

**Make-A-Wish Foundation®
of America**
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Make-A-Wish Foundation®: Things You May Not Know

General Facts and History...

- About 27,000 children in the United States are diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition annually, according to a Make-A-Wish Foundation estimate.
- The Make-A-Wish Foundation was first incorporated in Phoenix in 1980 as the Chris Greicius Make-A-Wish Memorial, named after the 7-year-old boy whose wish to be a police officer inspired volunteers to start the organization.
- Disney was part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation's first official wish. It was granted in 1981 to 7-year-old Frank "Bopsy" Salazar, who wished to go to Disneyland.
- The Make-A-Wish Foundation granted the wishes of 13,006 children in 2007, the most ever in the organization's history. Since inception, the Foundation has granted more than 161,000 wishes.
- The Make-A-Wish Foundation relies on a network of more than 25,000 volunteers to deliver the organization's mission. They fulfill a variety of roles, including wish granting, office support, special-event planning and fundraising.
- The Make-A-Wish Foundation was one of the first charities to earn the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance Seal, awarded to charities that adhere to the Alliance's strong and comprehensive standards.
- The Make-A-Wish Foundation has chapters and offices serving every community in the United States, Guam and Puerto Rico.

About The "Wish Kids"...

- Contrary to a popular misconception, a child *does not* have to be terminally ill to be eligible for a wish. The Foundation grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions, i.e., a progressive, degenerative or malignant condition that has placed a child's life in jeopardy.
- Children are eligible for a wish if they have a life-threatening medical condition as certified by their attending physician and have not received a wish from another wish-granting organization. There are no other qualifications based on sex, race, religion, socioeconomic status or any other demographic category.
- Former wish kids are giving back to the Make-A-Wish Foundation as volunteer wish granters, public speakers ("wish ambassadors") and even as Foundation employees at the national office and chapters throughout the country.
- Children have made wishes that give back to their communities, such as: renovating a high school baseball field; securing new percussion instruments for a high school band; buying toys for homeless children; and refurbishing a Mississippi Gulf Coast daycare center ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.
- Some children have requested uncommon wishes: to work at a pickle factory; to be a lighthouse keeper; to take flying lessons with Dad; to be "boss of the ice cream man;" to go to the Waterford Crystal Factory in Ireland; to visit a favorite pro baseball team with her youth ballclub, and to have a dinosaur in the backyard.

Granting Wishes...

- The average cost of a wish is \$7,000 (as of March 1, 2008).
- The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants a wish every 40 minutes.
- A visit to a Disney theme park continues to be the most-requested wish: The Make-A-Wish Foundation granted more than 5,200 theme-park wishes in 2007 through The Walt Disney Company – Disney Worldwide Outreach.

Fundraising ...

- In 2007, the Make-A-Wish Foundation used 360 million frequent flier miles for wish travel. The Foundation needs up to 2 billion miles annually to cover all wish-related travel.
- The Make-A-Wish Foundation *does not* raise funds by door-to-door or telephone solicitation methods. It also does not receive funding from federal, state or local government programs.
- More than 78 percent of the funds the Foundation raises go directly to granting wishes. That exceeds the standards set forth by charity watchdog groups such as the Council of Better Business Bureaus.

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