

Make-A-Wish®
NEW JERSEY

YEAR OF 
wishes
2019



I wish to be
a police officer
Riley, 15
seizure disorder



Transforming lives, one wish at a time.

President's Message

Thomas P. Weatherall
President & Chief Executive Officer



This autumn, we held several events, be it our Walk & Roll for Wishes at our home – the Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place – fondly referred to as “the castle”, or the one in Liberty State Park in Jersey City. There were also our annual wish family picnics, one again at the castle, and the other at The Funplex in Mt. Laurel. At these, and still other gatherings, we often invite wish families to ‘share their story’, if they’d like. Sometimes it’s the wish child who speaks, other times a parent, grandparent, guardian or a sibling too may tell the story of how they came to receive a wish, and the impact of that wish on the child, family, and their community.

Listening to one such story recently, I was reminded of an old folk tale, one I shared at a past gala of ours. It goes like this -

There was an oil company that was looking to protect its inventory, quite simply its refinery property, strewn with oil tanks filled with their precious “black gold”...and they invested millions of dollars in state-of-the-art equipment to protect these tanks against a fire. Being situated in a small, sleepy town, a very rural area, the big oil company had little confidence in the local volunteer fire department, which was essentially made up of a mere four volunteers, all over 60 years old, and a tired, banged up fire truck.

The plant spent hundreds of thousands of dollars more on training an elite ALPHA team to put down any fire should one occur. And, lo and behold, sure enough the day came that they would be tested – a fire broke out in one of the tanks and quickly swept through the entire tank farm. The ALPHA team and state-of-the-art equipment they had was no match, so the management called for all employees to evacuate the plant immediately.

As they all stood quietly, and helplessly watched the company’s entire inventory

burning to the ground, they heard the sound of a fire truck coming over the hill in the far-off distance. Could it be? No way! But sure enough, yes it was, here were the volunteer firefighters from the local town, coming with their tired, banged up old dingy fire truck. As it came down the hill it gained more momentum, and started to increase its speed dramatically, heading straight for the fire!

One could see the look of fear on the volunteer firefighters’ faces as they raced by, and although the plant personnel attempted to signal the driver to stop as it was obviously a futile effort because even the plant’s A-team was no match, the volunteer firefighters charged right through and were soon right in the center of the tanks that were now burning out of control.

Then, suddenly, like a precision drill team, each man and woman jumped out of the truck and began hosing each other and their truck with their own water. Then, they turned their hose on the nearest tank. Incredibly, they put the fire out, and then they turned to the next tank, and the next, until, unbelievably, miraculously, they had put out all the fires!

Well of course there was a great “HOORAY” shouted out by the plant employees as they ran with the volunteers on their shoulders, parading them through the downtown into the public square for all the people to see, and to thank their new heroes. Then the Chairman of the big oil company decided to write these volunteer firefighters a generous donation for their heroic deed, right there on the spot. Upon presenting the captain of the team with his check, he asked him, “So Captain, you saved the plant, you saved hundreds of jobs for everyone, you escaped unscathed – tell us, what are you and your team going to do with this reward money?”

The Captain looked at the check, then looked at the crowd gathered around,

looked back at the oil Chairman and said, “Well the first thing we’re gonna do is FIX THE BRAKES on that darn old fire truck!” ☺

Yes, I should have mentioned its also a funny tale, and brought great laughter at that gala. But far more importantly, it’s not meant to be analogous per se, necessarily, but this little anecdote does remind me a lot about what we witness each day at Make-A-Wish.

The wish children and their families are placed into situations that, at times, they have little or no control over, but as we have seen thousands of times, they and their families act heroically, they do the best they can, they stick together, they maintain hope.

And so too, all of you reading this, by supporting the powerful mission that is Make-A-Wish, you are much like the volunteer firefighters who saw the unsettling dilemma in front of them, but rather than looking the other way, decided to roll up your sleeves, and get involved, and help bring the power of a wish to a deserving child. For this, we are forever grateful.

I’d like to close by sharing one wish mom’s thoughts that she shared at one of our events recently. Jennifer is Austin’s mom, who along with her husband, Ryan, help Austin battle MPS Type 1 Hurler syndrome, a rare genetic disease. We granted Austin’s wish back in 2010, when he was five years old, to go to Disney. Jennifer told the audience,

“Wishes matter and Make-A-Wish matters. We’ve seen over our time involved in Make-A-Wish that wishes inspire. Kids get wishes and it pushes them to do something or be something in the future. And that’s awesome. We’ve seen wishes that give people the power to fight when they’re tired. I’m here to talk about the wishes that come when there is no hope. Make-A-Wish says, “It’s okay. We’re not doing this so that you can be something someday, we’re not doing this so that you can give back to us

and we're not doing this so that you can change the world. We're doing this because joy matters. Right now, right where you are, not because of what you'll be, but because of who and where you are right now, and that joy matters."

They are respectful of siblings. They say, 'We see you guys, we see how hard it is, and it's okay, you deserve this moment of fun too because we know how hard it is to watch your sibling battle!' They see parents and caregivers and they say, 'We see you and we see that it's hard and you're fighting, and it's okay. We've got this one. We've got this. You just enjoy it, you just be in the moment.' That matters. That's changed the way we've lived our lives!"

In this season of giving thanks, we are deeply grateful to wish moms like Jennifer, and wish dads, guardians and

all caregivers, for trusting us to bring our special mission into your child's life, and your families' lives.

We're grateful to our donors and volunteers statewide who put the fuel in our tanks and provide additional hands for carrying our mission to more children and families each year.

We're grateful to our medical partners who trust us with their patients, and who recognized long ago that Make-A-Wish picks up where science and medicine leave off.

Lastly, I must express my gratitude to the staff and board of Make-A-Wish New Jersey, all of whom have been making me proud for the last 15 years, with their extraordinary talents and impact. But this year in particular, our

colleagues at our national office saw their extraordinary efforts too and recently at our annual conference in October presented our chapter with one of our organization's highest honors, the Power of One Award, which is effectively "Chapter of the Year". We are all humbled by this and assure you we'll continue to work hard to advance our seemingly simple but oh so powerful mission daily.

Austin's mom Jennifer was right. "We got this!"

Season's Greetings and best wishes to you all.

Tom Weatherall
President & CEO



Wishes in Numbers

595!

OUR MISSION:

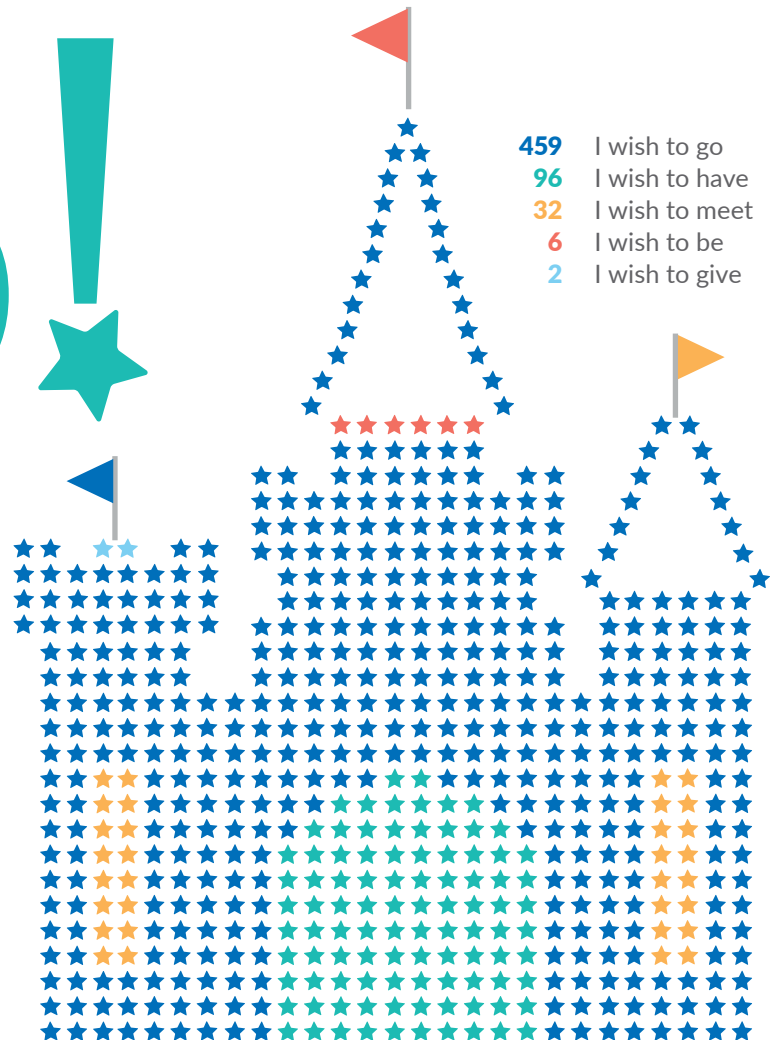
Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

That's how many children with critical illnesses experienced the power of a wish — another record year for our chapter!

Thank you to all who make up the Make-A-Wish New Jersey community. From our wish children, families, and referral sources to our volunteers, corporate partners, donors and board members — 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!**



Officer Riley Reports for Duty!



I wish to be a Las Vegas Metropolitan police officer

Riley, 15

seizure disorder

Contributing Writer: Michael Dominick

Riley has had a desire to be in law enforcement for as long as he can remember. His love of police and first responders began in early childhood when he struck up a friendly relationship with his local police department. He has even dressed up as a different member of law enforcement every Halloween, wishing for this to be his everyday life.

In the summer of 2012, Riley started having seizures and displaying signs of an extreme form of epilepsy. As the years passed, Riley's doctors administered different medications and performed surgeries to relieve the symptoms, but the seizures continued.

After much consideration, Riley underwent a risky brain surgery that succeeded in eliminating his seizures but resulted in paralysis on the left side of his body. Even then, police were by Riley's side – especially his close friend, Lieutenant Michael Packer of the Westville Police Department, who escorted him to and from the hospital.

Finally seizure-free, Riley was forced to relearn simple life tasks, from walking to showering, to lifting his arms above his head. Despite these obstacles, he was determined to get his strength up. Almost one year after his surgery, Riley walked out of the hospital, proving to everyone that he was ready to travel for his one true wish.

After watching the news coverage of the devastating events of 1 October in Las Vegas, Riley was inspired by the efforts of the Las Vegas Metropolitan police officers who fought to save lives that day. He wished to join the men and women in blue in Las Vegas on the anniversary of 1 October to meet and work alongside his heroes.

On the day of his wish, Riley prepared to leave for the airport, unaware of the surprises that were in store for him. When he opened his front door, he was met with the applause of an honor guard of local and state police departments from New Jersey and Pennsylvania. As the police motorcade escorted him to the airport, his journey as a police officer was finally beginning to unfold.

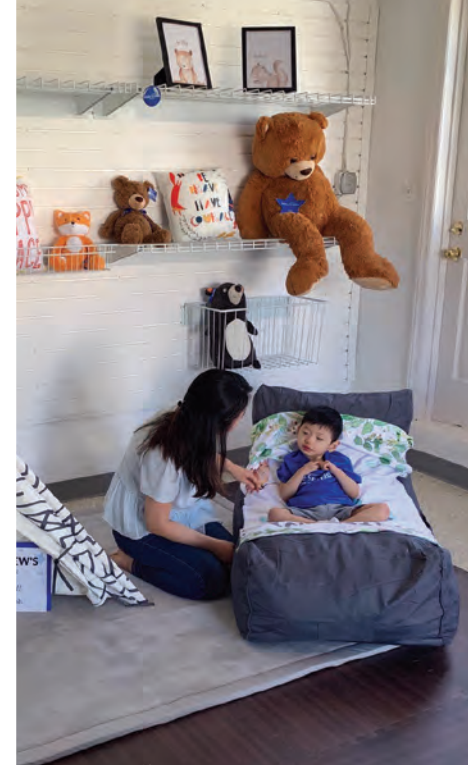
When he arrived at the airport in Las Vegas, Riley was welcomed by more heroes— the LVMPD and the Northwest Area Command. Not long after, he donned his utility belt and dove straight into basic defensive training with Sheriff Joe Lombardo, the SWAT team, Air, K-9 and Motor Units.

With a wealth of newly acquired skills, Officer Riley put on his official uniform and graduated from the training academy. Now an “official” officer, Riley attended a briefing and went out on his first training call, applying everything he learned that day to the scene of a crime.

Riley ended the day by meeting another hero, Officer Brady Cook who was wounded responding to 1 October, on his first shift as a police officer. During their conversation, Riley got an in-depth look at what it truly means to protect and serve.

A day on the job as a police officer came naturally to Riley. Destined for a career in helping others, he hopes to one day follow in their footsteps, pursuing a career in cybersecurity.





Matthew's Wish Creates a Special Place to Play!

I wish to have a sensory playroom

Matthew, 3

nervous system disorder

A Heartfelt Letter from Matthew's Mom, Sarah

"Can you imagine having a child with 80-90 seizures a month throughout most of infancy?"

Our son Matthew seemed to be healthy the first three months of his life. There were no signs that he was born with a genetic condition called Dravet Syndrome until his very first seizure in August of 2016. He was a tiny baby, and to witness his body stiffen and change color was terrifying! We rushed him to the hospital and ran many tests before it was discovered that Matthew has a drug-resistant form of epilepsy.

Today, at three years old, we are miraculously seeing far less seizures, usually occurring in the teens, and this gives us an opportunity to focus on getting him physically stronger! When asked what wish Matthew wished for, my husband and I had to think long and hard. Due to his condition, Matthew has significant developmental delays. He is nonverbal and unable to voice his wants and needs. We wanted Matthew's wish to be something on Matthew's behalf that would be beneficial to him long-term.

We thought it would be a neat idea to turn our garage into a sensory playroom and gym for Matthew. This amazing sensory playroom allows for us to invite in his therapists so that Matthew can receive PT, OT, and speech therapy in the comforts of our home. Matthew receives seven therapies throughout the week, so it has been nice to also use the garage as his therapy room. Make-A-Wish brought in professionals to refinish the garage floor, paint the walls, and volunteers came together to build a warm and inviting environment with a "forest animals" theme for our son.

When Matthew is not working with the therapists, my husband and I love to read him books under the canopy or play with the jumbo blocks which were also gifted to him. He really enjoys watching the fish moving inside the sensory fish tank and playing with the colorful balls inside the ball pit. Make-A-Wish graciously turned an unusable part of our house into a space that Matthew utilizes every single day!

Through Matthew's condition, we have realized just how many amazing people are out there to look after him! Thank you to the wonderful team at Make-A-Wish for positively changing the lives of children like Matthew. Our family is extremely grateful that an organization like Make-A-Wish exists to brighten up the lives of each warrior fighting an illness.

We are also very thankful to all the therapists and doctors who work arduously to make Matthew better and stronger each day, and our Grace Community Chapel community for being with us each and every step of the way on this journey. Even during this season of our lives we count our blessings and we know that God has hand-picked all these specific individuals to help us get through this time."

— Sarah
Matthew's mom





Emily's Excellent Adventure!

I wish to meet Keanu Reeves

Emily, 16

kidney disease

Contributing Writer: Meagan Plichta

Born with a rare medical condition that eventually led to kidney disease, Emily faced several surgeries throughout her childhood. Her kidneys began to fail, resulting in the need for a transplant.

While just a teenager facing the devastating realities of her medical condition, Emily tried her best to maintain a positive outlook, often finding escape in watching movies. Her journey through the catalogues of her favorite streaming services led her to a transformative discovery. Despite being released over a decade before she was born, *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure* quickly became one of Emily's favorite movies.

"She came across it one day and was instantly hooked," her mom Deborah shared.

It didn't take long for Emily to develop an appreciation for one of the film's stars, Keanu Reeves. So when she was asked, "If you could have one wish, what would it be?", she knew she wanted to meet her favorite actor!

Upon hearing that Emily's fondest wish was to meet Reeves, he and his team immediately went to work to create the perfect wish experience. They invited her down to Louisiana to visit the set of *Bill & Ted Face The Music* - the upcoming sequel to the original two films - to watch the filming of a scene hand-picked by Reeves himself.

Emily received a warm welcome from Reeves and the entire cast and crew, presenting her with her very own "Wyld Stallyns" jean jacket. In between shots, Reeves and Emily got to know each other, sharing laughs and chatting about their favorite things.

"Thank you Make-A-Wish," Deborah said. "It was an unbelievable day. She hasn't been this happy in months! Keanu seemed to be having as much fun with Emily as she was with him."

Upon her return from her wish, Emily received the news that there was a kidney available for her and she immediately received her transplant surgery! Emily's recovery is going well and she recently returned to school, ready to share the story of her excellent adventure with her classmates.



A Bit of Disney Magic Sparks Michael's Smile!

I wish to go to the
Walt Disney World® Resort

Michael, 12
digestive system disorder

A Heartfelt Letter from Michael's Mom, Kyeeshia

"It's hard watching your child or brother go through such hard times, pain and surgeries, wondering when will it end and having siblings that want to take away the pain and problems and can't. It took a toll on the entire family.

He has his bad days and his good days but overall is making a lot of progress. This wish has impacted Michael in so many ways that I can't even explain. Walking off the plane and seeing someone there holding the sign with his name - not only was it emotional for us, but Michael was crying happy tears to see his name on the poster and the warm welcome he received. He said, "Mom, it's really happening for me! I finally get to enjoy being a kid and not live in the hospital."

Michael loved every bit of the trip, from the limo picking us up to our first day at Disney. I saw a spark in his eyes that I have not seen in a long time. He is such a thrill seeker - he loved the roller coasters and eating ice cream for breakfast and taking pictures with characters. This trip made everything worthwhile for him.



I'm not sure if you have ever seen a child lose sight in something that they love so much - to see that again in him was such a blessing.

Our family was so overjoyed with what we were able to embrace on this journey with him, that you wouldn't believe it. For us to see that big beautiful smile on his face again made it even more meaningful that this wish happened for him.

It gave Michael a sense of living again, it really did. Words can't express our gratitude for giving my son the one thing that he wanted in life. I can't say thank you enough for allowing our family to embark on this journey with Michael, it meant the world to us to be with him every step of the way while on this Disney wish."

— Kyeeshia
Michael's mom



Looking Back *On* 2019

1★ Macy's Believe Campaign

For over 10 years, Macy's has supported Make-A-Wish nationwide through their annual **Believe Campaign**. Believers of all ages write 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. Last year, Nicholas was surprised at his local Macy's on National Believe Day with the news that his wish to go to the Great Barrier Reef had been granted!



2★ President's Reception

The holidays are a season of giving, but also a season of thanks! Every year, we welcome some of our most generous supporters to the Wishing Place for an evening of inspiration and gratitude, and to celebrate their friendship. Micaela joined us last year to share her inspiring story and wish to become a cardiothoracic surgeon!



6★ 2019 Gala

For the 8th consecutive year, Make-A-Wish New Jersey raised over \$1 Million during the annual Gala at the Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place. In front of over 500 guests, the event featured a program full of surprise wishes coming true - including Tyler's wish to become the first-ever Orange Power Ranger, Zakhyra's wish to go to Walt Disney World (revealed to her by wish alumna and Zakhyra's mom, Shirley), Bridget's wish to go to London, and Michael's wish to take cooking lessons in the French Alps!

7★ Bristol-Myers Squibb Patient Week

Each year, we are invited to be a part of BMS Patient Week and celebrate their commitment as a national partner, by helping to make future wishes come true across the country. Emma from Georgia, whose wish was to give care kits to kids battling cancer at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, joined us in a special presentation and talkback session at Bristol-Myers Squibb. Emma's wish, among many others nationwide, was granted thanks to the financial generosity of the Bristol-Myers Squibb family.

3 Jersey Mike's Subs Month of Giving

For the 3rd year in a row, Jersey Mike's supported our chapter during their March Month of Giving. A milestone \$1 Million has been donated to our mission since 2017 - \$458,000 this year alone! To kick off the monthlong partnership, Hannah was surprised with her wish during a special reveal party with her friends and family at a local Jersey Mike's, where she learned her wish to go to Costa Rica was about to come true!



4 Volunteer Recognition Brunch

We rely on our 350+ volunteers throughout the state to fulfill our mission. Each year, we celebrate these dedicated individuals and their commitment to our wish kids. The annual brunch welcomed volunteers to the Wishing Place for an inspiring morning of gratitude, including a heartfelt speech by Hannah, whose wish was to snorkel with her family in Turks & Caicos.



5 NFL Draft Party with the New York Football Giants

They picked us! Big Blue have been a cherished partner for decades, and for the first time in our organization's national history, an NFL football team broadcast their official draft picks for the 2019 NFL Draft from a Make-A-Wish chapter headquarters! The Draft Day celebration with the Giants included live picks, games, food and fun, and even a wish granted when Jared was shocked by a surprise meeting with Offensive Rookie of the Year, Running Back Saquon Barkley.



8 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 team that 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.

9 Walk & Roll For Wishes Events

This fall, the 2019 Walk & Roll For Wishes events at Liberty State Park and the Wishing Place attracted over 1,000 guests and raised nearly \$200,000! Inspiring testimonials were shared by two wish families this year: Austin, whose wish was to go to Walt Disney World, and Riley, whose wish was to be a LVMPD police officer. Thank you to all our volunteers, donors and wish families who contributed to the success of our Walk & Roll events!



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Over 350 volunteers play an essential role in our mission. Whether working closely with our wish families throughout the wish granting process, supporting us at nearly 200 events across the state, or greeting thousands of visitors annually by serving at our welcome desk at the Wishing Place, every single volunteer that proudly represents our chapter delivers hope, strength and joy to our wish kids, their families, and entire communities. Thank you to our volunteers – you are a vital part of our Make-A-Wish family!



EVERY WISH BEGINS WITH A REFERRAL

We believe that a wish serves as a catalyst for renewed strength and encouragement for every child and family on their journey, and can improve a child's quality of life. One of the greatest testaments to these beliefs is that the majority of our referrals come from the medical community themselves. Doctors, nurses, social workers and child life specialists share with us nearly daily the impact a wish has on their patients, and that gives us continued inspiration to reach more eligible children every year. But we cannot do it without our friends in the medical community. **Every wish begins with a referral.** Thank you to our referral sources – you are at the starting line of a wish experience!



FOUR STEPS TO TRANSFORM LIVES

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 *The 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*

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. They 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 refer a child today.



SNAPSHOT: FRANCIS X. BOLTE

From Wish Uncle to Board Chair

As another year comes to a close, we have much to be thankful for, from our remarkable children and their families to our dedicated volunteers, generous donors, committed board members and more. Among our Make-A-Wish family is an individual who wears many of these hats, Francis X. Bolte.

Frank recently retired as Chief Administrative Officer of BDP International, a privately held, family-owned global logistics provider that serves more than 4,000 customers worldwide.

Frank, along with his wife Debbie and their six children, have a longstanding relationship with Make-A-Wish, which began when his nephew Ryan Christopher Bolte was granted his wish to go on a *Disney Cruise Line*® cruise in 1996. Since then, alongside his brother and Ryan’s father Richard, Frank and his family have been generous supporters of Make-A-Wish. Through the Ryan Christopher Bolte Foundation, BDP International, the Bolte Family Foundation and Frank and Debbie themselves, the Bolte Family has given over \$2,000,000 in support of Make-A-Wish New Jersey.

To recognize this generosity, The Bolte Family Theater is proudly named in their honor, and home to many special events throughout the year. Frank was also named Humanitarian of the Year at our 2018 Gala. In addition to being a Wish Uncle and his generous support, Frank has served as a Wish Granting Volunteer since 2016 and currently serves as the Board Chair of Make-A-Wish New Jersey.

Thank you, Frank, for your steadfast belief in our mission, and your leadership role in helping us towards our vision of reaching every eligible child!



“After meeting almost sixteen years ago, and listening to Frank describe his experience with Make-A-Wish, I asked Frank to join our then newly formed South Jersey Advisory Council. Always active, present and generously supportive, Frank was then asked to join our Governing Board, where he has served with distinction since 2013. Frank is a non-profit CEO and board’s dream – he talks the talk, but also walks the walk!”

- Tom Weatherall
President & CEO
Make-A-Wish
New Jersey



I wish to go to the San Diego Zoo
Madison, 3 cancer

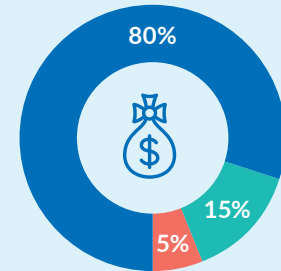
YOU MAKE MOMENTS LIKE THIS POSSIBLE

Make-A-Wish New Jersey relies on the generosity of individual donors to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. All donations are essential to helping us create an unforgettable wish experience for children and families!

HOW YOUR GIFT IS SPENT

Fiscal Year 2018

- 80%** Wish Granting & Program
- 15%** Fundraising
- 5%** Administration




MATCHING GIFTS



DOUBLE YOUR DONATIONS


Interested in increasing your fundraising efforts? Take notes from the Merrill Edge Jeans Month! For one month every year, employees are encouraged to donate a minimum of \$25 in order to wear jeans every Friday of that month. The best part? Merrill Edge matches all donations made by employees, dollar for dollar. This is how the event raised nearly \$25,000 this year, and is continuing to increase their donation year after year!

-  Does your company have a matching gifts program? Visit nj.wish.org/matching to learn more.

BECOME PART OF OUR LEGACY OF WISHES SOCIETY

The Legacy of Wishes Society is a designation offered to those who have committed to future support through a gift in their will, trust or other deferred means. While we have come to know many of our planned giving donors, some of our chapter's most significant planned gifts have been made by people we did not know but cared deeply about our mission.

This year we received a bequest of over \$200,000 from the estate of a woman we never had the chance to meet or thank. This special generosity revealed a gracious person who clearly believed in the impact of a wish. We learned that Carol was married to her high school sweetheart for 52 years, was the mother of two children and enjoyed a fulltime career as a paralegal. Carol lived humbly, but never missed a chance to vacation on her beloved Long Beach Island. Most of all, we learned that she was immensely kind and adored children. Carol's generous bequest will be used to fund nearly 20 upcoming wishes!

-  If you have named Make-A-Wish New Jersey in your estate plans or would like to learn more, visit nj.wish.org/plannedgiving.



TYPICAL BEQUEST LANGUAGE:

"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."





CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT



GOYA FOODS & THE POWER OF A WISH

Goya Foods is one of the food industry's most well-known and loved brands and America's largest Hispanic-owned food company. Make-A-Wish New Jersey is proud to be one of hundreds of charitable endeavors supported by Goya Foods. This esteemed relationship all began with Sharlin's wish to have a Quinceañera.

After Goya's involvement in this transformational wish, they made a promise to help us expand our reach within the Hispanic community and help us grant more wishes.



ADOPT-A-WISH

INVEST IN AN EXPERIENCE THAT WILL TRANSFORM A CHILD'S LIFE

The Adopt-A-Wish program provides a unique opportunity to make an immediate, direct and substantial impact on the life of a wish child, their family and an entire community. By generously funding a child's wish, you will create uplifting moments and cherished memories for a wish family.

You may remember the story of Veronica, who wished to go to *Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa* in Hawaii. We are happy to share that not only is Veronica in remission, but her family created an organization, *Run With Veronica*, to help other children diagnosed with cancer. Earlier this year Make-A-Wish New Jersey was the proud recipient of a \$20,000 donation from their most recent 5k event! Their gift will fund two life-changing wishes for children battling an illness like Veronica's.

Veronica's mom Jacquee shared, "Being in partnership with Make-A-Wish makes it all worthwhile, especially knowing firsthand what it is like to receive a wish." Veronica has vowed that every race she runs will be dedicated to every kid that is suffering from cancer, and that she will run because they can't.



Visit nj.wish.org/aaw to learn how you can help fund a child's fondest wish.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



PROVIDENT BANK FOUNDATION

"With roughly 77% percent of wishes occurring in communities served by Provident Bank, the Provident Bank Foundation is pleased to partner with Make-A-Wish New Jersey in support of their mission to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses."



— Jane Kurek, Executive Director
Provident Bank Foundation

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Our chapter is proud to partner with companies on both the national and local level to help us continue to work toward our goal of granting the wish of every eligible child in New Jersey. Does your favorite company support Make-A-Wish New Jersey? Check out the timeline to see what companies will be supporting us in the coming year!



CAMPAIGN SPOTLIGHT

★ THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

In 2018, The Learning Experience, an academy of early education, launched an online fundraising campaign to raise money for Make-A-Wish in their numerous centers across the country. That campaign raised \$117,000 for our chapter. This year we are proud to share that they raised \$520,000 nationally, with over \$200,000 in support of Make-A-Wish New Jersey. We are also excited to share that New Jersey was home to the highest fundraising locations for the second year in a row!

★ MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY

Stop in to your local Maggiano's to be part of their "Eat-A-Dish for Make-A-Wish" fundraiser. A portion of proceeds from certain menu items will be donated back to Make-A-Wish. We are proud to be home to the top grossing Maggiano's in the country in Bridgewater, New Jersey!

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

★ WHEELS FOR WISHES

Your unwanted vehicle can help make wishes come true! Visit newjersey.wheelsforwishes.org to learn more.

★ WISHES IN FLIGHT

Help wish kids take flight by donating your unused air miles today. Visit nj.wish.org/miles for more information.



COMMUNITY EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Each year, nearly 200 community events are held to benefit Make-A-Wish New Jersey. Here are some of this year's highlights!



1 J.A.G. Open Hosted By Fedway Associates

The 18th Annual J.A.G. Open was a record breaking year for our friends at Fedway Associates, raising over \$80,000 for Make-A-Wish New Jersey. We are appreciative of partnerships that we know we can rely on year after year, and it is an added bonus when they continue to increase their fundraising efforts! Thank you to the J.A.G. Open Committee and to Fedway Associates for helping us to grant eight life-changing wishes!

2 Monroe Pickleball Fundraising Group

This October was the First Annual Monroe Pickleball Charity Event benefitting Make-A-Wish New Jersey. All organizers and participants live locally in Monroe Township, just minutes away from the Samuel and Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place. With a match from Tito's Handmade Vodka, the event raised over \$20,000!

3 CAI-NJ Summer Olympics

This July, CAI-NJ held their 5th Annual Summer Olympics. Following their event, the group came to the Samuel and Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place where they presented a donation of \$12,272 to adopt a wish. With this milestone year, they are proud to say that this is their largest donation yet!

4 Monroe Township Baseball Association Tournament

This July was the 4th Annual MTBA Make-A-Wish Tournament. Kids, coaches and parents came together for two weekends filled with baseball to raise an astounding \$27,590. This year, an anonymous donor matched the funds raised, allowing the event to reach an all-time high. The tournament is held every year at James Monroe Park and all teams are encouraged to come take a photo at the Samuel and Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place before the first pitch is thrown.

5 Tee Off For The Kids Golf Outing

The Tee Off For The Kids Golf Outing is the longest standing external event in support of our chapter. This past August, they celebrated their 33rd anniversary and more than doubled their fundraising efforts from the year prior, raising over \$70,000.

6 Elmora School Kids For Wish Kids® Fundraiser

The students and staff at Elmora School 12 worked together to raise money to help us grant life-changing wishes. The efforts were organized by a New Jersey wish mom and teacher whose son passed away shortly after his wish was granted. They were determined to fully fund a wish and they accomplished that goal by raising nearly \$10,000. The group then visited the Wishing Place for a celebration!

📍 Visit nj.wish.org/waystohelp to learn how you can start an event!



Make-A-Wish® New Jersey

Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place
1384 Perrineville Road
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

800-252-WISH (9474)

609-371-WISH (9474)

FAX: 609-371-8919

nj.wish.org

jersey@nj.wish.org



Learn how you can refer a child,
volunteer, make a gift, join or start
an event, Adopt-A-Wish® and more
on our website at nj.wish.org!