

Bennett's Wish

I wish to be a Police Officer and catch thieves

Make-A-Wish[®]

SOUTH CAROLINA

PRESS KIT

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Our Mission

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

We are on a quest to bring every eligible child's wish to life because a wish is an integral part of a child's treatment journey. Research shows children who have wishes granted can build the physical and emotional strength they need to fight a critical illness. The chapter receives funding through private donations, individuals, companies, and special events. For more information about Make-A-Wish® South Carolina, visit [wish.org/sc](https://www.wish.org/sc) and discover ways you can help make wishes come true.



I wish to be a Police Officer and catch thieves

Bennett, 5
congenital heart disorder

When Lindsey Gulyas, Bennett's mom, was 20-weeks pregnant she and her husband, Scott, learned that Bennett was expected to be born with a congenital heart disorder. Their lives were instantly changed. This meant a life of medical treatments for their son. Today, Bennett has already had four major surgeries. His first open-heart surgery was performed when his heart was the size of a walnut. He has spent countless hours in the hospital, poked and prodded and hooked to wires. Bennett's critical illness had a major impact on the whole family, requiring Lindsey to stay home from work to care for Bennett full time.

"Bennett's wish will help him turn anxiety into hope and fear into confidence."

Bennett loved to play with toy cars while in the hospital. He had a toy police car that he used to chase other cars. This sparked his imagination. When he noticed that real police cars have flashing lights, he was really hooked!

Despite the challenges of his medical condition, Bennett's fighting spirit is strong. Dreaming of being a police officer captures his sense of adventure. Bennett's wish will help him turn anxiety into hope and fear into confidence. When he isn't feeling well or must undergo a medical procedure, reflecting on his wish and how many people care about him can give him the mental stamina to face his illness. His wish will also have positive lasting effects for his family too, and everyone involved in the wish. A wish is not just a moment in time. It brings hope and joy for years.





Wish Highlights & Information

- Bennett will become an actual police officer with Mauldin Police Department with his own custom uniform and name tag
- He will receive training and demonstrations with the officers and K9 team
- He will spot a robbery and catch a thief in a community celebration
- He will be celebrated in a parade
- He will be given his own police car by Mauldin Police Department
- At the closing ceremony Mauldin Mayor Terry Merritt will present Bennett the key to the city
- Wish is open to the public to come cheer Bennett on (at Sunset Park only).
- Refreshments are being provided along with a music DJ.

Wish Hashtags: #OfficerBennettIsOurHero #makeawish

Time & Location (Open to Public): Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 12pm.
Sunset Park 211 Fowler Road Greenville

Key Contacts, Statements & Where To Reach Us



Misty Farmer

President and CEO,
Make-A-Wish South Carolina

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"Make-A-Wish® began in 1980 with a young boy fighting leukemia who wished to be a police officer. That wish sparked a movement that has created hope and joy for hundreds of thousands of lives. Our mission continues today, forty-two years later, with Bennett's wish. Thank you to Mauldin Police Department, our donors, and our community for restoring hope in the lives of wish families."

Shayla Wilson

Board Director,
Make-A-Wish South Carolina

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"It is such a privilege to grant Bennett's wish with the help of our dedicated and generous community. Wishes are not possible without the commitment of caring individuals. During these difficult times it is heartening to see people unite for the purpose of bringing joy to a child when they need it most. We are very grateful."

Katlyn Larrieu

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Make-A-Wish South Carolina

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[wish.org/sc](https://www.wish.org/sc)

@makeawishsc on Facebook/Twitter/LinkedIn/Instagram

Facts and Stats

103

of wishes granted
in SC last year

480

of children currently
waiting on a wish in SC

1984

Year chapter was incorporated

15

Employees

\$7,500

Average cost of a wish
in SC

3,723

Wishes granted in SC since
incorporation

Wishes need you. Right now, more than 480 children in SC are waiting for a wish. Every one of these children need a wish to bring them strength and help them heal. Make wishes come true by giving at [wish.org/sc/donate](https://www.wish.org/sc/donate).

A wish isn't just a nice, heartwarming experience. It's a necessity that gives kids the mental stamina to face their illness and fight it.

Wishes have proven physical and emotional benefits that can give children with critical illnesses a higher chance of survival.

Your skills, time or money can transform the life of a child with a critical illness. Help at [wish.org/sc](https://www.wish.org/sc).

Funding is the only thing preventing us from granting more wishes. With an average cost of \$7,500 we rely on the support of individuals and corporate partners to create life-changing wishes. Give at [wish.org/sc/donate](https://www.wish.org/sc/donate).

Due to the unprecedented disruption of COVID-19, many wishes were delayed. Now that travel restrictions are lifting, we are working hard to grant these wishes as quickly as possible. We need the help of our community to provide the most powerful and impactful experience for not just wish children, but for our donors, volunteers and families too. Learn how you can help at [wish.org/sc](https://www.wish.org/sc).



Logos and Assets

Select photos will be available a few hours after the wish granting.

Assets Available [HERE](#).

includes:

- Promotional photo of Bennett
- Personal medical treatment photos of Bennett
- Make-A-Wish logos in PNG & EPS format
- Headshots of spokespeople





Thank You

Transform lives, one wish at a time.