.
- Behind them, a **black granite wall** will recreate their iconic image, allowing visitors to step into that moment of connection and hope.
- Those who stand beside the monument can touch the horse's chin, meet his gaze, and feel what Cody felt when he said, *“Because he found me and he hasn't forgotten me... he has always looked for me. And we have the same heart — we never give up!.”*

### **Design & Materials**

- **Cody's Wish** will be cast in **bronze**, standing nearly **17 hands high**, life-sized, and flat on the ground for full accessibility.
- The **etched granite walls** (4'x6') serve as both art and storytelling — sharing Cody and Cody's Wish's journey, Cody's words, and the names of the generous donors who made this dream possible.

Depending on placement, the plaza may include **one or two** walls:

- If **One Wall** in plaza: featuring the etched photo and Cody's quote on one side, and *Their Story* on the reverse.

- If **Two Walls** in plaza:
  - **Wall 1:** The photo and quote on one side; **Donor Recognition** on the other.
  - **Wall 2:** *Their Story* and **Cody's Wish's Racing Accolades**, including a victory photo.

**Plaza:** The Plaza design is entirely yours to design. We are happy to help you incorporate specific features. For example, if you would like to include elements like the bronze plaques found at the Kentucky Horse Park Plaza, please share your specifications, and we will ensure they are made available.

\* \* \*

On behalf of Cody's Wish Monument, may I say that we are so very excited to work with you to place this incredible Monument - *'The Bond: Two Hearts - One Spirit'* — at your site. Let's make this lasting tribute a place where every heart can feel what Cody felt — hope, love, and the unbreakable connection between two souls who never gave up.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this proposal further, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Kindest regards,



Robin Hutton  
President, Angels Without Wings, Inc.



## Jocelyn Russell - Artist

Jocelyn Russell is a renowned American sculptor specializing in monumental bronze sculptures of wild and domestic animals. A Signature and Board Member of the prestigious [Society of Animal Artists](#) (serving also as a judge), she is actively involved in conservation efforts to protect wildlife and their habitats.

Notable commissions include the heroic war horse Sgt. Reckless, a series of life-size animals for the Audubon Zoo including elephants and a pride of lions, and the iconic racehorse Secretariat. Russell's most recent life+1/2-size Secretariat monument (21' long) was dedicated in Lexington, in October of 2019 and Ashland, VA in March 2024, and she is currently contracted for three more Secretariat monuments. With over sixty monuments installed in public and private locations, Jocelyn's dedication to her craft has led to numerous public and private installations across the United States and internationally.

For further information about Jocelyn Russell and her artwork, please visit her website at [jocelynrussell.com](http://jocelynrussell.com).



# Angels Without Wings, Inc.

**Angels Without Wings, Inc. (AWW)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has spent the past 15 years dedicated to honoring and supporting individuals and organizations that make a difference—helping those less fortunate and aiding animals in need.

AWW also celebrates the profound human–animal bond and the inspiration animals bring to our lives. Few stories capture this connection more beautifully than that of **Cody Dorman and Cody’s Wish**, whose relationship truly embodies what it means to be *Angels Without Wings*.

Our mission extends to honoring the animals that have served our nation—both on the battlefield and at home—through **monuments, medals**, and a future **traveling museum** that will teach history through the eyes of these remarkable animals.

Through our DBA **Sgt. Reckless Memorial Fund**, we have funded four bronze monuments by renowned artist **Jocelyn Russell**, including one at the **Kentucky Horse Park**, commemorating the legendary U.S. Marine Corps warhorse **SSgt Reckless**. Today, six monuments stand across America honoring this incredible hero, and one will be sent to South Korea in the future.

Under our DBA **Animals in War & Peace**, we have been presenting **Medals of Bravery** and **Distinguished Service Medals** to animals who have served our country since 2019. This initiative also led to the creation of two monuments dedicated to the heroic **USMC war dog, MWD Lucca K458**, also sculpted by Jocelyn Russell.

Each of these programs under the AWW umbrella contributes to our greater purpose—**educating the public, raising awareness, and spreading hope, inspiration, appreciation, gratitude, and love** for all beings who serve and uplift humanity.



Angels Without  
Wings, Inc.

[AngelsWithoutWings.org](http://AngelsWithoutWings.org)

## "OPERATION RECKLESS"



SGT RECKLESS MEMORIAL FUND  
[WWW.SGTRECKLESS.COM](http://WWW.SGTRECKLESS.COM)



[AnimalsInWarAndPeace.org](http://AnimalsInWarAndPeace.org)

# Costs for Monument

## Monument #2

### Various Costs for Monument

Depending on what design elements you might choose at your site, here are the costs of the various pieces of the monument.

Cody's Wish Bronze Monument **\$195,000**

Artist Fee / Foundry Costs / Delivery

*\* 10% of the profits goes to the Cody Dorman Legacy Fund at Make-A-Wish OKI*

2 Walls - 4'x6' Granite Walls (etched, double-sided) **\$37,000-40,000**

Delivered and Installed

If only **1 wall**, total cost for stone/engraving/delivery/installation is **\$30,000-\$33,000**

**Bronze Plaques:** At the Kentucky Horse Park, we also included **three bronze plaques** that are part of the wall bench: 1) Braille story plaque; 2) a plaque describing the diamond influence in the story / plaza: and 3) a plaque describing a beautiful mark on the neck of Cody's Wish called The Prophet's Thumbprint. Each of these plaques costs around **\$3,500/each**.

## The Plaza

The cost of the plaza design and installation is the buyer's responsibility. The decision to include one granite wall, two granite walls, or no granite walls is entirely up to the buyer. The placement of the monument—whether indoors or outdoors—may also influence whether granite walls are used or if alternative materials are selected.



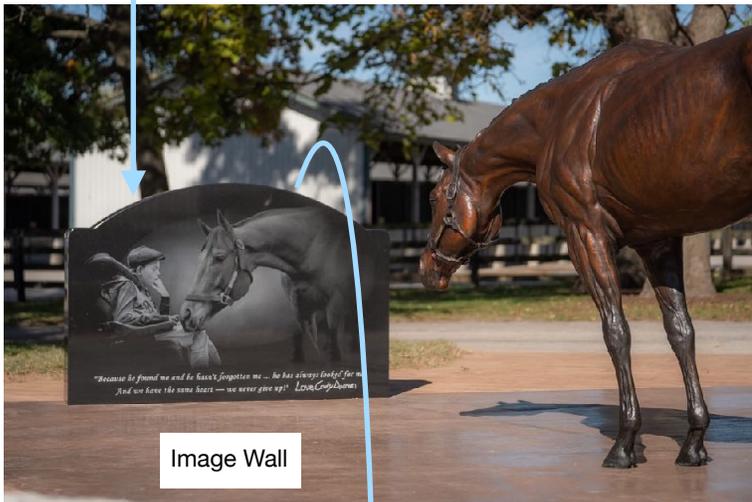
# Monument Granite Wall Engravings



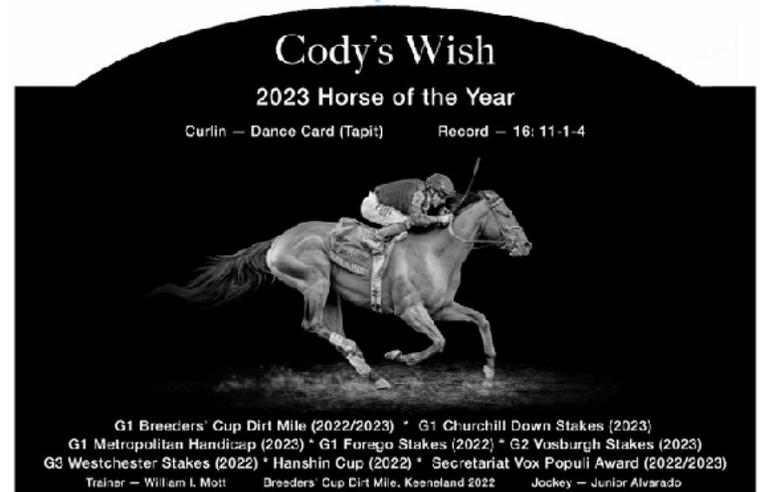
Front Image Wall



Front Story Wall



Back Image Wall - Donor Wall



Back of Story Wall - CW Accolades

# Bronze Plaques



(Picture doesn't do it justice)



## The Diamond Influence

If you notice, Cody's Wish is standing on a **DIAMOND**. It was placed there because it has special meaning in the story of Cody and Cody's Wish. A diamond forms the backdrop of the **Casting for Cody** emblem — a largemouth bass over a diamond — a charity fishing tournament that was organized by Cody's friends to support the family during difficult times. Maybe it was born as a symbol of Cody being a "diamond in the rough."

Remarkably, **Cody's Wish** was born with a diamond-shaped marking on his forehead, a detail that grew in significance with the deepening of his bond with Cody. Further connecting to the diamond motif, trainer **William I. Mott's** stables have long featured a white diamond on a green background.

Coincidence? Some people may suggest that. Maybe this is just a small hint from heaven above, reminding us that "diamonds in the rough" exist all around us. No matter how you perceive the diamonds, they will forever be a part of Cody, a part of Cody's Wish, and part of the perfect trainer that helped play and guide a special part in this amazing journey.

**Diamonds actually are forever.**

## The Prophet's Thumbprint

If you look closely, Cody's Wish bears a small, harmless indentation on his neck — a 'PROPHET'S THUMBPRINT.' Legend holds that the Prophet Mohammed pressed his thumb into the neck of his five most loyal mares. Horses blessed with this mark are destined to be exceptional, chosen not only for their strength, but for their loyalty, and spirit.

But within this sacred mark, Cody's Wish bears something greater. There lies another thumbprint — that of Cody Dorman's friend, Carson Jost. It was placed there as a special favor for Cody.

And if you look closer still, you'll find the initials of Cody's family— Kelly, Leslie, and Kylie—etched into the story, enduring like the mark itself, through trials, triumphs, and time.

## Braille Plaque (The Story Wall in Braille)

The Bond  
Two Hearts — One Spirit  
Cody Dorman and Cody's Wish

Cody Dorman had already beaten the odds when he was introduced to a 5-month-old foal at Gainsborough Farm in 2018. Born with Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome, he underwent more than 40 operations, including two open-heart surgeries before he was 3. Cody made an instant connection with the foal, the interaction so impactful that Godolphin named him after Cody and Make-A-Wish. When Cody was depressed during the pandemic, a visit to see "his" horse snapped him out of it.

As Cody's Wish started winning races, Cody traveled to racetracks around the country to watch him. Each time they met — in the paddock, on the backstretch, in the winner's circle — the bond between the strapping racehorse and 70-pound boy was evident. Cody finally had the friend he so desperately wanted.

Cody saw Cody's Wish win the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile at Keeneland in 2022. He traveled to Santa Anita with his parents, Kelly and Leslie, and sister, Kylie, for the 2023 Dirt Mile, watching from the winner's circle as Cody's Wish capped his career with a thrilling victory. The following day, November 5, 2023, Cody Dorman finished his own race. While his death caused immeasurable sadness, those close to him were comforted by the fact that he was there for his horse right to the end.

The story of Cody and Cody's Wish is one of resilience, triumph and love, a tale of an inexplicable, yet undeniable connection between a courageous boy and the champion racehorse he considered his best friend.

## [A Note from the DORMAN FAMILY](#)

On behalf of our family, and especially Cody, we want to extend our gratitude to everyone involved in making this monument a reality.

The first stones to be laid for the foundation of this incredible memorial were unknowingly placed at the time, by a very special young man and a very special horse six years ago at Godolphin's Gainsborough farm when a then unnamed five-month-old foal placed his head in Cody's lap.

The ride that Cody & Cody's Wish has taken us and so much of the world on since then still leaves us in amazement each and every day. Their enduring friendship and love for each other was and always will be a divine example of perseverance and determination.

Our hope for this monument will stand not only as an inspiration but an example that you can conquer the mountains that lie in your path especially when you have love in your heart for everyone around you. This above all, is the message that Cody and Cody's Wish gave us, they made each other better. And as we all watched, we became better ourselves. God bless and thank you once more for your support now and throughout this journey.

— Kelly, Leslie, Kylie & always Cody. 

### [DAN PRIDE, Chief Operating Officer, Godolphin:](#)

“Godolphin is thrilled to support The Bond project at the Kentucky Horse Park. Cody's Wish has touched the hearts of thousands and this memorial will ensure the journey will continue for years to come. We are grateful to the Dorman family for letting so many of us join them in honoring their son, Cody.”

### [LEE CARTER, President, Kentucky Horse Park:](#)

“The relationship we share with the horse is special. It can raise our spirit and improve our well-being. There is no better example of this than the bond between Cody Dorman and Cody's Wish. Creating the monument “The Bond: Two Hearts – One Spirit” will celebrate this special relationship. We are honored to place this monument at the Kentucky Horse Park as a reminder that our life can be lifted up, by a horse that leans down.”