

Make-A-Wish Foundation® International
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About Make-A-Wish Foundation® International

MISSION STATEMENT

We grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

BEGINNINGS OF THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION

In 1980, Chris Greicius was a seven-year-old boy being treated for leukemia. Whenever he saw a police officer, he saw everything he wanted to be. Law enforcement officers heard about Chris' wish to be a police officer and responded to the call. A police helicopter flew him to headquarters for a tour, a ride in a patrol car and a ceremony making him the first-ever honorary state patrolman in Arizona history. They also presented him a custom-tailored uniform, motorcycle helmet, campaign hat and the motorcycle wings he earned on his own battery-powered bike. Many of those responsible for fulfilling Chris' wish wanted to do the same for other children with life-threatening medical conditions and founded the Make-A-Wish Foundation in November 1980.

POWER OF A WISH

Families, friends, medical professionals, and communities can be touched by the simple, innocent wish of a child. A wish sends a positive message of hope, strength, and joy to a child when they need it most. The wish experience has the power to reignite the flames of life, creating a journey of optimism for a child and their family.

"The relationship between our emotions and our body's immune system is indeed complex. There is evidence emerging from several scientific studies that demonstrate how laughter can positively affect the immune system by enhancing function on a cellular level."

– Dr. Keith Goh, world-renown neurosurgeon and Make-A-Wish Foundation International Immediate Past Chairman

GLOBAL REACH

Interest in granting the wishes of special children like Chris quickly spread to other countries. In 1993, Make-A-Wish Foundation International was officially formed to serve five countries outside the U.S. that were already granting wishes. Make-A-Wish Foundation International serves children outside the United States while the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of America serves children within the United States.

Today, the Make-A-Wish Foundation is the largest wish-granting organization in the world serves both the United States, through its 62 chapters and 47 countries outside the United States through its 36 affiliate offices. Over 280,000 wishes around the world have been granted since its inception.

AFFILIATES

Make-A-Wish Foundation International serves children in 47 countries around the world through the following 36 affiliate offices:

- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium South
- Belgium Vlaanderen
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hong Kong
- India
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Pakistan
- Panama
- Peru
- Philippines
- Portugal
- Singapore
- Spain
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom

ELIGIBILITY

We grant the wishes of medically eligible children who:

- have been diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition
- are at least 3 years of age, but have not yet reached their 18th birthday
- have not received a wish from another wish-granting organization.

The child's physician determines whether a child is medically eligible to receive a wish.

THE WISH PROCESS

Every wish is a memorable experience for the wish child, the family and those who participate in the wish. The Foundation follows a process to create memorable wish experiences for each wish child:

STEP ONE: The Wish Referral

Out of respect for the privacy of the children and families Make-A-Wish Foundation International 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

Children who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition and are at least 3 years of age but have not yet reached their 18th birthday may be eligible for a wish. The treating physician determines whether a child is medically eligible to

receive a wish. A child also must not have received a wish from another wish-granting organization to qualify.

Make-A-Wish Foundation International grants wishes to children who qualify for our services without regard to race, creed, religion, sex, economic status, or national origin. Make-A-Wish Foundation International respects the privacy of the children and families we serve. We consider all wish child information confidential and will not discuss the information with outside parties unless it is needed for the wish, and the parents or guardians have consented.

STEP THREE: Choosing a Wish

Once the child is deemed medically eligible, we send one of our enthusiastic wish teams to learn the child's one true wish. These passionate individuals help children explore their imaginations for the experience that will thrill and inspire them.

Wishes generally fall into one of these categories:

- I wish to have...
- I wish to be...
- I wish to go...
- I wish to meet...

STEP FOUR: Making a Wish Come True

Finally, our wish granters create an unforgettable experience driven by the wish child's creativity. The experience enriches the lives of the children, their families and sometimes their entire community. All members of the wish child's immediate family take part in the wish whenever possible, and all wish expenses are fully covered by the Foundation – giving the wish child and family a respite from the stress of dealing with a life-threatening illness. In many cases, a wish experience is a source of inspiration for children undergoing difficult medical treatments and a positive force that helps them overcome their obstacles.

FUNDING SOURCES

Make-A-Wish Foundation International finances its endeavors through individual contributions, corporate donations, grants, and other assessments. The organization also relies on in-kind contributions to lessen the cost of goods and services. For the seventh straight year, Make-A-Wish Foundation International received the highest four-star rating from the United States' largest independent evaluator of charities, Charity Navigator, for outstanding performance and commitment to fiscal responsibility.

VOLUNTEERING

Thousands of volunteers around the world generously give their time, talents, and energy to fulfill the Make-A-Wish mission. In 2010 alone, over 30,000 volunteers served Make-A-Wish offices around the world in a variety of capacities including wish granting, office administrative support, special event planning and coordinating, Web site design, fundraising and much more. Individuals can offer to volunteer by visiting www.worldwish.org or by contacting their local Make-A-Wish office.

WISHES BY THE NUMBERS

Since its founding in 1980, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has collectively granted more than 280,000 wishes around the world. In 2010 alone, over 22,000 wishes were granted. 13,580 were granted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America and 8,881 were granted outside of the United States, led by affiliates of Make-A-Wish Foundation International.

Much like their imaginations, children's wishes cover an almost limitless spectrum. From wishing to be a ballerina to meeting a favorite celebrity, from receiving a new laptop computer to visiting a glamorous destination, wish children have enjoyed unforgettable, inspirational wish experiences around the world.

ABOUT THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION

The Make-A-Wish Foundation® grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Founded in Phoenix, Arizona in 1980, when a group of caring volunteers helped a young boy fulfill his dream of becoming a police officer, the Foundation is one of the world's leading children's charities. After the start of the Foundation in the United States, interest in granting the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions quickly spread to other nations. In 1993, Make-A-Wish Foundation® International was officially formed to serve the countries outside the U.S. who were granting wishes – and now helps to serve children outside the United States in 47 countries on five continents through its 36 affiliate offices. The Make-A-Wish Foundation of America grants the wishes of children in the United States through its 62 chapters. With the help of generous donors and over 30,000 volunteers, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has collectively granted more than 280,000 wishes worldwide since 1980. For more information about Make-A-Wish Foundation International, please visit worldwish.org and discover how you can *share the power of a wish*®.