

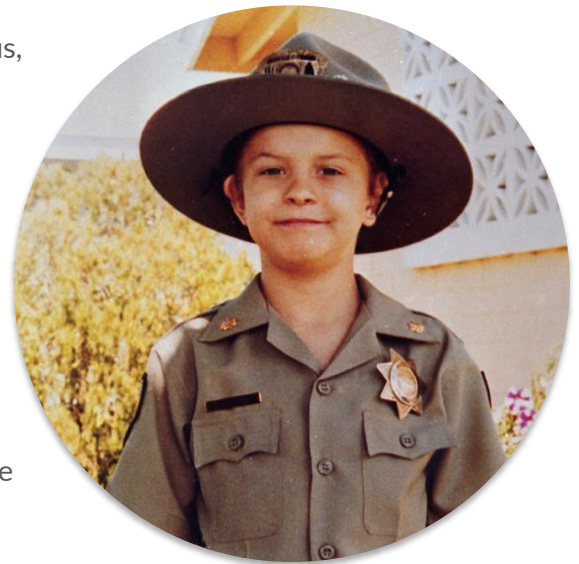
Make-A-Wish® Fact Sheet

MISSION: Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

MAKE-A-WISH REACHES FAR AND WIDE: Make-A-Wish is the nation's largest wish-granting organization. It has fulfilled the wishes of **more than 360,000 children** in the United States and its territories since 1980. Founded in Phoenix, Ariz., Make-A-Wish serves every community in the United States, Guam and Puerto Rico through its **58 chapters**.

WHY WISHES MATTER: Research shows children who have wishes granted can build the physical and emotional strength needed to fight a critical illness. This can help **improve their quality of life and produce better health outcomes**.

BEGINNING OF MAKE-A-WISH: In 1980, Chris Greicius, a 7-year-old boy diagnosed with leukemia, wanted nothing more than to become a police officer. Law enforcement officers heard about Chris' wish to be a police officer and responded to the call. A police helicopter flew him to Arizona Department of Public Safety headquarters for a tour. Chris experienced the thrill of riding in a patrol car and was named the first-ever honorary state patrolman in Arizona history. The law enforcement community also presented him a custom-tailored uniform, motorcycle helmet, campaign hat and the motorcycle wings he earned on his own battery-powered bike. Several of the people responsible for fulfilling Chris' wish wanted to do the same for other children with critical illnesses and came together to co-found the Make-A-Wish Foundation® in November 1980.



*I wish to be
a police officer*
Chris, 7
leukemia

FUNDING SOURCES: Make-A-Wish is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that relies on the generous contributions of individuals, corporate partnerships, planned gifts and grants to make life-changing wishes possible. In-kind donations of goods and services such as frequent flier miles and hotel loyalty points also help finance our mission. Seventy-four percent of expenses nationwide are devoted to the mission – far exceeding the program service allocation standards set forth by the nation's leading charity watchdog groups, including the Council of Better Business Bureaus' Wise Giving Alliance.

VOLUNTEERING: **More than 24,000 volunteers** generously give their time and energy to fulfill the Make-A-Wish mission. Volunteers serve Make-A-Wish chapters across the country in a variety of capacities including wish granting, office administrative support, language translation, special event planning and coordinating, website design, fundraising and much more.

THE WISH PROCESS: Currently, Make-A-Wish grants thousands of wishes for children with critical illnesses in the U.S. every year, but there remains a tremendous gap between the number

of wishes we grant today and the estimated **27,000 children** in the United States that are diagnosed with a qualifying condition annually.

Every wish has the ability to help wish families replace fear with confidence, sadness with joy and anxiety with hope. Make-A-Wish follows a process to create life-changing wish experiences for each wish kid.

An important clarification is that **wish kids are not necessarily terminal**. The misconception exists because it was true for a few years immediately after the organization's founding. However, the eligibility criteria expanded many years ago to allow doctors to use the wish as an important part of the medical treatment and healing process.

STEP ONE: The Wish Referral

Out of respect for the privacy of the children and families Make-A-Wish serves, only these sources may refer a child:

- a medical professional treating the child (doctor, nurse, social worker or child-life specialist);
- the child's parents or legal guardians;
- the potential wish child.

STEP TWO: Determining the Child's Eligibility*

We grant the wishes of children who:

- have been diagnosed with a progressive, degenerative or malignant condition that has placed the child's life in jeopardy;
- are older than 2½ and younger than 18 (at the time of referral);
- have not received a wish from another wish-granting organization.

**The child's medical team provides Make-A-Wish with relevant information tied to its eligibility criteria in order for the organization to make an accurate and informed decision on eligibility.*

STEP THREE: Discovering a Wish

Once the child is deemed medically eligible, our talented wish granters will meet with the child to begin the wish discovery process. These passionate employees and volunteers help children explore their imaginations to come up with the wish that will be the most impactful for them while adhering to the organization's health and safety guidelines.

STEP FOUR: Making a Wish Come True

Finally, our wish teams create an unforgettable experience driven by the wish kid's creativity. All members of the wish kid's immediate family take part in the wish whenever possible, and wish expenses are fully covered by Make-A-Wish, giving the wish kid and family a respite from the stress of dealing with a critical illness. In many cases, the entire wish journey serves as a source of inspiration for children undergoing difficult medical treatments and a positive force that helps them overcome their obstacles.

WISHES BY THE NUMBERS: Since its founding in 1980, Make-A-Wish has granted **more than 360,000 wishes** from wishing to dance onstage with ballerinas to spending time with a favorite celebrity or maximizing family time through a backyard makeover, wish children have enjoyed unforgettable, inspirational wish experiences that are as unique and creative as the wish

kids themselves.

Last year, Make-A-Wish was still able to grant **more than 12,800 wishes** throughout the U.S. and its territories, **more than 27,000 wishes since the pandemic began**, while adhering to health and safety guidelines put forward by the Make-A-Wish National Medical Advisory Council and national and international public health and government organizations.

Statistics Pertaining to the United States and its Territories:

- Make-A-Wish has granted more than 360,000 wishes in the U.S. and its territories since our inception in 1980.
- More than 24,000 volunteers across the U.S. and its territories help us grant thousands of wishes each year.
- Last year, Make-A-Wish granted more than 12,800 wishes throughout the U.S. and its territories.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, Make-A-Wish has granted more than 27,000 wishes.
- Make-A-Wish serves every community in the U.S. and its territories through 58 chapters nationwide.
- Every day, more than 35 wishes, on average, are granted throughout the U.S. and its territories.

Global Statistics:

- Make-A-Wish has granted more than 550,000 wishes worldwide since 1980.
- More than 30,000 volunteers help us grant thousands of wishes each year around the world.
- Make-A-Wish granted more than 28,000 wishes globally last year.
- Make-A-Wish grants wishes for children with critical illnesses 50 countries on six continents through 40 international affiliates.

Charity Ratings and Brand Accolades:

- Make-A-Wish holds the **Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance Seal**, becoming one of the first charities to earn the designation.
- Make-A-Wish is the **#1 most trusted nonprofit operating locally across 50 states** according to the 2022 and 2023 Morning Consult survey.