



Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Minnesota – Fact Sheet

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota is dedicated to granting the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy.

Contact:

Brenna Brellie
Communications & Grants Manager
Phone: 612.767.2759
Email: bbrellie@wishmn.org

The Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Minnesota creates magic 365 days a year for children battling life-threatening illnesses right here in your neighborhood and all across the state. Granting a critically ill child's most desired wish is not a cure, but a wish come true can do mighty things in the child's life. A wish can give a child something to look forward to other than hospital visits. A wish can provide the family a break, giving them moments of laughter. A wish can remind a critically ill child what it's like to be a kid.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is the largest wish-granting charity in the world, with 74 chapters in the United States and its territories and 28 international affiliates spanning five continents. The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota is currently celebrating 25 years of wish granting in the state.

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota was founded in 1982, and fulfills the wishes of children throughout the entire state. Since the chapter began, it has granted more than 2,800 wishes in total (230 wishes granted last year alone).

As of December 2007, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota has, 23 board members, 11 full-time and 3 part-time employees, 3 interns and over 300 volunteers across the state. For staff contact information visit www.wishmn.org

How did the Make-A-Wish Foundation get started?

In 1980, a seven-year-old boy with leukemia named Chris from Phoenix, Arizona, wanted to be a highway patrol officer. Realizing that his medical condition might keep him from realizing this dream, a group of officers from the Arizona Department of Public Safety granted his wish by making Chris the first and only Honorary State Trooper. They even gave him a custom-made uniform, a helmet, and a badge. They also took him for a ride in a department helicopter.

The young boy's delight in having his wish granted was the inspiration for the Make-A-Wish Foundation®. After seeing the joy that this brought to Chris and his family, those responsible for fulfilling Chris' wish wanted to do the same for other children with life-threatening illnesses. This led to the formation of the Make-A-Wish Foundation! Since then, more than 150,000 wishes have been granted worldwide.

Granting wishes at home, across the country, and across the world...

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota was incorporated in March of 1982, and has since granted over 2,800 wishes. In 1983, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America was founded to charter local chapters throughout the United States and its territories. Today there are more than 25,000 volunteers and staff working in 69 chapters throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam. There are 28 international affiliates on five continents.

Types of Wishes

The Make-A-Wish Foundation strives to provide the wish child and wish family with special memories of joy and laughter during a stressful time in their lives. The most popular wishes are Disney World, computers, meeting celebrities, shopping sprees, and traveling to all parts of the world. Wishes generally fall into four major categories:

- 1) I wish to go...
- 2) I wish to be...
- 3) I wish to have...
- 4) I wish to meet...

How do you choose which children get wishes?

We grant the wish of every eligible child regardless of race, religion, and socio-economic status.

Who is eligible?

Once referred, the Make-A-Wish Foundation will talk to the child's physician and confirm that he/she is eligible to have a wish granted. The child must have a life-threatening medical condition (defined as progressive, degenerative or malignant, determined by child's doctor) and must:

- live in the state of Minnesota
- not have had a previous wish granted by Make-A-Wish or any other wish-granting organization
- and be between the ages of 2 ½ and 18 years of age at the time of referral.

How can I refer a child?

The potential wish child, a parent or legal guardian, or a medical professional (doctor, nurse, or social worker) can refer a child for a wish by completing a referral form. This form can be obtained by contacting the Make-A-Wish office.

How are wishes granted?

Following the receipt of the required paperwork and after confirming the child's medical eligibility, a two-member volunteer wish team visits with the child to determine the child's wish. The chapter approves the wish, and then volunteers and staff go to work creating the magic!

Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation's success, playing important roles in fundraising, operations, and especially wish-granting. The Minnesota chapter relies on more than 300 volunteers to accomplish its mission. For more information about volunteering, visit the Get Involved section on www.wishmn.org.

Cost of Wishes

Through in-kind donations of goods and services, the average cost of a wish is \$6,000. However, wishes can vary greatly and be much more or less expensive than that average.

There is no cost to the family in fulfilling a child's wish. Every expense, every meal, every travel arrangement is taken care of. We don't want families to have a worry in the world as their child's fondest dream comes true. The entire immediate family is encouraged and able to participate in the wish experience whenever possible. Our aspiration is to provide the child and family with carefree and joyful memories!

What are the sources of funding?

Donations from individuals provide a significant amount of our income. Other revenue comes from outside fundraisers, corporate donations, and a car donation program. Our organization is funded by individual donations, including memorials and gifts. We also host three internal fundraising events each year: The Wish Ball, Stories of Light, and Walk for Wishes. Other revenue comes from external fundraisers, where groups or organizations hold events on our behalf, as well as our car donation program. Funds raised in Minnesota go to Minnesota wish kids!

How much of my donation goes to granting a wish?

Based on our most recent independent annual audit, 82% of revenue spent was allocated directly to granting wishes.

Does the wish child's family have to pay for any of the wish expenses?

Absolutely not! All wish expenses are fully covered including any travel and spending money. Our objective is to provide the child and family with carefree and joyful memories free of any financial worries.

Who should I contact to request a wish or make a donation?

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota
615 First Ave. NE, Suite 415
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413

Phone: 612-767-WISH (9474) / Fax: 612-767-2768

Website: www.wishmn.org

Email: info@wishmn.org