

**Make-A-Wish Foundation®
of Central New York, Inc.**
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FACT SHEET

What is the objective of the Make-A-Wish Foundation?

To grant wishes to children under the age of 18 with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

Who is eligible for a wish?

To qualify for a wish, a child must:

- be between the ages of 2½ and 18 years
- have a diagnosed life-threatening medical condition,
- and have a wish that is truly his/her own

What do children wish for?

Wishes typically fall into one of four categories:

- To go somewhere (Disney World, special vacation, etc.)
- To have something (computer, a horse, shopping spree, etc.)
- To meet someone (a sports hero, musician, actor, etc.)
- To be someone (a policeman, astronaut, actor, etc.)

How do wishes come true?

Once we receive a referral, a confirmation is done with the child's doctor to verify medical eligibility and that fulfilling the wish requested will not interfere with the child's health or medical treatment.

The child is assigned to a specially trained volunteer team (wish granters). The team meets with the child and family to talk about the wish and gather all the information needed to make the wish magical and a dream come true. The child's immediate family is always included in all aspects of the child's wish.

How much does a wish cost?

The total cost of wishes varies widely. However, the average cost of one wish is nearing \$9,000.

Are wishes really free?

Make-A-Wish Foundation covers all expenses associated with a wish. Since our goal is to make this a special time for the entire family, we also handle all of the planning and arrangements associated with the wish.

How are wishes funded?

The costs associated with providing a wish are paid for by various fund raising events and activities, volunteer services, individual donations, corporate contributions, and in-kind gifts and services.

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How are administrative expenses paid for by Make-A-Wish Foundation?

Our volunteers help reduce the amount of money allocated for administrative expenses. Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Central New York was an all volunteer organization for the first seven years of its existence. In 1992, the first full-time employee (the Executive Director) was hired. There are currently 5 full-time and 2 part-time members of the Make-A-Wish® staff. We pledge responsible stewardship of funds and conduct an annual audit by an independent auditing firm. We are proud to report that the FY 2009 external audit reflected that over 70% of our revenue went directly to program services.

Does the Foundation receive money from the United Way?

Make-A-Wish Foundation is not a United Way agency; however, we do receive some contributions through the Donor Option Program. This program allows individuals to direct their pledge to non-profit 501(c)(3) incorporated organizations. State and Federal Employees can contribute to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and other non-profit organizations through the SEFA and CFC Campaigns.

What counties does the local chapter serve?

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central New York serves the following counties: Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Otsego, St. Lawrence, Tioga, and Tompkins.

How many wishes are granted annually?

The numbers are ever changing. Since our inception as a local chapter in 1985 more than 1,200 wishes have been fulfilled! This past year 65 wishes were granted and we expect to grant between 70 - 80 annually over the next several years.

Share the power of a wish®!