

MAKE-A-WISH®

Share the power of a wish®



*Richard, 11, I wish to go to Hawaii.*



*"The folks at Make-A-Wish help create magical and wonderful moments, fulfilling the dreams of the sickest kids in ways no therapy can."*

Dr. Ronald Louie,  
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

*Nancy, 7, I wish to have a chihuahua.*

WE'RE ON A  
MISSION

There's nothing like making a wish come true for a child facing a life-threatening medical condition. When we grant children their heartfelt wishes, we help them experience hope, strength and joy. During a wish experience, joy eclipses illness – and that's why we're here.

## HOW WE STARTED

In 1980, Chris Greicius was a 7-year-old boy being treated for leukemia. Whenever he saw a police officer, he saw everything he wanted to be. When law enforcement officers heard about Chris' wish to be a police officer, they responded to the call. A police helicopter flew him to headquarters for a full day of police experiences including a tour, a ride in a patrol car and being sworn in as the first-ever honorary state patrolman in Arizona history. The officers didn't stop there, completing Chris' unforgettable wish by presenting him with his own custom-tailored uniform, motorcycle helmet, campaign hat and the motorcycle wings he earned on his own battery-powered bike.

## WHAT WE DO

Chris inspired an organization that gives children – more than 180,000 wishes in the last 29 years – a chance to live their dream like he did. The Make-A-Wish Foundation® now grants a wish every 40 minutes, and our goal is to make sure each of these wish kids experiences the happiness that brightened Chris' life. Though we're the world's largest wish-granting organization, we always remember how our work impacts every single wish kid.

Today, wish kids have enriched their lives through exceptional, creative and even generous wishes. Many choose to meet their favorite celebrity or travel to a favorite destination. Others have created their own action figures or recorded albums. Some even used their wishes to help other children.

## WHO ARE WISH KIDS?

We grant the wishes of medically eligible children who are older than 2½ and younger than 18 (at the time of referral) and haven't received a wish from another wish-granting organization. We don't consider the child's background, beliefs, income or any other demographic factor. We're here to help children with life-threatening medical conditions – i.e., a progressive, degenerative or malignant condition that has placed the child's life in jeopardy. A wish experience has the power not just to put a smile on a kid's face, but to be a bright spot in the lives of everyone involved – families, referral sources, sponsors, donors and even communities.

## CREATING JOY THE MAKE-A-WISH® WAY

There are thousands of children in the United States eligible for a wish. But we need help finding them. We rely on these people for referrals:

- PARENTS AND GUARDIANS
- MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS
- WISH CHILDREN

The next step is determining a child's medical eligibility with the help of the child's treating physician. Once we know the child is medically eligible, we send one of our enthusiastic wish teams to learn the child's one true wish. These passionate volunteers help children explore their imaginations for the experience that will delight and inspire them.

Finally, our wish granters create an unforgettable experience driven by the child's creativity. It's an incredible experience that enriches not just the lives of the children and their families, but often their entire community. The allure of a wish experience is often a source of inspiration for children undergoing difficult medical treatments and a positive force that helps overcome their obstacles. A wish experience is often more than a dream come true: It's the catalyst that rekindles their belief in themselves and the promise of their future.

