

Make-A-Wish®

NEW JERSEY

★ CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF WISHES ★



Year of Wishes
2018

*Transforming lives,
one wish at a time.*

nj.wish.org

President's Message

Thomas P. Weatherall
President &
Chief Executive Officer



Dear Friends of Make-A-Wish® New Jersey:

So here we are, reflecting on yet another year of wish granting in the great Garden State. But make no mistake, this wasn't just another year "in the books". This was a most special milestone year, our 35th anniversary, to be exact. And oh what a celebration it was, with record wish granting and revenue figures, you could say it was our biggest year ever!

As we look back on 2018, allow me to share with you how we measured these last 12 months:

- in 560 wishes being granted, 6th most of all MAW chapters in the country; in almost half of those visiting Mickey and Minnie in sunny Orlando, cruising on the high seas with Goofy or traveling to Disneyland to see how the magic is done there
 - in trips to Abu Dhabi, Australia, England, Fiji, the Galapagos Islands, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway and still many more destinations...to visit ancient ruins, visit family never before seen, to witness the Northern Lights firsthand, ride the world's fastest roller coaster, to see where Darwin researched, and to visit the Great Barrier Reef, among other unique activities
 - in dozens of computers, pools, swing-sets, puppy dogs and shopping sprees... and in a private tryout with MLB scouts, in a model photoshoot in NYC, in a most special Quinceañera party, a recording studio, a camper and one very special Action Trackchair
 - in meeting Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, John Cena, Bruno Mars, P!nk, Aaron Judge, Eli Manning, Odell Beckham, Jr., Steph Curry, Kevin Hart and even the Pope, too, among so many more
- in receiving yet another 4 Star rating from Charity Navigator (one of the largest and well respected charity watchdog groups), their highest rating score for excellence in fiduciary stewardship and execution of our mission

And how to measure 35 years? One could offer by becoming one of the leading brands in the nonprofit space, to be sure. It could also be said that time has taught us, and our friends in the medical community, that we are more than just a "nice" thing for a child, more than merely a "warm and fuzzy" experience for them. Rather, as we've been told countless times that Make-A-Wish picks up where science and medicine leaves off, and that our mission provides for the child something that can be just as important, in fact essential, as their treatment protocol.

But my favorite measurement comes from the more than 10,000 life-changing wishes we have granted for children with critical illnesses in New Jersey since 1983. It gives me extra joy knowing that more than one-third of them have occurred in the last seven years since operating out of the Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place, fondly called "the castle". And just as compelling, we've granted as many wishes in our last 10 years, as we did in our first 25!

But statistics such as these—and the good if not great news they represent—are not the most important message I mean to convey to you this holiday season and calendar year end. No, instead, it is this—**that no wish, be it in 1983 or 2018, would have been possible without YOU, without YOUR support!** Much has changed in our world these last three and a half decades but this much hasn't—we still do not

charge our families any fees, nor do we receive any government grants. Just as the founders in Arizona have done since 1980, and early stewards of MAWNJ have since 1983, today we still rely 100% on the generosity of the community to fuel our wish granting capabilities.

John F. Kennedy once said, *"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."* My hope then is that you will accept the story behind the numbers, the figures I have shared with you here, and more...that you will accept them as proof that your precious gifts to our mission are a most powerful investment in helping to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses in New Jersey. I would also hope that our extraordinary 35 year story—OUR story, together; donor and volunteer, medical partner and friend, board and staff; and most especially our wish families—has brought you a great and deep sense of fulfillment knowing you are a crucial part of this seemingly simple but oh-so powerful mission. We simply cannot do it without YOU.

In closing, I hope we can count on you again to continue bringing our special brand of magic to more inspiring children in 2019.

On behalf of the staff and the wish children we serve, my heartfelt wishes to you and your loved ones for a wonderful holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Warmest regards,

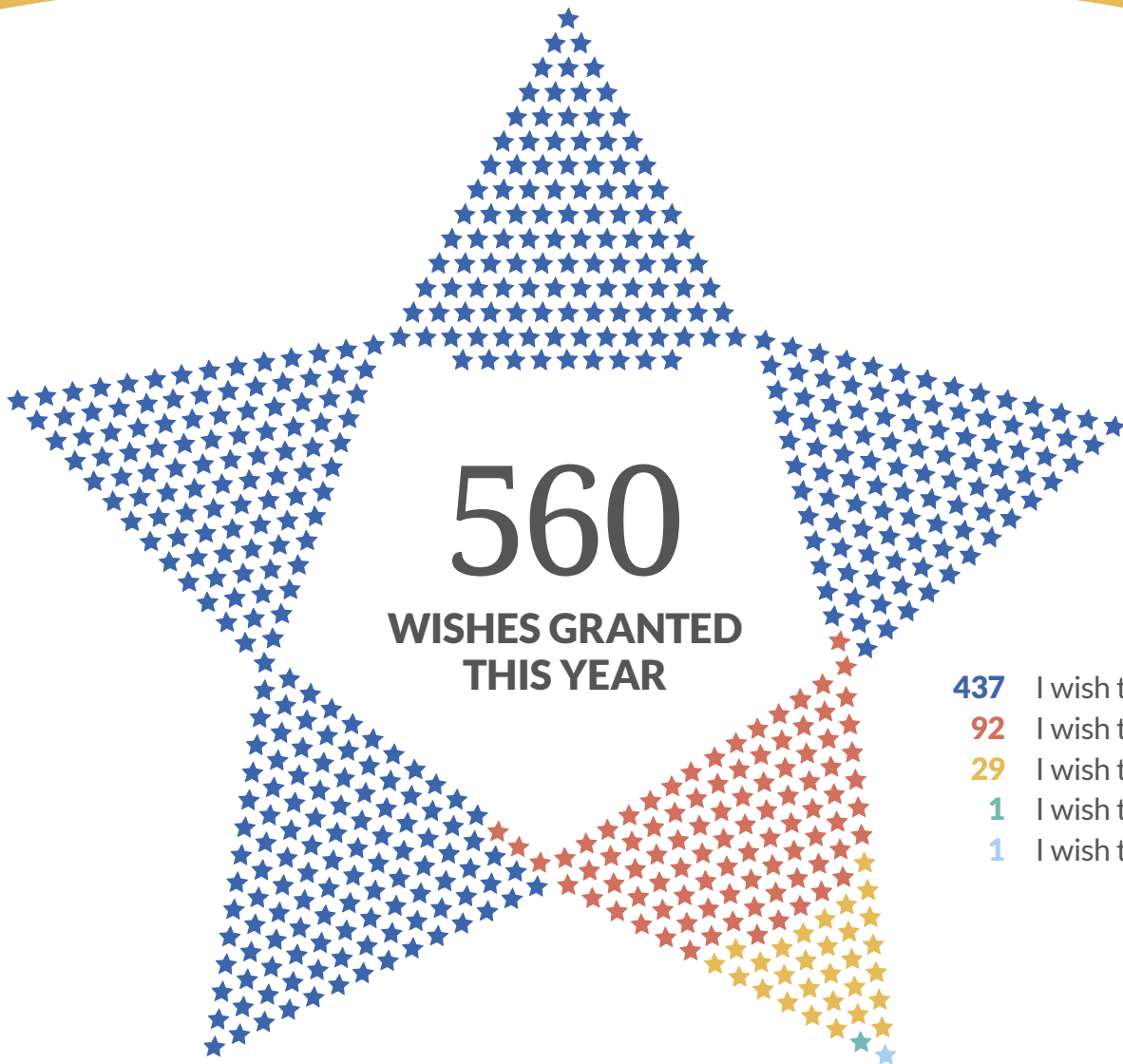
Tom Weatherall
President & CEO

OUR MISSION

Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

Wishes In Numbers

A wish has the unique ability to transform a child and their family's lives during some of their most difficult trials. It creates an opportunity for hope and the ability to experience life beyond illness.



437	I wish to go
92	I wish to have
29	I wish to meet
1	I wish to be
1	I wish to give

560! That's how many children with critical illnesses experienced the power of a wish right here in New Jersey—another record year for our chapter! Thank you to all who make up the Make-A-Wish New Jersey community—our wish children, families, referral sources, volunteers, corporate partners and our donors. You continue to bring our mission to life.

Wishes are limited only by a child's imagination. In the fight against a critical illness, a wish serves as a catalyst for renewed strength and encouragement for every child and family on their journey. While each wish is unique, they all have one thing in common:

wishes transform lives.



I wish to meet the New York Yankees

Luca, 9

cancer

What if you could meet your heroes?

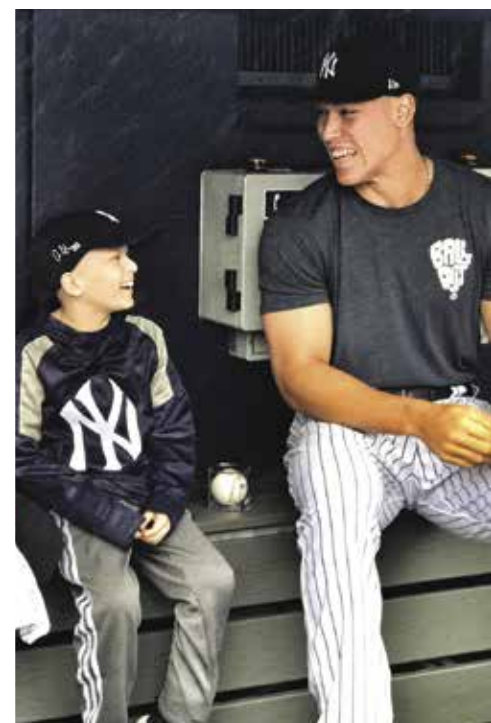
When it comes to sports and kids, most have a favorite team or a favorite athlete. For many, these figures can become someone they look up to or even become their personal heroes.

For nine-year-old Luca, when asked that simple but oh-so-powerful question, "if you could have one wish, what would it be?", Luca wished to meet his heroes—the New York Yankees.

and that he would be joining the New York Yankees that very day at Yankee Stadium. Luca's shock was apparent—and the excitement from his friends and classmates gathered around him was, too. When the video ended, Luca's entire school, who have supported him throughout his illness, lined the hallways and cheered him on with high fives and well wishes as he made his way through the main hallways and outside with his parents, where a limousine was waiting to take them to the stadium.

When they were done, Luca got to experience the indoor batting cages where he took batting practice. He was coached by the team's shortstop Didi Gregorius, who joked that he planned to give Luca tips, but after watching him at bat, didn't have much to say.

Everywhere he turned, members of the team could not wait to meet Luca. First baseman Tyler Austin showed him how to improve his grip, outfielder Brett Gardner asked to have a catch, and three-time MVP



For Luca, his wish day began just like any other school day. He got out of bed, had breakfast and threw on one of his favorite New York Yankees t-shirts and headed off to school. Luca had no idea that today would in fact not be like any other day—he was in for the surprise of a lifetime. While sitting in an assembly with his friends, a video began to play on the screen above the stage. The video was from Aaron Judge, an outfielder for the New York Yankees and one of Luca's favorite players. Judge had a surprise message for Luca. He began to tell him that his wish would be granted,

When they arrived at the stadium, Luca and his family received a guided tour of Monument Park and were escorted into the Yankee dugout. As Luca sat in the dugout, taking in how incredible it was to be there, he saw his favorite New York Yankee, Aaron Judge, come around the corner to greet him. Like old friends, they sat next to each other and talked about baseball, their hometowns, and whatever else came across Luca's mind. The private visit with Judge is a memory that will remain with Luca forever.

turned broadcaster Alex Rodriguez offered up some batting tips. As an added highlight, Luca got to sign off on manager Aaron Boone's lineup card before the game and catcher Austin Romine called Luca over from the dugout at game time, to stand by his side on the field during the National Anthem.

For Luca, his day with the New York Yankees was one that gave him a new sense of thrill, excitement and energy to keep fighting. His wish will live with him in the weeks, months and even years ahead, serving as a life-changing memory that came at a time when he needed it most.



I wish to go to Hawaii

Veronica, 17

Hodgkin's lymphoma

"It's Hodgkin's lymphoma..."

Can you imagine hearing those words, knowing you have to tell your child it's cancer?

For most parents, it's unimaginable. For us, it became reality. And so, it began. Our otherwise healthy 15-year-old, who recently finished cross country season, was in the fight for her life. The diagnosis: Stage 4 Hodgkin's lymphoma.

It was hard to witness what she was going through. She was so sick, but she kept fighting and was determined. Exhausted and weak, just prior to one of her admissions, our social worker suggested that she might be a candidate for a "wish." I'll never forget how her face lit up at the prospect of having something to look forward to. It was the distraction and inspiration she needed to get through another round of chemo.

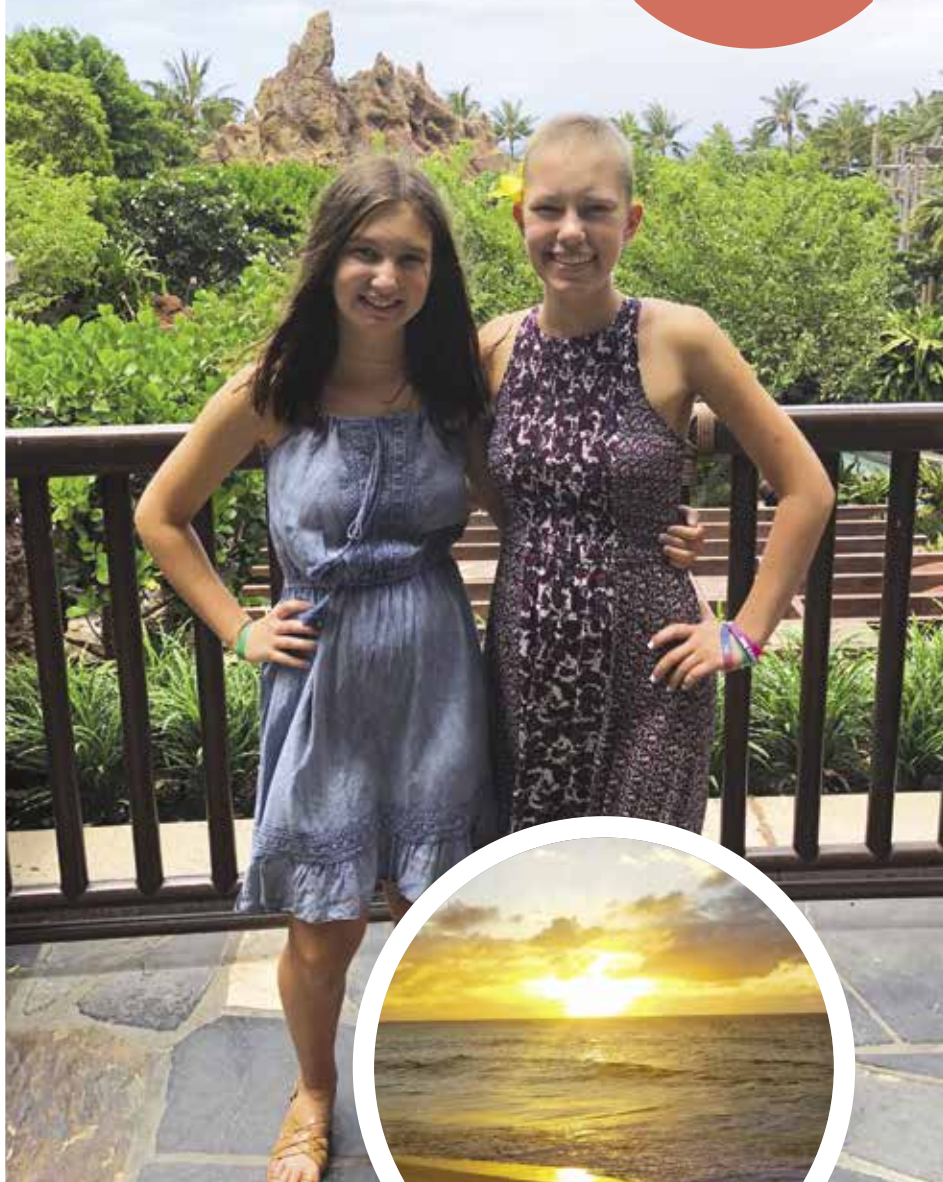
We talked at length about what she might want and that it was solely her choice what she wished for. Having this opportunity gave her back a sense of control since every other part of her life was dictated by cancer. What a tremendous gift.

The trip to Oahu, Hawaii was incredible not only because of its beauty but it gave us the time we needed to recover as a family. Veronica was told at the start of her treatment that we would never leave her alone and that we would pull each other through this, no matter what. Our trip represented a celebration, not only for her remission, but that we persevered, together, as a family.

People have recently said to me that Veronica is remarkably mature for her age. I tell them, cancer will do that to a kid. It changed her physically, mentally, and emotionally, as it did our family. It was such a painful and heart wrenching ordeal, yet it led us to people who graciously reached out and changed the trajectory of our lives.

Those of you at Make-A-Wish can never fully appreciate what your generosity means to us. When you are in crisis mode, it's almost impossible to look beyond the tragedy. Granting her a wish changed that, making it so difficult to articulate the impact of anticipation, excitement, hope, relief, and gratitude. Please know that we will always be grateful to all for making her wish come true!

— Jaqueline, Veronica's Mom





I wish to be an army man

Liam, 3
cancer

Three-year-old Liam's imagination would run wild as he played with his toy army men, often picturing how cool it would be to actually become one for the day. Through the power of his wish, that day became a reality for him as he recently found himself crossing through the gates of West Point United States Military Academy and being welcomed by their Corps of Cadets.

were instantly drawn to his eagerness and enthusiasm—and despite his small stature, he fit right in among the class. Next he observed a Boxing Match class, followed by an appropriately Liam-sized obstacle course. Colonel Germain readied his stop watch and walked Liam through the course. Liam ran, jumped and tumbled through every obstacle, beating the “world record” and graduated

would unfold. The doors opened, revealing seven soldiers specifically chosen to have the honor of joining Liam's Squad! Liam, at the ready, immediately joined his new team and asked to be briefed on their mission. Following the briefing, he bravely led his squad through the battle simulator, bringing them to victory. As Colonel Germain could be heard shouting over the troops, “Liam, who is the commander of



I WISH TO
BE...



Upon his arrival, Liam raced over to greet retired Colonel Jesse Germain with a big high-five and proudly exclaimed “Today's my day!” Right from that first display of unbridled excitement, it was clear to see that Liam's wish would be nothing short of transformational. Just like a real army man, Liam suited up, head to toe, in genuine army fatigues so he could truly feel that he was just like one of the cadets. As he greeted them, he could be heard asking the group, “do you have bunkbeds like me?” His day and his adventure as an army man was underway.

Liam's first task was learning Military Movement and Practice Soldier Skills. He watched in wonder as his fellow cadets practiced techniques on the trampolines, and he patiently waited his turn to join in on the training. The cadets

on to the advanced course. Joined by two other cadets, Liam and his troops crawled and jumped through giant tires, over walls and up ladders, and yet again, beat the “world record” of the course.

Liam's next stop was Survival Swim class, where he and his family watched in awe as cadets jumped into a pool from two stories above, in full gear and boots. Liam was sure to wave at every cadet to help ease their nerves before they each took their big plunge.

But the best was about to come for Liam, the moment he had anticipated the entire day. The courageous three-year-old was about to officially command the elite Alpha Squad. Liam glowed with excitement as he rode the elevator up to the floor where the heart of his wish

all of West Point?”, a confident reply could be heard coming from Liam, “ME!” Liam's parents proudly watched as their young son, who had already endured so much in his fight against cancer, took the helm and guided these dedicated soldiers through every obstacle that came their way.

Liam's day spent as an army man at West Point United States Military Academy not only transformed his life, but the lives of his parents, the leadership at West Point, and the cadets that worked with him. It was a day that will remain etched in the memories of countless people—a constant reminder not only of the hope and joy a wish can provide, but the strength that can be found in a wish experience by all those who are involved in it, in even the most difficult of times.



I wish to have a Quinceañera

Sharlin, 15

cardiac condition

Being diagnosed with a critical illness often forces a family to face fear and many unknowns. For Sharlin and her family, this is their daily reality. Like many young Latina girls, Sharlin had often dreamed of celebrating her 15th birthday with family and friends—a celebration not only of a momentous landmark in her life but how much she has overcome, this would be a day where all fears and concerns could be set aside. Sharlin's wish was for a Quinceañera, and it became an event filled with memories that will last a lifetime.

The **fiesta de quince años** is a celebration of a girl's 15th birthday. The girl celebrating this special birthday is known as a **Quinceañera**, a term reserved solely for the honoree marking this special transition from childhood to young womanhood. This celebration embraces deep rooted customs and the virtues of family. It is traditional for the Quinceañera to choose special friends to participate in their special day and we were honored when Sharlin asked Make-A-Wish New Jersey to help grant her one true wish of a Quinceañera like one not seen before.

Once we received Sharlin's wish, our wish granters couldn't wait to begin. The first question...where to start? To help with that, Make-A-Wish New Jersey reached out to our dear friends at Goya. When they heard about Sharlin's wish, Goya jumped right in to help us with the planning.

With their support and guidance, the team at Goya helped make this an authentic Quinceañera with traditional celebrations, a beautiful gown and tiara, a horse-drawn carriage, a dance with her father, and a traditional shoe ceremony.

"It was a beautiful experience because I saw my princess so happy and enjoying her wish which was to celebrate her sweet fifteen. I am thankful for this beautiful experience for her and realize that good people exist who can help make wishes come true. I am very grateful to all of you at Make-A-Wish and Goya for such a noble act. For Sharlin, it was a beautiful experience, a dream come true that she had the chance to share with her family and friends. God bless every single one of you."

— Maricruz, Sharlin's Mom

I WISH TO HAVE...



2018
LOOKING
BACK:

★ **Macy's Believe Campaign**

For over 10 years, Macy's has supported Make-A-Wish during the annual Believe campaign. Believers of all ages write their letters to Santa at local Macy's stores, and for each letter received, Macy's donates \$1 to Make-A-Wish, up to \$1 million. Thank you, Macy's, for believing in the life-changing power of a wish!

★ **Volunteer Recognition Brunch**

Each year, we celebrate our volunteers throughout the state and their dedication to our mission. Our annual brunch welcomed volunteers to the Wishing Place for an inspiring morning of gratitude, including a heartfelt speech by Francesca, whose wish was to go to her mother's hometown in Italy.

A Year to Celebrate



★



★



★



★



★

★ **President's Reception**

The holidays are a season of giving, but also a season of thanks! Each year, we welcome some of our most generous supporters to the Wishing Place for an evening of gratitude and celebration of their friendship.

★ **Jersey Mike's Subs Month of Giving**

For the 2nd year in a row, Jersey Mike's supported Make-A-Wish during their March *Month of Giving*. An astounding \$377,000 was raised by 60 participating locations which helped us grant almost 40 wishes to local kids battling critical illnesses.

★ **World Wish Day**

Each year on April 29th, we recognize a special day in the life of a young boy in 1980, whose "wish" was to be a police officer. That experience inspired the creation of Make-A-Wish and sparked a global movement that has now created life-changing wishes for nearly 450,000 children worldwide. At Make-A-Wish New Jersey, we celebrated World Wish Day by granting Gabby's wish for a Taco Party at the Wishing Place!

★ 6 10,000th Wish

In May, we reached a significant milestone and granted our chapter's 10,000th wish to Klara, whose wish was for her very own *Action Trackchair*. Klara was surprised by nearly 100 people at the Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place, including staff, volunteers, and other wish families, welcoming her into the Make-A-Wish family.



★ 8 Walk & Roll For Wishes Events

The 2018 *Walk & Roll For Wishes* events at Liberty State Park and at the Wishing Place attracted over 1,000 guests and raised \$150,000 this fall. Over 60 wish families participated this year!



★ 9 Wish Family Picnics

Our Wish Family Picnics give our wish families the opportunity to meet one another and share their life-changing stories. It is also a chance for our families to meet the staff and volunteers who played a vital role in granting their wishes. Thank you to our friends at Bloomberg and the Montufar Family for hosting our Wish Family Picnics.



★ 7 2018 Gala

The annual Gala was the central celebration of our 35th Anniversary and was filled with historical mission moments, including recognition of our honorees Francis X. Bolte and Neil Barnett, a special message from wish granter Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, the surprise granting of our 10,001st wish for Brandon to have his very own camper, and a historic first-time meeting between Linda Pauling, the Matriarch of Make-A-Wish and her son's hero, Erik Estrada. The evening raised over \$1 million for the 7th year in a row.



★ 10 Columbus Day Parade

Our dear friend Guy Chiarello was honored this year as the 2018 Grand Marshal of the New York City Columbus Day Parade. We were humbled to be invited to march in the parade with Guy, along with wish kids and parents, in front of thousands of people. Guy, we're proud to call you part of our Make-A-Wish famiglia!

Supporting Make-A-Wish

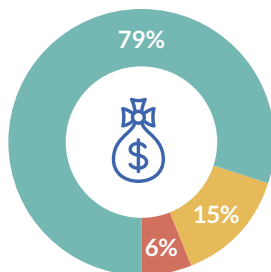
YOU MAKE WISHES POSSIBLE

Make-A-Wish New Jersey relies on the generosity of individual donors to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses across the Garden State. We welcome donations in any amount. Whether it's a one-time gift, monthly donation or a matching gift—all donations are essential to helping us create an unforgettable wish experience for children and families. There are a variety of ways for you to help grant a child's fondest wish and give them hope when it is needed most. To speak with someone on our Development Team, call 609.371.9474 or email development@nj.wish.org.

HOW YOUR GIFT IS SPENT

Five-Year Average

79%	Wish Granting & Program
15%	Fundraising
6%	Administration



WAYS TO HELP

- Stock Donations
- Donate Airline Miles
- Host A Fundraising Event
- Form A Walk Team
- Make A Year-End Gift
- Adopt-A-Wish®
- Leave A Legacy

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

We work with both national and local corporate partners of all sizes. Corporate sponsors are essential in helping Make-A-Wish New Jersey accomplish its mission and we are dedicated to building long-term integrated and mutually beneficial strategic alliances. With fun and engaging ways for your company to get involved, you can help transform lives, one wish at a time.

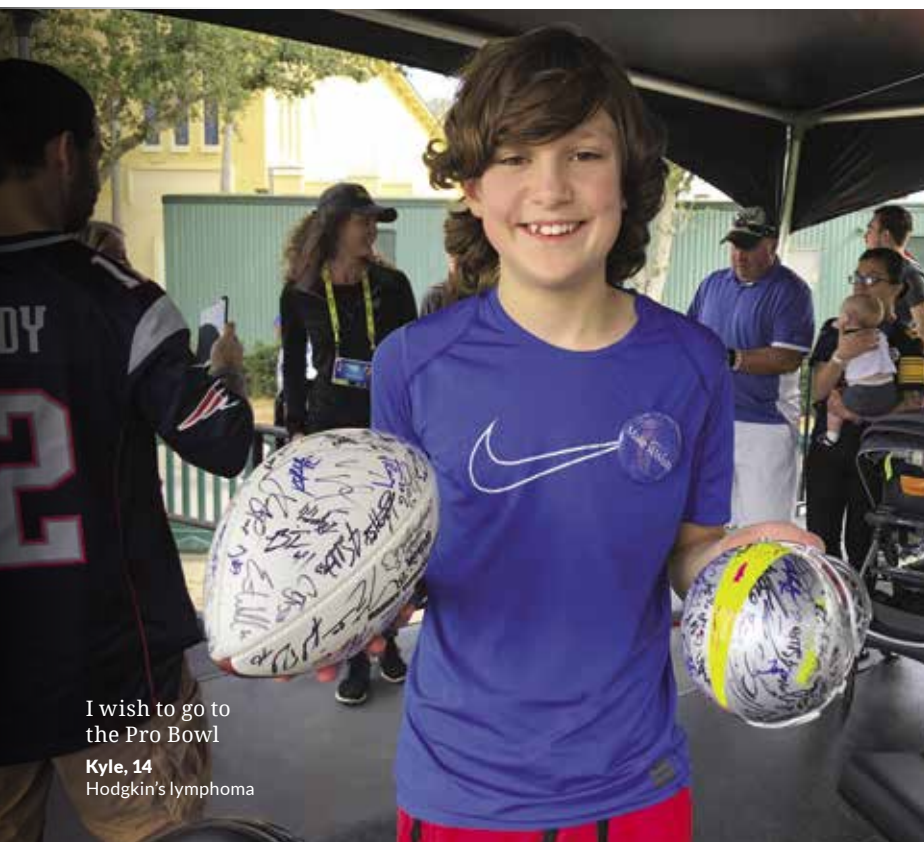
AVIS®  **Bristol-Myers Squibb**

Disney  **GameStop**
POWER TO THE PLAYERS™

GOYA gives  **Jersey Mike's**
SUBS

★ **macy's gives** **Party City**

 **SUBARU**
Confidence in Motion



I wish to go to
the Pro Bowl
Kyle, 14
Hodgkin's lymphoma

MAKE A TRIBUTE GIFT AND HONOR A LOVED ONE

There's nothing more meaningful and heartfelt than making a tribute gift in honor or memory of someone special. A tribute gift lets you show a loved one how much you care, while helping grant life-changing wishes. To acknowledge your tribute gift, we will send a note to your indicated recipient letting them know that a gift was made in their honor or in memory of a loved one.

Fundraise For Us

Set up an online fundraiser for friends and family and celebrate a significant event like a milestone birthday by sharing the gift of hope with wish children and families. Visit nj.wish.org/waystohelp to learn more.

Wheels for Wishes



Your unwanted vehicle can help make wishes come true. Find out how by visiting

newjersey.wheelsforwishes.org or calling 877.716.WISH.

Wishes In Flight®

Help wish kids take flight by donating your unused air miles today. For more information visit nj.wish.org/wings.

Make-A-Wish
WISHES IN FLIGHT®



I wish to go to Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards

Claudia, 15
congenital heart condition



I wish to have a swim spa

Ashton, 8
seizure disorder



I wish to have a shopping spree

Yomar, 14
cancer

Adopt-A-Wish[®]

Through our Adopt-A-Wish program, you can invest in a wish experience that will transform a child's life!

The program provides a unique opportunity to make an immediate, direct and substantial impact on the life of a child, their family and an entire community.

Your gift will cover all expenses associated with a child's wish, including transportation, food, lodging, admission fees and even nursing care and equipment that is not covered by a family's insurance while traveling. Wishes can be adopted by an individual, group, company or organization. We will attribute a specific wish to your gift and you will receive a child's wish story and any photos or notes from the wish experience to demonstrate how your generosity helped make a wish come true.

By generously funding a child's wish, you will create cherished memories for a wish family—and yourself! Contact our Development Team today to learn more about the Adopt-A-Wish program and how you can share the power of a wish.



609-371-WISH (9474)



aaw@nj.wish.org



I wish to go to Greece

Sloane, 17
blood disorder



I wish to have a Guild Starfire bass guitar

Joseph, 17
kidney disease



I wish to go to Hawaii

Miguel, 11
leukemia



I wish to have a Sweet 16 Party

Nayeli, 16
seizure disorder

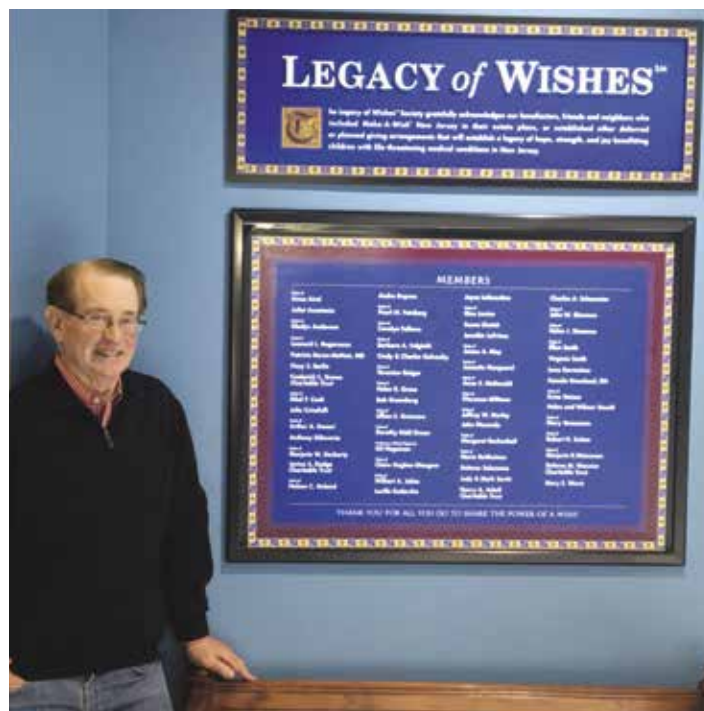
Legacy of Wishes

Become a part of our Legacy of WishesSM Society and create life-changing wishes in the future.

Each year, Make-A-Wish New Jersey transforms the lives of hundreds of children battling critical illnesses. You can help us continue to reach more eligible children year after year and prepare to bring hope, strength and joy to future generations of wish kids by including Make-A-Wish New Jersey in your estate plans.

"The opportunity to serve as a Wish Granting Volunteer and to help bring joy to the faces of children and families is something I've been privileged to do since my retirement. The kids I meet are truly inspirational and, without exception, I take something positive away from every family I meet. So, leaving a Legacy to carry on the important work of Make-A-Wish after my time through a simple bequest in my Will was an easy decision and one that both offers me a way to thank Make-A-Wish for the opportunity I've had to volunteer as well as comfort in the knowledge that I am able to have a hand in helping to grant wishes for years to come!"

— Alan Medvin, Planned Giving Donor



TYPICAL BEQUEST LANGUAGE IS:

"I give the sum of \$_____ (or % of estate) to the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Jersey, 1384 Perrineville Road, Monroe Township, NJ 08831, to be used or disposed of as its Board of Directors deems appropriate in its sole discretion."

To join the society or learn more about Planned Giving, call 609-371-WISH and ask to speak to a member of the Development Team.



I wish to have a private tryout with MLB scouts
Joshua, 17
cancer



I wish to go to Beaches Turks & Caicos
Hannah, 13
Ewing Sarcoma

Strength in Numbers

Over 400 volunteers play an essential role in our mission, working closely with our wish families, supporting us at our events, greeting our thousands of visitors each year at our Welcome Desk, and delivering hope, joy and transformation to wish kids when they need it most. Further, over 150 community events are held on our behalf throughout the Garden State, raising vital funds needed to continue to grant the wish of every eligible child referred to us. We rely on the generosity of the community as we continue to grant more wishes year after year.



400+
VOLUNTEERS

Featured Community Events

★ 3rd Annual Tiffany & Co. IT Charity Golf Outing

This year, Tiffany & Co. IT Project Management Office jumped to the #1 top fundraising external event spot by raising \$80,000 through their 2018 Golf Outing! Over the past 3 years, they've raised \$182,000 to help make life-changing wishes come true!

★ Greater Trenton Dart League Darts for Dreams

Over the years, the Greater Trenton Dart League Darts for Dreams has raised more than \$355,000 to grant 38 wishes for kids with critical illnesses in their community! Now in their 13th year, the group has continued to grow their unique and successful event, raising close to \$60,000 this past spring!

★ Merrill Edge Jeans Month

In their 3rd year of fundraising for Make-A-Wish New Jersey, Merrill Edge Pennington employees came together to more than double their fundraising total by raising nearly \$20,000!

★ Studio L's Dancing for Wishes Showcase

This event is a remarkable example of kids coming together to help support other kids through their passion—dance. More than 100 competitive dancers from all over New Jersey came together to showcase their talent and simultaneously raise over \$20,000 for Make-A-Wish New Jersey! Kelly Larkin and Studio L spent countless hours organizing the showcase and inspiring dancers to choreograph a new and unique routine for the event!

★ Little Falls Walk-A-Thon

The Little Falls Walk-A-Thon is a first time event supporting Make-A-Wish New Jersey. Kids from kindergarten to 8th grade came together this past June to walk for other children battling critical illnesses and raised \$12,000! Make-A-Wish New Jersey volunteer, Anne Kahwaty, organized this fun event that epitomizes the **Kids for Wish Kids** program and gives kids an opportunity to have a better understanding of community service, teamwork and school spirit.

★ Rubber Ducky Regatta

This year was the first time that Make-A-Wish New Jersey was chosen as the beneficiary of the Rubber Ducky Regatta. The event raised \$12,000 thanks to the creativity and support of Patrice Thomasson and the National Park Boat Club.



Volunteers help our wish kids unleash their creativity at the Arts & Crafts table at our annual Walk & Roll For Wishes



Volunteers present wish kid Berra with her wish for a puppy



I wish to go to the Walt Disney World® Resort
Harrison, 5
neurological condition

How We Grant Wishes

On average, every day two families in New Jersey receive the devastating news that their child has been diagnosed with a critical illness. Their minds will be filled with questions, and their hearts filled with anxiety. They will begin a journey that will include constant doctor appointments, hospital stays, and medical treatments for their child.

That's where we come in. We pick up where science and medicine leave off, and we believe that wishes change the odds for children fighting critical illnesses. It's why we do what we do. Wishes can improve a child's quality of life, giving them a better chance of recovery.

Put simply, we believe a single wish transforms lives.

★ How We Grant Wishes

There are four steps to granting a wish. Each step builds on the next and creates unforgettable experiences for wish kids and their families.



STEP 1 Referral

We rely on medical professionals, parents, family members and children themselves for referrals. Children who have been diagnosed with a qualifying critical illness and are currently in a life-threatening state, have reached the age of 2½ and are under the age of 18 at the time of referral, and have not received a wish from another wish-granting organization may be eligible for a wish.



STEP 2 Medical Eligibility

To receive a wish, the child must be diagnosed with a critical illness (i.e., a progressive, degenerative or malignant condition). The child's treating physician plays an integral role in determining the child's medical eligibility. Visit md.wish.org to learn what critical illnesses qualify for a wish.



STEP 3 The Wish

Our dedicated staff and volunteers meet with the child and their family to learn the child's one true wish. Our committed team members connect with our wish kids, awaken their imaginations and help them envision the seemingly impossible.



STEP 4 Creating Joy

Our staff and volunteer wish granters create an unforgettable experience driven by the child's creativity. They strive to personalize each wish and create life-long memories for not only the wish child, but the entire family.

★ Visit nj.wish.org/refer to learn more or to refer a child today.



I wish to go to Hawaii
Cole, 13
pulmonary disease



I wish to meet Halle Berry
Brianna, 13
nervous system disorder



Make-A-Wish® New Jersey

Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place
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FAX: 609-371-8919

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jersey@nj.wish.org

