

Jazlyn's wish to go to a USA Track and Field Championship

Deep into cross-country season during the fall of her freshman year in high school, dedicated student and athlete Jazlyn noticed a lump in her chest.

Her parents took her to the doctor, where they started to run tests and did a biopsy. The results were shocking to everyone as Jazlyn was diagnosed with stage 4 Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She quickly began her treatment journey and, as a committed and driven student, she worked to have her chemo scheduled on Fridays so that she could rest over the weekend and not miss too much school.

Athletics and, in particular, Track and Field has been a passion of Jazlyn's since she was young. During her medical treatment journey, Jazlyn continued to be an active member of her track and field team.

When Jazlyn's social worker referred her to Make-A-Wish, she knew her wish would be something that she had always wanted to do and that was to attend a USA Track & Field Championship.

Jazlyn and her parents arrived in Oregon for the 2023 USA Track & Field Outdoor Championship, excited to watch the events all weekend. Yet there were a few special surprises in store for Jazlyn. She not only got to attend and watch the events and professional athletes she admired, but she was also surprised with the opportunity to do a victory lap on the track and present the medals to the women's 400 Meters athletes. Jazlyn shared, "It was a surreal experience, and the best part was sitting next to amazing athletes like Sydney McLaughlin and Talitha Diggs. Doing the victory lap was an exciting surprise."

Vilma, Jazlyn's mom shared, "Jazlyn has done track since she was little and to see her with these professional athletes that she admires and for her to see that she is not defined or restricted by cancer was incredible. It was an opportunity for Jazlyn to see what she is capable of after cancer. Seeing her bright smile during that experience was amazing! We are grateful for Make-A-Wish. The wish experience for a child, whether they want to be a singer for a day or go to a track championship and meet athletes, shows that child that they are important, no matter what they are going through and to keep going". Two years on from her diagnosis, Jazlyn is happy to report she is in remission and recently qualified and ran in the Cross-country California State Championship!



Wishes Waiting

River, 4, Wishes to visit San Diego
Ruqaiyah, 6, Wishes to have a NASA Space Station Experience
Alexandria, 7, Wishes to go to Disney World
Apollo, 13, Wishes to throw a pitch at a Padres game



There are nearly **700** children in Los Angeles waiting for their wishes to be granted. Become a WishMaker today by donating.



SCAN ME

Each wish is carefully planned and granted with the help of volunteers, community supporters, and staff. The average cost is **\$10,000**. Approximately **20** hours of volunteer time is needed to make each wish become a reality.

wishmakers wanted



World Wish Month

This April marks our inaugural World Wish Month, and it's an exciting opportunity to spotlight WishMakers, show the impact of wishes, and recruit more WishMakers.

Join us as we celebrate the impact of a wish and become a part of our mission to grant a life-changing wish to every eligible child with a critical illness in Los Angeles.

It all started with a single wish in 1980 on April 29th when seven-year-old Chris, battling leukemia, wished to be a police officer for a day. The community rallied and granted his wish, and the original WishMakers were inspired by the impact the wish had on Chris and vowed to do more. A global movement was born and inspired by this brave little boy.

WishMakers are anyone who takes action for wish kids! A WishMaker can be a donor, a volunteer, an event attendee, a participant in a social media challenge, someone who tells their wish story and so much more.

As an organization, we are on a mission to recruit one million WishMakers around the world this April, and you can become a local WishMaker by supporting our Greater Los Angeles wish children. Get Involved at wish.org/LA.



Greater Los Angeles WishMakers Spotlight



Suzanne Oberlaender has been a generous supporter of Make-A-Wish Greater LA for well over a decade. Now enjoying retirement after her career as a beloved grade school teacher, Suzanne remains passionate about enriching the lives of children.

"I have supported Make-A-Wish for a long time. I think what they are doing for children with severe illnesses is fantastic. Children being able to forget, at least for a while, all the medical procedures they have been going through is such a healing feeling. I also appreciate that the majority of my donations go directly toward granting wishes."



Topaz has been volunteering with Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles since 2011. Sharing her bright smile with our wish kids and families, we are honored to have her as a part of our Make-A-Wish community.

Topaz shared, "I found out about Make-A-Wish through working with TSA at LAX. I witnessed a child getting his wish granted and saw the joy it brought him, and I knew I wanted to be a part of that. One of my favorite wishes was when Kimberly went to Morea. Going through the process from start to finish and learning the why and getting to see her enjoy it was a real treat!"

Wish Kid Alum



Nick, an LA WishMaker and Wish Kid alum, wished to go to Disneyland after being diagnosed with a stage 3 Wilms Tumor.



Nick shared about the power of a wish, "The power of a wish is very real. The transformative experiences, like a trip to Disneyland, goes beyond mere enjoyment, fostering family bonds, and instilling resilience and a renewed will to face whatever challenges a wish kid faces. It's a beacon of light in their journey, offering strength and the reminder that their condition does not define who and where they are in their health journey."



Thank you for being a WishMaker! Visit here to see other ways to get involved.

Medical Community

Dr. Sarah Dabagh works in Pediatric Palliative Care at Kaiser Permanente. Dr. Dabagh refers patients to Make-A-Wish and helps us through the eligibility review process.

She shared about the impact of a wish, “The stories are endless, and we hear from so many families that wishes brought their families together, gave them something to move toward and to hope for, and helped highlight the spirit of the child in question. Thinking about past wishes, the first face that comes to mind is a young man with a serious illness who was nearing the end of his life and had spent more time in the hospital than out of the hospital

in his last year. His mother shared with our team that she had not seen him smile in months, and he was becoming increasingly withdrawn. Make-A-Wish was able to get him a meet and greet with his favorite actor, who was one of the first actors who ever made him feel truly represented in his favorite genre, and who himself was facing a serious illness.

His mother shared that, that day, he gave the biggest smile she had seen in years. That smile, and that story, has stuck with me so deeply all these years later.”



Board Member



Viviane has been a dedicated member of the Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles community for over 10 years. As a volunteer board member, takes an active role in creating strategy and direction for our chapter and, as the lead of our first Wish Circle, she continues to have an integral part in granting wishes to local children. This year she is our Gala Co-Chair and the Governance Chair for our Board.

“What drew me to Make-A-Wish was my love for children and the promise of what Make-A-Wish can give to a child and a family. A wish takes a very difficult situation and finds a bright spot that can bring happiness, hope, and joy for not only the child but also for their families and their parents.”

Corporate Partner **teleflora.**

Teleflora is a dedicated partner and supporter of Make-A-Wish nationwide and locally in Los Angeles. This past holiday season through the nationwide Wish Out Loud campaign Teleflora and Make-A-Wish raised \$250,000 including \$50,000 that will help local Wish Kids and launched an advertising and social media campaign that had over 4 billion impressions.

Thank you to the team at Teleflora and The Wonderful Company for your ongoing support and partnership!

You are invited to our
**MAKE-A-WISH
BIRTHDAY
PARTY**
American Girl® Place Los Angeles
Westfield Century City

April 29th
5:30pm to 7:30pm

American Girl | Make-A-Wish
GREATER LOS ANGELES

Celebrate Make-A-Wish's birthday
on April 29th at the American Girl Store
in Century City.

American Girl

Come celebrate at our Hawaiian-themed birthday party. This exclusive event will include delicious food, specialty cocktails, glitter mocktails, crafts for the kids, a private shopping experience, and access to exclusive raffle items! Plus, every guest will receive a special commemorative item.

Nearly half of the children that we serve who wish to travel wish to go to Hawaii with their families. Help us celebrate Make-A-Wish's Birthday and grant wishes for children who are currently waiting for their dreams to become reality.



Get your tickets here