

Remarkable Collaboration Makes Rylee Muonio's SafariWish a Reality

by Eva Wilson, SCIF Humanitarian Services Coordinator

Rylee Muonio of Vancouver, Washington is a 14-year-old boy with an inoperable brain tumor behind one of his eyes whose fondest wish was to hunt a whitetail deer. When a friend of the family contacted SCIF Humanitarian Services in late November to see whether we might be able to assist, I sent an e-mail to our North American chapter presidents, and was quickly deluged with offers of assistance.

The family ultimately chose a Texas whitetail hunt offered by Greg Rodriguez, president of our **Houston Gulf Coast Chapter**, but Larry Johns, president of the **Sutter Buttes Chapter** jumped in to provide \$1,000 in cash for airfare, and the **San Diego Chapter Sables Division** generously sent \$500 to use in any way necessary. Once I provided \$500 in SafariWish funds, I thought we had it all covered, but we were not yet through!

Portland Oregon Chapter president Dale Matthews decided to outfit and prepare Rylee for his hunt. Dale called Brett Larson, manager of the Vancouver, Washington **Sportsman's Warehouse**, who was more than willing to assist. Dale met Rylee and his dad, Dean, at the store where the Portland Oregon Chapter purchased Riley a .270 Tika rifle and Bushnell scope plus ammunition, sling and case. The Sportsman's Warehouse donated \$500 worth of gear including boots, full camo gear and shirts and hats.

Rylee and his dad left on November 30 for Texas, where Rylee harvested a forked horn whitetail as well as this beautiful Corsican ram (please run photo). The Portland Oregon Chapter also made arrangements with yet another donor, **Mike's Frontier Taxidermy**, to do a shoulder mount for Rylee to complete his wish.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone involved. Your kind-hearted collaboration made Rylee's SafariWish come true!