

# Make-A-Wish®

ILLINOIS

## How Can I Help?

Both financial and volunteer support of Make-A-Wish® Illinois are critical to delivering life-changing wishes.

**Financial support** comes from individual, corporate and foundation donors. Attending an event, starting a fundraiser, making a gift, becoming a monthly donor or including Make-A-Wish in your estate plans are just some of the ways to contribute.

Consider **volunteering**. Volunteers across Illinois deliver hope through wishes every day.

Contact us to get started. Visit [wish.org/illinois](https://wish.org/illinois), call 800.978.9474 or email [info@illinois.wish.org](mailto:info@illinois.wish.org).

## FACTS AT-A-GLANCE

### Wishes Change A Child's Life

For a child fighting a critical illness, every day of waiting for a wish is one too many. A wish helps kids look past their limitations, helps families overcome anxiety and helps entire communities experience joy. When you help grant a wish, you create a turning point in a child's recovery.

### Recommended by Doctors

Research shows a wish can give kids strength to fight against and even overcome an illness. Medical professionals often include a wish as part of their overall treatment plan, because wishes can give their patients hope, build compliance with care and potentially give their patients a better chance at reducing time spent in the hospital.

### Why Make-A-Wish?

Founded in 1985 by a group of local volunteers, Make-A-Wish Illinois has granted more than 18,000 wishes to children across the state. Life-changing wish journeys are made possible by dedicated staff and more than 1,500 caring volunteers who help each child discover, create, fulfill, and experience the lasting impact of their most heartfelt wish. Make-A-Wish brings resilience and healing to children when they need it most.



**Who is Eligible for a Wish?** A child with a critical illness who has reached the age of 2½ and is younger than 18 at the time of referral is potentially eligible for a wish. Visit [wish.org/illinois/refer](https://wish.org/illinois/refer)



### Reaching Every Child



Every 20 minutes somewhere in the country a child is diagnosed with a critical illness. At Make-A-Wish Illinois, our vision is to reach every child with a critical illness, creating a life-changing, impactful wish journey. We make a concerted effort by partnering with hospitals and community organizations to serve all communities statewide.

**How Does Make-A-Wish Rate?** Our program service expense ratio in fiscal year 2023 (September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023) was 75 percent.



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