



A Year of Transition

For Fiscal Year 2021, Make-A-Wish Alabama had to embrace a world filled with changes including pandemic recommendations, those crafted by national organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and those crafted by our own Make-A-Wish America Medical Advisory Council. This changed how we granted wishes.

At Make-A-Wish, our mission is to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. Our families and medical professionals share with us that a wish becomes an important part of the healing process, helping children manage, and even overcome, their illnesses.

We strive to bring hope and joy to all the children we serve in Alabama while keeping health and safety a priority. As we share our Fiscal Year 2021 Audited Financial Statements, two things are amazingly clear:

- Our donors and supporters have recognized the value of a wish and continue to support us – keeping us in a strong financial position.
- Wishes are still happening. In fact, we granted more wishes in Fiscal Year 2021 than in the previous year.

What has changed are the types of wishes we are granting, the expenses involved, and the time it takes to plan those wishes. This year involved a lot of re-imagined wishes, which challenged us to be creative while always keeping our wish kids our top priority. For example, we had children wish for college tuition, braces and other dental work, greenhouses, and puppies. Wishes also transitioned to road trip adventures, playhouses, shopping sprees, computers, therapy rooms, gaming rooms, bedroom renovations and backyard retreats. The expenses involved in these wishes are slightly higher than in Fiscal Year 2020 due to the rising costs of materials and labor.

These changes affected our program ratio numbers in expected, temporary ways. We remain dedicated to growing the number of wish kids we reach year-over-year and project our program ratio numbers to return to pre-pandemic levels quickly. In Fiscal Year 2022, Make-A-Wish Alabama has budgeted 110 wishes and will be budgeting back to pre-pandemic numbers for Fiscal Year 2023 – 160 wishes. Our strong financial position, our dedicated team, our army of volunteers and our board supporters have come together to ensure we continue to create the life-changing wishes that Alabama children with critical illnesses deserve and that our community has come to expect.

Thank you for your continued support through this pandemic. We look forward to continuing the legacy of Make-A-Wish Alabama with you.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Bennett Smith".

Tracy Bennett Smith
President & Chief Executive Officer
Make-A-Wish Alabama

