

# Make-A-Wish®

# KiDS

## FOR WISH KIDS®

## Graduation Projects



## ACTION PACK

### CONTACT

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Make-A-Wish®  
GREATER PENNSYLVANIA  
AND WEST VIRGINIA

# KIDS

# CAN MAKE A

# DIFFERENCE

**A** *Make-A-Wish® graduation project can give students the opportunity to be a real hero. Planning and coordinating a fundraiser to benefit Make-A-Wish is a great way for students to fulfill their requirement for graduation and, at the same time, make wishes come true for children with critical illnesses.* At any given time, Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia is working on fulfilling the wishes of between 300 and 450 kids facing battles for their lives. A graduation project can give these kids something to look forward to, a chance to be a kid again and hope and strength for the future.

In addition to helping to grant wishes, participants can expect to develop a better understanding of:

- Value of community service
- Volunteerism
- Leadership skills
- Entrepreneurship
- Money and time management
- Networking
- Sense of pride that comes from making a real difference in someone's life

## THE POWER OF A *Wish!*



Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. We are proud to have served more than 18,000 children in 57 Pennsylvania counties and West Virginia since 1983.

Wish kid Samantha, who was granted her wish for a trip to the American Girl Doll Store in New York City in 2009, held a school-wide raffle at Avonworth High School to benefit Make-A-Wish. Together, Samantha and her community raised \$3,190 towards wish granting.



# GETTING STARTED

If you would like to begin a Graduation Project, we would be happy to help. Here are some tips to get started:

## **Invite a Make-A-Wish® representative to talk to your school**

We can help you come up with an idea for your project or help make your idea a success. You can schedule a visit to see our office and the many photos of our wish kids.

## **Take Charge**

This is an important step. Be organized and enthusiastic to keep the project on track.

## **Set a goal and chart your progress**

This is a great way to keep you motivated to work toward your fundraising goal. Whether you design a thermometer, bar graph or photo collage, this is a great way to visualize what you have accomplished and how far you have to reach your goal. If you exceed your fundraising goal, this is also a great way to show how your fundraiser was extremely successful.

## **Try to get other grades or your whole school involved**

This is a great way to get more people involved in your fundraiser. The more people involved, the more fun it can be and the more successful your fundraiser will be.



***“I chose to do something that I know could impact someone else’s life.”***

“My school requires every student to complete a Graduation Project before they graduate. While many students chose to do a more self-helping project, I chose to do something that I know could impact someone else’s life. Make-A-Wish is one of the BEST causes I know, targeting children and making their wish come true. Kids are so special and precious with wild imaginations that run free. Most children who have a wish to be fulfilled have a tough reality and struggle so much, going in and out of hospitals and don’t get to live a normal healthy life. It’s sad to know that they don’t get to do every activity that a healthy child could. To fulfill a child’s wish is so wonderful because you can give someone happiness and make their wildest imaginations come true. The memories that they make will last for their whole life. Make-A-Wish staff picked a very special child to fund and a wish to grant with my donation. Every time you send in money you know you are one step closer to granting a wish. It’s not about what you can get out of it as much as it is to give something to someone. Make-A-Wish is so close to my heart because I know what it’s like to dream big and I’ve been so blessed with everything I have that I want to help someone else.”

**Kristen Rupnik, 16**

# SUCCESSFUL EVENTS

Here are a few great events held by local students that helped make wishes come true!

## ***Roller Skating Party and T-shirt sales- Wish kid Billy***

Wish kid Billy wanted to give back. He raised more than \$7,000 to make other kids' wishes come true by selling T-shirts and hosting a roller skating party.

## ***5K Run for Wishes - Frank Galizia***

Frank organized a 5K and invited his school and community members. By receiving sponsors and collecting donations, his graduation project raised a total of \$5,700.

## ***Softball Tournament - Mike Lydon***

Shaler Area High School student, Mike Lydon, held a softball tournament for Make-A-Wish. He raised \$3,588.80.

## **A Home Run for Wish Kids**

Cousins Jeff and Andreo Coury were determined to come up with a unique project to benefit people less fortunate. Together, they came up with the idea to create a special night for wish kids.

Nine wish kids were the special guests at a local baseball game. The kids were honored for their "superhuman" qualities of courage, tenacity and persistence. The kids got autographs, a chance to meet the players and be honored on the field before the game. Fans at the game were invited to text a donation in for Make-A-Wish so other kids could have their wishes come true. The baseball team also contributed with a \$5,000 donation.

## ***Spaghetti Dinner - Devin Gold***

Senior Devin Gold raised over \$7,000 by holding a spaghetti dinner for his classmates and community members with the help of local businesses who donated their time and food.

## ***Katie's Walk - Alyssa Troy***

Alyssa's graduation project was a walk for children called Katie's Walk. She presented the proceeds from the event, which totaled \$3,515, to a representative of the Make-A-Wish Foundation at a school assembly.

## ***Celebration - 100 More Days of School***

During the week of the 100th day left until graduation, have students bring in 100 coins of any combination.

## ***Powder Puff Football Game - Norwin High School***

Fans pay admission to watch girls play a football game and maybe even have the boys do the cheering.

## ***Tribute Concerts***

A musical event with a different theme each year, including 'Star and Stripes' and '80s classic hits'.

## ***Prom Fashion Show***

Show off the latest prom trends to students and community before the big night.



# FUN-RAISING IDEAS

## Just for Fun

- Scavenger Hunt
- Prom Fashion Show
- Pie-in-the-Face Contest
- Duct-tape Your Principal to the Wall
- 100th Day of School Celebration
- Teacher Baby Picture Contest
- Dance Competition

## Sports

- Student/faculty tournaments
- 5K Run/Walk
- Bike-a-thon
- Powderpuff Football
- Relay Race/Olympics
- Swim Laps for Wishes
- Half-Court Shootout

## Holiday

- Holiday Theme Party
- Caroling
- Decorate a Tree
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Birthday Wish for Make-A-Wish

## School Spirit

- Paper Chain War among classrooms
- Make-A-Wish Spirit Week
- Activities Carnival
- Spirit Chain for pep rallies



Marathon Walk

## Sales

- “Superstar for Wishes” star sale
- Finals Survival Kits
- Carnations for a Cause

## Music and Art

- Talent Show
- Art gallery
- Benefit Concerts/Shows
- “Decorate a tile” day
- Open Mic Night

## Tasty Treats

- Pot luck dinner
- Bake sale
- Spaghetti Dinner or Pancake Breakfast
- Eating Contest
- Candy-Gram Messages
- Chocolate sale

## Academic

- Read/Math-a-Thon
- Science Fair
- History Quiz Show
- Spelling or Geography Bee
- Pledges for grades
- Poetry or story contest
- Graduation project



Basketball Tournament

# KIDS FOR WISH KIDS® FUNDRAISING FORM

The goal of the Kids For Wish Kids program is to empower K-12 youth to make a difference in the lives of other kids! Tell Make-A-Wish® more about your fundraising idea/activity by completing and submitting the form below to your local Make-A-Wish chapter office. A representative from Make-A-Wish will contact you shortly to discuss your proposed activity/project and provide you with more information. Please note that this form may only be submitted by: teachers or school administrators, leaders of community youth groups or associations (e.g., Girl Scout or Boy Scout leaders, coaches, etc.), parents or children age 13 and older.

Are you: ☐ School Club/Group ☐ Non-School Club/Group ☐ Individual (age 13+)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of adult supervisor/point of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

(if different from above)

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of fundraising idea(s)/activity: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Event Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Event/Fundraiser: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested date(s)/time(s) of fundraiser: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected number of participants: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected fundraising goal: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Expected date donation will be received: \_\_\_\_\_

What participation/resources do you need from Make-A-Wish? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# KIDS FOR WISH KIDS® FUNDRAISING RULES

- Make-A-Wish does not allow door-to-door or telephone solicitations.
- In order to help protect the Make-A-Wish brand, please be careful when using the Make-A-Wish® name and logo. For example, remember that “Make-A-Wish” is spelled with a capital “A” and with hyphens (not “Make a Wish”). Please list our name as Make-A-Wish® or Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia when referring to our specific chapter. Please also note that our swirl-and-star logo may not be altered in any way (e.g., do not change the logo to read “Make-A-Cake” or “Bake-A-Wish” if your school is conducting a cakewalk or bake sale).
- Make-A-Wish’s mission is to create life-changing wishes for children, aged 2 ½ to 18, living with critical illnesses. Please do not refer to the children served as “terminally ill” or “dying” as these labels can instill a sense of defeat and can be counterproductive as wish kids fight to overcome their illnesses. Many wish children are able to beat their illnesses, and we believe in the importance of keeping a positive mindset.
- Please do not solicit prizes or request appearances of national or local celebrities or sports figures (including the Penguins, Pirates or Steelers and local media celebrities). It is important that these contacts remain true to the original intent – to secure a wish for a child with a critical illness – and not be used to secure items for fund raising purposes.
- Please keep careful track of money you raise and send funds directly to your local Make-A-Wish chapter office within one month of your fundraiser.
- If you are going to advertise your fundraising event outside of the school community, it is important that you coordinate this in advance with your local Make-A-Wish chapter office.
- The state requires that the following disclaimer appears on all flyers, tickets, etc. (can be in small print at the bottom):

## **Pennsylvania:**

Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia advises you that a copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

## **West Virginia:**

West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, West Virginia 25305.

## **We have read and agree to follow the above Kids For Wish Kids Fundraising Rules:**

Proposed by:

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Make-A-Wish

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact your local office. Please send this form via email, fax or mail.**

Make-A-Wish  
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