

The WishMaker's Society

When a child is diagnosed with a critical illness, their world suddenly changes. They are robbed of a carefree childhood and are forced to deal with realities that no child should face. Once filled with school, play, extracurricular activities, and time with friends, their life becomes doctor appointments, tests, surgical procedures, and hospital stays. Their bodies receive needles and tubes delivering lifesaving medications, which ironically can alter their appearance and make them temporarily look and feel worse.

There may also be changes in family dynamics, as normal daily life is altered for everyone. Parents often face severe financial burdens, while enduring the unbelievable stress of making decisions for their ill child's treatment. They must also balance the needs of their other children, who may feel neglected or experience their own feelings of worry and guilt.

So, imagine the joy, elation, and gratitude that these children and families experience when they receive an unconditional wish. In a world that has become chaotic and uncontrollable for them, Make-A-Wish East Tennessee provides them with a unique, unparalleled opportunity that money, medicine, family, and friends typically cannot provide.

Make-A-Wish® East Tennessee's mission is simple and clear - we grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy.

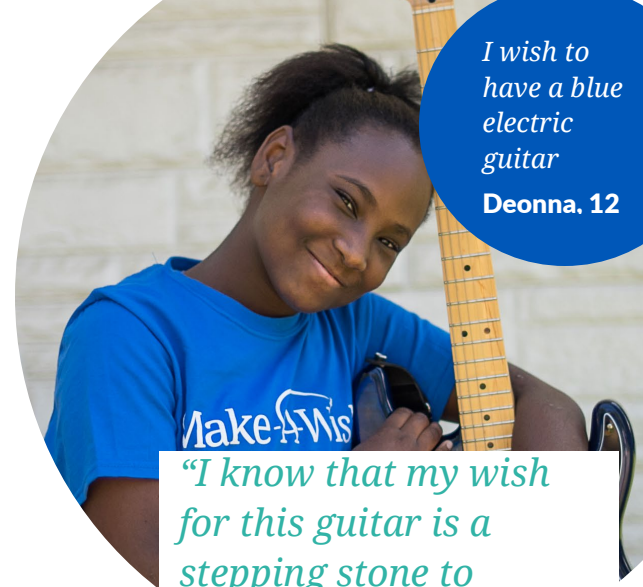
The power of a wish might surprise you.

Can the power of a wish turn a four-year-old into a knight in shining armor? For Connor it did. Connor was diagnosed with a cerebrovascular condition, after suffering a stroke at 2½ years old. He initially lost mobility on the left side of his body.

Like many children, he wished for a trip to Disney World but with one little twist: he wanted to save a princess from a band of no-good scallywag pirates! When Connor arrived at Give Kids the World, he was given instructions that the local prince needed his help in saving a princess from a particular set of sinister pirates hiding out on the deck of their ship. Connor met the pirates head-on, forced them to hand over their weapons, and made them his prisoners.

While Connor and his story are extraordinary, the impact of a wish is told to us nearly every day by hundreds of wish recipients and their families. Life changes for children and families when they qualify for a wish; simply put, it gets better.

Beyond the family, the wish experience provides volunteers, community members, small business owners and corporations, nonprofits, churches, social clubs, social workers, K-12 and



*I wish to
have a blue
electric
guitar*

Deonna, 12

*"I know that my wish
for this guitar is a
stepping stone to
something greater in
the future."*

—Deonna, wish kid

college students, nurses, and doctors a chance to be part of something that is life-affirming - community-building change achieved together. The power of a wish is transformative.

Does what you do really make a difference?

Since our inception in 1988, Make-A-Wish East Tennessee has granted over 1,650 wishes to children in all 36 counties we serve. We can do this important work in East Tennessee thanks to a powerful network of volunteers, contributors, sponsors, and staff members.

Everything we do is focused on helping children and we serve them first: more than 75 percent of each dollar contributed to our cause goes directly toward granting their wishes. Children age 2½ to 18- years old, battling an illness that is progressive, malignant, or degenerative are eligible. It's our vision to reach 100 percent of the children who qualify for a wish on time.

Right now, over 120 East Tennessee children are waiting to have their wish granted. So, our work continues.

The WishMaker's Society can make this happen.

All wishes are 100% funded through a combination of private support, donated resources, and creativity. Every dollar of privately donated funds leverages another dollar in volunteer services, in-kind goods, and generous corporate financial support. We do not receive government funding, and, unfortunately, we have a defined gap in resources – people, material goods, and finances. We believe it is well within our reach to fill it. This is a problem we can solve.

With more children eligible for our services than we are presently serving; we must expand our outreach efforts to reach these children and their families. In an average year, our goal is to grant 112 wishes. The WishMaker's Society will increase our number of wishes by 37 a year.

Due to generous donors helping us reach our fundraising goals, we are hoping to ensure that every eligible East Tennessee child receives a wish and that those children and their families experience a different type of healing, which comes from the joy that comes throughout a wish journey.

We invite you to invest in changing lives.

We respectfully request \$6,500, the direct cash cost of a wish, to bring the wish journey to children facing critical illnesses and their communities of caregivers, family, and friends. With



According to a 2015 study of the wish experience, children who participated had higher levels of hope regarding their future, increased positive emotions and health-related quality of life, and lower levels of depression and anxiety – proven factors associated with more positive health outcomes and improved coping and resiliency. Their families, too, experienced the benefits of hope and lower stress levels.

your investment, you will bring children the experiences of childhood that they deserve and support an often key component to better health outcomes – today and tomorrow.



Partnership Benefits

- **Recognition**
 - Aligning with the #1 most trusted non-profit in the United States.
 - Name/logo listed on etn.wish.org website.
 - Name/logo shared in digital newsletter and social media posts.
 - Opportunity to host formal check presentation.
 - Right to use chapter name/logo (subject to approval).
- **Employee Engagement**
 - Opportunity to host a wish sendoff or welcome back party for a wish kid.
 - Exclusive invitations to local wish reveals or wishes, when appropriate.
 - Receive quarterly wish stories to share internally to inspire employees.

Together, we will create hope for children with critical illnesses.



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