



Make-A-Wish Foundation® Fast Facts

- The Make-A-Wish Foundation is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The largest wish-granting nonprofit organization in the world was founded in Phoenix, Ariz., in 1980. The Make-A-Wish Foundation has granted the wishes of **more than 188,000 children** with life-threatening medical conditions nationwide since its inception.
- The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants a wish **every 40 minutes**.
- In fiscal year 2009, the Foundation granted **13,465 wishes**, the most ever in its 29-year history. The most popular wish is to visit a theme park, which accounts for more than 40 percent of the requests from our wish kids.
- Typically, children's wishes fall into four categories: **To Be** (e.g., a zookeeper, a firefighter, a baker), **To Meet** (e.g., a favorite celebrity or athlete), **To Have** (e.g., a computer, a playhouse, a puppy), or **To Go** (e.g., to a theme park, Hawaii, a major sporting event).
- To qualify for a wish, the child must be older than 2½ years old and younger than 18 (at the time of referral) and must not have received a wish from another wish-granting organization. A child can be referred to the Make-A-Wish Foundation by a parent or guardian, a medical professional, or by the child.
- Following referral, a certified medical professional must verify that the child has a life-threatening medical condition. There are no other qualifications based on sex, race, religion, socioeconomic status or any other demographic category.
- The average cost of a wish is **\$7,362** (as of March 2009). For every dollar donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, **more than 76 percent** goes towards wish granting, which exceeds program service allocation standards set forth by leading charity watchdog groups, including the Council of Better Business Bureaus. The Make-A-Wish Foundation was one of the first charities to earn the Better Business Bureaus Wise Giving Alliance Seal.
- The Make-A-Wish Foundation of America's national office is located in Phoenix. The 65 Make-A-Wish® chapters in the United States and the U.S. territories of Guam and Puerto Rico enable the Foundation to serve children in **every** U.S. community.
- **Nearly 25,000 volunteers** help the Make-A-Wish Foundation maintain its grassroots support by delivering the organization's mission to seriously ill children across the country. Volunteers serve Make-A-Wish chapters in a variety of capacities, including wish granting, office administrative support, special events, fundraising, language translation and much more.
- *The Cone Nonprofit Power Brand 100*, a report on the country's most prominent nonprofit brands, ranked the Make-A-Wish Foundation with one of the strongest brand images, at No. 9.

The Make-A-Wish mission and message are about the life-affirming, hope-giving aspects of the wish experience. We never use the words "terminal" or "dying" to refer to a wish child, nor do we unduly emphasize a child's illness, medical treatment or death.