

Give Joy Today

RESTORE HOPE FOR TOMORROW

Elliot's Wish to Have a Naval Base Experience

Elliot was only 15 months old when his parents noticed he wasn't feeling well, at the time it didn't seem too alarming. They took him to his pediatrician and from there things started to move fast. He was taken to the local hospital and was then transported to Children's Hospital Los Angeles where his parents found out he was having heart failure. This was a major shock to Elliot's family since they never expected this diagnosis.

For two very long weeks, Elliot was on life support. His team of pediatric cardiologists at Children's Hospital Los Angeles worked on a life-saving plan for him that would allow his heart to rest as much as possible. He was then put on the heart transplant list and had a Berlin Heart placed which bridged the gap for him until his transplant. Five months later he received his heart transplant. Since then, he has had annual biopsies to check for rejection along with transplant clinic appointments every 3 months and he will be on immunosuppressant medications for life.

Elliot was referred to Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles and when it came time to discover his wish, the team discussed different ideas with Elliot and his family, and one wish stood out the most. Elliot loved going to the library and there he discovered his love of battleships! He would read about battles and the history related to the ships. He decided that for his wish he wanted to have a Navy Base Experience at Pearl Harbor. He wanted to go on a tour of a battleship or aircraft as well as see the day-to-day duties of a naval base.

In May, Elliot's wish was granted! He spent two days packed with tours of the active base and ships and met different military members. He met with sailors who explained what they did and why their jobs were important. He visited with the F-22 Raptor pilots and had a chance to see real fighter jets up close. He also learned about pilot helmets, and how they operated, and even got to try one on. Later he had lunch with some Navy crew on the Daniel Inouye Destroyer. He even had the opportunity to meet Commander Joe of the Middle Pacific fleet. Elliot was named Honorary Commander of the Pacific Fleet and was presented with a patch and a pilot's coin. Elliot was so excited to have these souvenirs to take home.

Since his trip, Elliot still believes he is the Commander of the fleet! He continues to talk about his wish and all that he has experienced. Elliot has a list of at least five of his top moments because he can't just choose one. Elliott's mom said, "What was special to me was Elliot raising the American flag on the USS Arizona Memorial, and Elliot being saluted while he was made Commander of the fleet for the day." After a long and tough medical journey, Elliot's parents were moved to tears many times throughout the experience and were excited to be on this journey with Elliot to see his wish come true. Everyone at Pearl Harbor treated Elliot with care and Mom said "Make-A-Wish was so gracious and spent so much time to make it a special personalized experience for Elliot. It was an unforgettable experience." There are nearly 700 local children just like Elliot waiting for their wishes to be granted!

- Aidan, 11, Wishes to go to Hawaii
- Jacob, 6, Wishes to have a puppy
- Aleena, 8, Wishes to go to Disneyworld
- Jesse, 4, Wishes to have a backyard playset
- Genesis, 13, Wishes to go to Disneyland

There are nearly 700 local children waiting for their wishes to be granted. Be a part of making these wishes come true, donate today.



SCAN ME



330

Wishes granted to local kids

226

Wishes granted to kids who visited LA for their wishes

556

Total wishes granted in 2023



3,300

Volunteer Hours



Hosted 6 Wish Discovery Days where we met with over

200

to discover their most heartfelt wish



There are nearly

700

children in Greater Los Angeles waiting for their wishes to be granted

Did you Know?

- The Greater Los Angeles chapter was established in 1983. In our first year, we granted 12 wishes, now 40 years later we have granted over 10,000 wishes.
- When a wish is granted, a child replaces fear with confidence, sadness with joy, and anxiety with hope.

Become One of the First Members of Our Constellation Society



We are thrilled to announce the launch of our Constellation Society! The Constellation Society is a core group of philanthropic partners who help set the integral foundation that allows us to fulfill our mission of granting life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses in Greater Los Angeles. Membership is secured via five-year commitments of support starting at \$1,000 annually.

Members of the Greater Los Angeles Constellation Society will gain access to exclusive events and benefits designed to provide you with a closer look into how your generosity impacts our mission. Interested in learning more? Contact Elizabeth Park at epark@la.wish.org.



Gala Recap

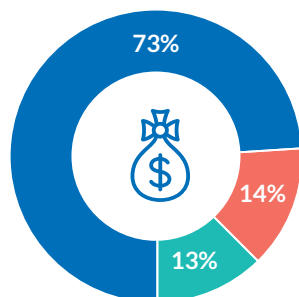


Our annual Wish Gala was held on October 28th with the theme *I wish to be*. Over 400 guests came out to support Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles dressed in costume as what or who they have always wished to be. We were thrilled to honor Dr. Lauren Crosby with the Philanthropic Leader Award, Mattel with the Power of a Wish Award, and Dinah Yorkin with the inaugural Alumni Leadership Award. The evening was a great opportunity to celebrate our wish kids and their families and show the impact of a wish. Nearly \$900,000 was raised which will help us grant more wishes to the nearly 700 children in Los Angeles waiting for their wishes to come true.

You make life-changing moments happen



Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles relies on the support of generous donor like you to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.



HOW YOUR GIFT IS SPENT

- 73% Wish Granting
- 14% Administration
- 13% Fundraising

A wish begins with Hope and Hope begins with you. Donate today.



SCAN ME

It Takes a Village

"I have been involved with Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles for about 5 years. My favorite part of volunteering is during the wish reveal, that moment when the child realizes why we're there and smiles. That smile is a thrill. These kids are going through a tough time. It is important to be able to give them a bit of happiness."

~ Pat Kilker, Volunteer



Young Professional Council (YPC)



The Young Professional Council (YPC) works as an extension to the Board of Directors by acting as ambassadors for Make-A-Wish through fundraising, networking, volunteering, and advocacy of our mission.

The YPC consists of professionals who are passionate about actively participating and contributing to the community. Get involved and learn more here.



Connect with us!

- @makeawishlosangeles
- @makeawishla
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- MakeAWishGreaterLosAngeles



Make Wishes Come True This Holiday Season

Make-A-Wish is proud to partner with Teleflora this holiday season. Show your support by ordering a festive bouquet or join our social media movement to help make children's wishes come true. Learn more and order your bouquet here: Teleflora.com/wish

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The Life-Changing Impact of a Wish



"At a time when families are dealing with unplanned hospital stays and uncomfortable treatments, a wish can provide children with the chance to reclaim a piece of their childhood and a sense of control. After coming back from a wish, many of my patients exhibit a renewed sense of hope and greater compliance with their treatment, which is why I – and many of my peers – consider a wish to be an important part of a child's treatment plan."

~ Dr. Shoba Srikantan, MD, FAAP, Chair of the Make-A-Wish National Medical Advisory Council