

Make-A-Wish®

NEW JERSEY

★ CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF WISHES ★



I wish to go to Nickelodeon
Resort in Punta Cana

Nico, 6
Evans syndrome

Year of Wishes

Transforming lives, one wish at a time.



nj.wish.org

Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place

President's Message

Thomas P. Weatherall
President &
Chief Executive Officer



DEAR FRIENDS

In her *New York Times* bestselling book, "Wonder", author R.J. Palacio introduces us to 10-year old Auggie Pullman. We quickly learn that Auggie is seen as different than most other children his age, and not only because of his toughness, but because he simply looks different. Ms. Palacio wrote Auggie's character to have mandibulofacial dysostosis, commonly referred to as "Treacher Collins syndrome", or in preferred layman's terms a "craniofacial difference". I say "preferred" because more often the alternative verbiage that is chosen, such as "distorted" or "deformed", are not welcomed language by the Children's Craniofacial Association, or CCA, and the great many families they serve and advocate for, not to mention such empty, shallow and narrowminded descriptions do not match well with the book's—and now box office smash—mantra, "When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind."

And we at Make-A-Wish agree with and applaud the CCA for their staunch support of these beautiful children and their precious families, for we too serve these kids! Deformed, distorted? Nothing could be further from the truth about these children whom the character Auggie depicts.

Ms. Palacio told an interviewer a few years back, when asked what inspired her to write the book, it was an experience of a mother and her son in an ice cream shop, who upon seeing a little girl with severe facial differences, the little boy cried out in fear, and so the mother grabbed her son and ran out of the shop. That mother? R.J. Palacio herself.

She went on to tell National Public Radio's, Michele Norris, that, although she was trying to protect the little girl, she was also trying to avoid her own discomfort. "I was really angry at myself afterwards for the way I had responded," she admits. "What I should have done is simply turned to the little girl and started up a conversation and shown my kids that there was nothing to be afraid

of. But instead what I ended up doing was leaving the scene so quickly that I missed that opportunity to turn the situation into a great teaching moment for my kids. And that got me thinking a lot about what it must be like to... have to face a world every day that doesn't know how to face you back."

Now, most people would have stopped right there, convincing themselves they would react differently at the next chance they got in a similar situation. But that's NOT what Palacio did. Instead, following the ice cream shop incident, Palacio merely started writing. And the book she started that night? Yup... "Wonder"! And how fortunate are we all that she did.

If you've ever attended a Make-A-Wish event before, you know that we're quite familiar with these oh-so special children like Auggie's character. In fact, there are a great many illnesses, diseases and conditions that perhaps cause our kids to appear "different" visually than others. In fact, sometimes it's not the disease itself but the treatment protocol that may cause a child to look different. The next time you visit the castle, the Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place, our magical and whimsical wishgranting facility, stop and examine our stained glass windows—especially of the princess without hair, perhaps having lost it to chemotherapy or radiation treatments, or the young prince in a wheelchair—and then let us know if you have ever seen such images (depicting real kids) CELEBRATED as we do at the castle! Deformed, distorted? On the contrary, such words would describe any of us should we look away, or stare. Instead, these very special young people have a great many lessons to offer us, eh? Among them, as the book and now movie suggest: strength, compassion, joy, genuineness, hope, empathy, humility...love.

One of my favorite quotes from the book comes to mind as I look back on 2017, while peeking ahead at 2018, and it's by Auggie's

school Principal, Mr. Tushman—"The best way to measure how much you've grown isn't by inches or the number of laps you can now run around the track, or even your grade point average—though those things are important, to be sure. It's what you've done with your time, how you've chosen to spend your days, and whom you've touched this year. That, to me, is the greatest measure of success."

If you too agree with Mr. Tushman's measuring stick, than congratulations...because as we consider what you have done with your time—I'm looking at you, Make-A-Wish New Jersey donor, volunteer, medical partner, friend of our mission—and whom you've touched, you've had a wildly successful year! All our Auggies would be proud of you. I know I am, indeed, you've humbled me too!

You'll see more in the pages ahead, that this past year, 2017, was yet another special and record-setting year for Make-A-Wish New Jersey! Thanks to your generous support, we granted more wishes than ever before, surpassing the 500 mark for the first time in our 34 year history, granting 530 wishes! And now with 2018 on the horizon, and with it a most historic celebration for our Chapter—our 35th anniversary! More on this momentous occasion in the pages that follow, as well as our next newsletter.

I'll leave you with the words of my newest favorite book character...can you guess who? 😊

"I think there should be a rule that everyone in the world should get a standing ovation at least once in their lives."

Though R.J. Palacio gives those sentiments to Auggie, they could be mine and our staff's...describing all of you who help make our mission come to life for children with critical illnesses. But instead of once a year, we'd give it daily, you deserve it so.

Thomas P. Weatherall
President & Chief Executive Officer

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

**WISH
IMPACT**

96% of parents report that the wish experience strengthened their family.

97% of wish families observe an increase in their wish kids' emotional health.

99% of parents report that the wish experience gave their child increased feelings of happiness.

I wish to go to Nickelodeon Resort in Punta Cana

Nico, 6
Evans syndrome



We had been in and out of the hospital several times with Nico for pneumonia. They kept telling us it was a virus, but nothing was ever official. Then came that day, when he was on the trampoline, having fun, just like any other 2 ½ year old would be. I looked down and that's when I saw it. A black dot, the size of a quarter on Nico's leg. My stomach dropped—I knew something was wrong. We pulled our daughter out of school and rushed Nico to the doctor for a blood test. They told us if the results showed his platelets were below 30,000, we would be immediately rushed to the hospital. We waited for what seemed an eternity, and then the test results came in. His platelets were at 4,000.

Six months came and went, with Nico not responding to any of the treatments. Instead of getting better, he was getting worse. Finally, after additional testing, they found that Nico had a rare disease called Evans syndrome. His body was destroying his own red and white cells and platelets. There are less than 1,000 kids in the world with Nico's condition, so it is not heavily researched or funded. With this in mind, our doctor told us to never let our son's illness define him—and it doesn't.

Nico collects his toys for the hospital, and packs his own bag when he goes to the clinic. He doesn't cry, and he can take a needle better than any of us. As strong as he is, this situation didn't come without our own family struggles, mostly social, financial, and emotional ones. We contacted groups for support but many turned us down, because there are not many groups out there for Nico's rare condition. When his doctor shared with us that Nico was eligible for a wish, I hesitated. I simply didn't know how

I would be able to look my son in the eye one more time and tell him that someone else had turned him down. But Make-A-Wish didn't turn him away. They embraced him. They came to our house, and asked Nico what his wish was. For Nico, a 6-year-old boy in a hospital, you watch a lot of YouTube, and he had seen on YouTube his favorite Nickelodeon cartoon characters lived in SpongeBob SquarePants' pineapple. And that was Nico's wish—he wanted to live in a pineapple. We didn't know there was a brand new Nickelodeon Resort in Punta Cana, but he did!

Make-A-Wish planned an unforgettable vacation for our entire family. They found out while we were on our way to Punta Cana that we would in fact be staying in the special pineapple house—and Nico was delivered the news when he arrived at the resort, greeted by SpongeBob SquarePants himself!

The trip was one we'll never forget. Make-A-Wish gave our son something we couldn't give him. We can love him through his illness, but we couldn't provide him the wish he wanted. Make-A-Wish gave our family the strength to keep on fighting. We don't know what the future holds, but we are confident we are going to hear the word "remission" one day. We are not there yet, but we know he is meant to do something with his illness. We can't thank them enough for giving us this wish. We find comfort and calmness in every person involved with Make-A-Wish. They give families like ours hope. They give our children things that they could only wish for. You can see his sparkle and shine. He makes the world brighter and we are happy to have him. Thank you so much for everything you do.

— Karen, Nico's Mom

I WISH TO HAVE...

I wish to have a cello

Ava, 16

cardiac condition



Ava's world was turned upside down when she collapsed at school that terrifying day last year. Ava's heart stopped beating while running at a track practice. She was quickly revived by her coaches and rushed to the hospital. After open-heart surgery and the addition of a pacemaker, Ava survived, but her life would change forever. She could no longer run, she could no longer play contact sports. Ava felt she had lost a piece of herself. As a mother, this is an experience you pray your child will never have to go through.

That's when music became more important to her than it ever had before. It helped to fill the void of not being able to compete in sports. Ava immersed herself in her music, and embraced the cello as a way of communicating her thoughts and feelings. So when Ava was asked by her Make-A-Wish volunteers that one question—"if you could have one wish, what would it be?"—she knew right away what she wanted. Ava wished for a professional-grade cello.

We saw a whole new person emerging from behind her music. Ava was expressing herself in ways we've never seen, and there was a

joy coming out of her we'd thought was all but gone. To all of you at Make-A-Wish—you played a vital role in helping Ava find herself. Her wish for this beautiful cello was more than just a gift—it is her new passion. You created a life-changing moment for our daughter when she needed it most. You gave her a stage—multiple stages—to communicate with the world through her music. From playing in Macy's during the holiday Believe Campaign, to participating in the talent show at the castle, to performing on the great stage at Radio City Music Hall with Garden of Dreams, Ava's wish continues to give her hope, strength and joy every day.

This is a kid who loved to run, who was an athlete, and who loves the outdoors. The fact that her life is forever changed by her congenital heart defect, her restrictions and limitations, has taken a toll on her. But her wish for a cello has lifted her spirits as a talented musician and she has completely immersed herself into her music. This wish being granted for her is beyond what can be expressed in words and we are truly, truly, grateful.

— Tamisa, Ava's Mom

I WISH TO MEET...

I wish to meet the New York Football Giants

Connor, 12

kidney transplant



With close to 80,000 New York Giants fans cheering him on and fueling a charge

of game day electricity already in the air, wish kid Connor excitedly rushed through the team's stadium archway and jogged onto the Giants' game day field at MetLife Stadium. After receiving high-fives from the entire team, as they gathered along the fifty yard line, Connor joined the lineup with excitement. A warm, wide smile began to spread across Connor's face as a roar of applause swept through the crowd when Connor stepped into the Giants' end zone and was introduced to everyone in attendance. As he stood in amazement, Connor saw his own image looking back at himself on every JumboTron in the stadium.

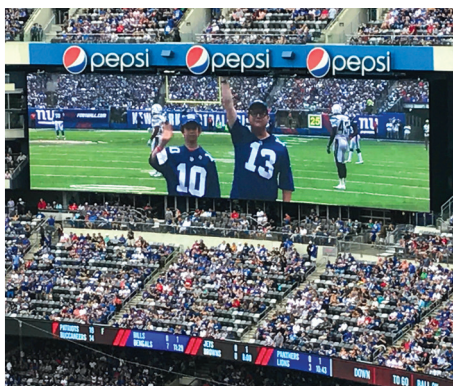
At any point during the game, if you looked over to Connor and his family, you could still find him with that same smile that never seemed to want to fade as he and his family happily cheered on their favorite team.

Connor's father Brian shared their sentiments about the unforgettable experience:

"Most striking about Connor's weekend with the New York Giants wasn't the limousine ride, or walking the immense indoor practice field, or even browsing the impressive haul of photos and trophies scattered throughout the complex, reminding us of the team's rich history. It wasn't game day—the food, the view, being on the field, the sights and sounds before kickoff that gave him his closest view of the game ever. It was none of those, as impressive as they were. The most striking aspect of Connor's wish to meet the New York Giants was the people—the overwhelming personal embrace given by the New York Giants and Make-A-Wish. These weren't anonymous encounters, where Connor observed the Giants through a glass wall as they went about their business. It was personal.

On those sidelines, and in the stands during the game, one Giant after another, old and new, owner and player, stopped to see how Connor was doing. He was, to put it mildly, overwhelmed. We have a picture of him with his hands on his head, eyes narrowed in disbelief, soaking it all in.

For Connor, this event in his life will unfold over time. Parts of it he won't appreciate until years later—too much to process in one weekend. It is something he will always remember, and our hope is he also always remembers the people who made it possible."



I WISH TO BE...

I wish to be a professional recording artist

Alana, 15

nervous system disorder

For a young girl with music in her soul, sometimes that music can be the only escape from a terrifying critical illness. For 15-year-old Alana, creating music has always been a safe place for her to travel to during her most trying times.

Alana was diagnosed with a life-threatening nervous system disorder, leaving her visually impaired and slightly color blind. Recording her own music has always been one of Alana's largest dreams since she was little. Her personal ambition of becoming a professional recording artist has been a part of her for as long as she can remember.

When thinking about what her wish could be, Alana's parents encouraged her to think outside of the box and make it unique. With her love of music

in mind, Alana asked to produce her own song in a music studio. On a visit to the Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place, Alana was surprised by the Make-A-Wish team with the news that she would be flown to California to work in a professional, state-of-the-art recording studio with Grammy winning producers Mikkel Eriksen and Tor Erik Hermansen of Stargate. Alana was even able to play on the piano of Chris Martin from Coldplay.

After being chauffeured around Los Angeles and spending time together at Universal Studios, Alana's family witnessed her recording experience in real time. After a visit to iHeart Radio Headquarters, they were able to hear Alana's own song, "Dashiki Woman," premiere on the radio worldwide! For Alana's mom, seeing the look on her face

and her excitement when she heard her own song on the radio was priceless.

Alana's mother, Bernice, shared her joy and appreciation upon their return home:

"This wish has not only transformed Alana's life for the better but ours as well. We now know, more than ever, that dreams can come true. Her wish has given us the hope to keep on going no matter how hard it may get at times. As parents we need to be strong for our children and be the strength that they need even when we feel like crumbling. Make-A-Wish has definitely left a beautiful and lasting impression on our lives forever and we are so thankful to be a part of Alana's wish and a part of the Make-A-Wish Family."



I WISH TO GIVE...

I wish to give back to the community

Sebastian, 18

cystic fibrosis

The dictionary defines giving as “to present voluntarily and without expecting compensation”. Each day at Make-A-Wish New Jersey, through the generosity of the community, our donors and our volunteers, we experience firsthand, that rewarding feeling of “giving” without expecting anything in return. The power of a wish being granted to a critically ill child is what drives us to find and serve every eligible child throughout the state.

When we find these incredibly brave children who are battling critical illnesses, we ask them that one inspiring question... “If you could have one wish, what would it be?” While most answer with I wish to go..., I wish to have..., I wish to meet..., or I wish to be... there are occasions when a wish child responds, “I wish to give...”

Wish kid Sebastian embodies the very definition of “giving.” When asked what his wish would be, Sebastian replied, “I wish to give to a community in need,” and that’s exactly what he did. Sebastian asked if a contribution could be given to The Pajama Program in Red Bank, New Jersey, an organization that provides new pajamas and books to children in need. Sebastian also asked if he could take his wish one step further and in his own words, “personally deliver the goods and witness the joy on their faces.” So on a beautiful fall afternoon, escorted by Make-A-Wish staff and volunteers, Sebastian delivered a shipment of books and brand new pajamas to The Pajama Program. Through his own wish to give, Sebastian received a sense of hope, strength and joy that will stay with him for a lifetime.



Looking Back:

Celebrating 35 Years of Life-Changing Wishes



★
1983

Make-A-Wish New Jersey is founded, grants first wish, and moves into office in Elizabeth, New Jersey

1st wish granted
Greg, age 7,
wished to have birthday cards

★
1991

500th wish granted
Susan, age 3,
wished to go to Walt Disney World® Resort

★
1993

Moves into new office in Union, New Jersey

★
2000

2,500th wish granted
Cara, age 14,
wished to meet the band *NSYNC

★
2002

3,000th wish granted
Joyce, age 14,
wished to be a model

★
2005

Jack Morris donates land to build a future wishing place for New Jersey wish kids

Last Year At The Wishing Place

★
President's Reception



Each holiday season, we welcome some of our most generous supporters to the Wishing Place for our President's Reception, an evening of thanks, inspiration and celebration.

★
48hrs of Tristate



48hrs of Tristate is an annual 3-day driving event for Subaru enthusiasts. 48hrs of Tristate raised funds for Make-A-Wish New Jersey, and their first stop along the tour was at the Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place. More than 75 participants raised over \$50,000!

★
Jersey Mike's Day of Gratitude



Over 50 Jersey Mike's store locations across the Garden State raised funds for Make-A-Wish New Jersey during their annual Month of Giving campaign, totaling \$263,000 and helping to grant the wishes of local children with critical illnesses.

★
2017 Gala



Our annual Gala raised \$1.1 million, honoring Daniel & Elizabeth Straus of CareOne as Humanitarians of the Year and CareOne as Corporation of the Year.



★ 2006

Joe Plumeri makes a historic donation to Make-A-Wish New Jersey to build the Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place—the first 7-figure gift in the history of Make-A-Wish nationally and globally

★ 2007

5,000th wish granted
Shyanne, age 11, wished to go to Walt Disney World® Resort

★ 2011

Grand Opening of the Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place
7,000th wish granted
Casey, age 17, wished to meet Buddy Valastro, the “Cake Boss”

★ 2014

Receives the largest bequest in the history of Make-A-Wish, nationally and globally, from The Estate of Mary Strassman

★ 2016

The Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place celebrates 5th Anniversary

★ 2017

Grants record-setting 530 wishes for New Jersey children with critical illnesses in a single year

★ Danny Shaves for Wishes



Danny Dragone of Carlo's Bakery decided to shave his 30-year-old mustache as a fundraising effort to make local wishes come true. Danny joined wish families and guests at the Wishing Place with Ralph Attanasia and Buddy Valastro himself for the ceremonial shaving. Danny's efforts raised over \$55,000!

★ Walk & Roll for Wishes Events



The annual *Walk & Roll for Wishes* events in 2017 drew in an astounding 1,300 guests at the Wishing Place and Liberty State Park, raising over \$200,000. Over 50 wish families participated in both locations as well!

★ Wish Family Picnics



Our Wish Family Picnics are a chance for wish families to meet one another, share their stories of hope, strength and joy and visit with Make-A-Wish staff and volunteers that played a vital role in granting their wishes. A special thanks to our friends at Bloomberg, our Wishing Place Picnic Sponsor, and to The Funplex, in Mount Laurel, for hosting our South Jersey Wish Family Picnic.

Supporting Make-A-Wish

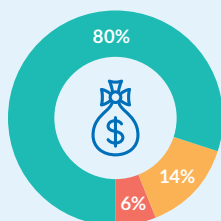
At Make-A-Wish New Jersey, we take our responsibility to steward our supporters' contributions very seriously. Our fundraising efforts, fiscal practices, and business operations are all designed to support a single purpose: to grant wishes that change lives. Whether you make a one-time gift, set up a monthly donation or establish a matching gifts program at your workplace, you are essential to helping **share the power of a wish®**. For more information, please contact our Development Team at **609-371-WISH (9474)**.

WAYS TO HELP

- Stock Donations
- Form a Walk Team
- Adopt-A-Wish
- Host an Event
- Donate Airline Miles
- Year End Gifts
- Legacy of Wishes

HOW YOUR GIFT IS SPENT

- 80%** Wish Granting & Program
- 14%** Fundraising
- 6%** Administration



CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Through national and local corporate partnerships, and a generous commitment to the Make-A-Wish mission, many companies make a lifelong impact and help fund wishes throughout the entire country and right here in the Garden State. Thank you!



I wish to go skiing
in Colorado

Ella, 9
leukemia



IN-KIND GIVING CAMPAIGNS

There are countless ways to give back and help make wishes come true through some of our in-kind campaigns.

Wheels for Wishes



Your unused vehicle could help make wishes come true. Contact Wheels For Wishes to learn how.

newjersey.wheelsforwishes.org

877-716-WISH

Wishes In Flight®

Miles to spare can get a kid there. Help wish kids take flight. Give your unused air miles now.

Visit nj.wish.org/wings

Wishes in Flight®

Adopt-A-Wish®

“If you could have one wish, what would it be?”

This simple question has translated into thousands of unique, special and life-changing wishes for children across the state of New Jersey. Through our **Adopt-A-Wish** program, your support can help bring hope, strength and joy to a child and their family.

Your gift will cover expenses associated with a child's wish, including transportation, food, lodging, admission fees and more. By funding a child's wish, you will create cherished memories for a wish family—and for yourself!

Join us and help grant a child's fondest wish! Contact our Development Team today to learn more about the **Adopt-A-Wish** program and how individuals and organizations can change the life of a child.

 **609-371-WISH (9474)**

 **aaw@wishnj.org**



I wish to have a shopping spree
Tyler, 17
leukemia



I wish to have a labradoodle
Joseph, 8
brain tumor



I wish to meet the Pope
Madison, 9
seizure disorder



I wish to go to El Clasico
Matthew, 6
chromosome abnormalities

Legacy of Wishes

Join the Legacy of WishesSM Society and grant wishes into the future.

Make-A-Wish New Jersey is doing more than just granting the wishes of today's critically ill children: We are preparing to bring joy to future generations of wish kids when they need it most. You can be part of this effort by including Make-A-Wish New Jersey in your estate plans.

"Leaving a Legacy of Wishes is something near and dear to my heart. I'm not a medical professional, so I'm unable to treat or cure children with life-threatening medical conditions. I can, however, create happiness—smiles on the faces of children and families—and do so into the future. There was never any doubt in my mind that I wanted to be a part of something that would continue to make wishes come true beyond my time. This is why I am a proud member of the Legacy of Wishes Society."

— Jennifer LoFrisco, Planned Giving Donor

To join the society or learn more about the many planned giving options, call 609-371-WISH and ask to speak to a member of our Development Team.



TYPICAL BEQUEST LANGUAGE IS:

"I give the sum of \$_____ (or % of estate) to the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Jersey, 1347 Perrineville Road, Monroe Township, NJ 08831, to be used or disposed of as its Board of Directors deems appropriate in its sole discretion."

Together, we can transform lives, one wish at a time.



I wish to meet
Sean Giambrone
Mary, 11
gastrointestinal disorder



I wish to be a
character voice in
an animated movie
Adam, 17
leukemia

Strength in Numbers

We rely on the generosity of individuals just like you to help us continue our mission each year. Over 150 community fundraisers held each year throughout New Jersey are essential to helping us raise the much-needed funds to grant wishes. Make-A-Wish New Jersey is also made up of over 450 dedicated and compassionate volunteers that play an integral role in helping to bring our mission to life, through their work with our wish families and through volunteering at events.



450+

**DEDICATED &
COMPASSIONATE
VOLUNTEERS**

Community Event Milestones

★ **TIFFANY & CO. IT CHARITY GOLF OUTING**

Our friends of the Tiffany & Co. IT Project Management Office chose Make-A-Wish New Jersey to be the beneficiary of their annual Charity Golf Outing. In just two years, they have raised over \$100,000 to grant life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses!

★ **LEAD EAST**

Make-A-Wish New Jersey volunteer, Tony Satus, has organized the fundraising efforts of Lead East for the past 14 years. Since 2003, over 40 wishes have been made possible through this event!

★ **SHAWNEE HIGH SCHOOL**

Each year, students of Shawnee High School in Medford, New Jersey set an ambitious goal to help fund wishes. This year, they visited us at the Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place with a great surprise—they achieved their highest goal yet, raising \$10,000 to support our mission!

★ **FEDWAY ASSOCIATES ANNUAL J.A.G. OPEN**

Our friends at Fedway Associates have championed our mission since the inception of the New Jersey Chapter. Over the past 16 years, the annual J.A.G. Open Golf Outing has raised nearly \$450,000 to make life-changing wishes come true!

★ **MTBA YOUTH BASEBALL TOURNAMENT**

The Monroe Township Baseball Association held its 2nd Annual Youth Baseball Tournament this summer. Over the course of two weekends, 39 teams, totaling 470 participants, came from across the state to engage in friendly competition in support of our mission, raising \$20,000 for Make-A-Wish New Jersey!

★ **"TEE OFF FOR THE KIDS" GOLF OUTING**

The longest running event to benefit our chapter, the 31st Annual "Tee Off for the Kids" Golf Outing was held this past summer. Since 1985, over \$1,000,000 has been raised!



Volunteers gather to cheer for arriving wish kids at a special holiday campaign event



Wish granting volunteer JoAnn with wish kid Nicole at the 2017 Walk & Roll for Wishes

**Thank you to all of our
community events leaders
and our volunteers
throughout the Garden State!**

How We Grant Wishes

We have an ambitious vision—to grant the wish of every eligible child in New Jersey. We believe that wishes change the odds for children fighting critical illnesses. It's why we do what we do. Wishes have the ability to help kids look past their medical conditions, decrease a family's anxiety, and bring entire communities together.

Wishes can improve a child's quality of life, giving them a better chance of recovery.



I wish to go to Aulani®,
a Disney Resort & Spa
in Hawaii
Hannah, 8
seizure disorder

★ 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 critical illness, have reached the age of 2½ and are under 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 be eligible for a wish, the child must be diagnosed with a critical illness (i.e. a progressive, degenerative or malignant condition that has placed the child's life in jeopardy). A child's medical eligibility is determined with the help of the treating physician.



STEP 3 The Wish

Our dedicated wish granting volunteers meet with the child and their family, to learn the child's one true wish. Our committed staff and volunteers connect with wish children, awaken their imaginations and help them envision a wish they never dreamed possible.



STEP 4 Creating Joy

Along with the support of the community, our team creates 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.

Thank you to all our medical partners and referral sources who help us reach more eligible children every year!



I wish to have an exotic
car experience
Matthew, 8
brain tumor

Who Can Refer A Child?

- Medical Professionals (doctors, nurses, social workers, child life specialists)
- Parents/legal guardians of the wish kid
- Potential wish kids
- Family members with detailed knowledge of the child's current medical condition

Wishes In Numbers

When a wish is granted, it creates hope, strength and joy for a child whose life has been filled with doctors, nurses, and hospital visits.

530! That's the number of critically ill children that experienced the power of a wish over the past year, right here in New Jersey—more wishes granted in a single year than ever before! As we celebrate our 35th year of life-changing wishes, we also celebrate all those who make up the Make-A-Wish New Jersey community—our wish children, their families, our board of directors, our medical partners, our volunteers, our corporate partners, and our donors. You are the individuals that continue to bring our mission to life.

When asked that one simple question, “if you could have one wish, what would it be?”, a child is able to dream and imagine their future. Wishes are limited only by a child’s imagination. While they typically fall into five categories, they all have one thing in common: **Wishes can be game-changers.**



530
WISHES GRANTED
THIS YEAR

GRANTED
IN 2017!

428	I wish to go
79	I wish to have
20	I wish to meet
2	I wish to be
1	I wish to give



Make-A-Wish® New Jersey

Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place
1347 Perrineville Road
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

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