

Join us and help make every
eligible child's **WISH COME TRUE!**



Noah's Wish to Go to Legoland

15-month-old Noah and his parents went to a routine doctor's appointment where they noted that Noah's stomach looked a bit larger on one side. Noah was immediately taken to the Emergency Room for testing where doctors found cancer in his liver and small nodules in his lungs. Brave little Noah was diagnosed with metastatic hepatoblastoma, a type of liver cancer.

The diagnosis was a shock to his parents, who had just found out that Mom was pregnant with Noah's sibling. Their world changed overnight as Noah began nine months of chemotherapy. He also had two lung surgeries, received numerous blood transfusions, and received a successful liver transplant. Noah's little brother was born at the same hospital after Noah received his transplant!

When Make-A-Wish reached out, his parents were unsure what to do for him since he was only 2-years-old. They knew he loved Legos and decided that Legoland would be a wonderful place to visit as a family. This would be the first time he would visit an amusement park, and Legoland would give him the space to be creative and have fun!

This was the family's first trip since Noah's diagnosis, so it was incredibly special to them. They also went during the week of Noah's birthday which made it even more significant. Legoland was the perfect place for Noah and

his family since they could set their own pace and Noah could enjoy everything around them. They stayed at the Legoland Hotel (the hotel dance party being his favorite part!) and had the opportunity to explore the San Diego Zoo and SeaWorld during their five-day stay.

Since his trip Noah continues to love Legos! Playing with Legos allows Noah the space to be creative and let his imagination go wild. It is an activity he can share with his younger brother, too. His mom loved seeing him have fun and just being himself on his wish. Legoland was the perfect place for all of them to have fun and be a family.

Nicole, Noah's mom, shared "I think Make-A-Wish is an amazing organization and they do make dreams come true for little kids like Noah. Just bringing the joy and hope they can to another child and family is just truly inspiring."

Make-A-Wish is happy to share that Noah is currently in remission.

Wishes Waiting

- Gustavo, 14, wishes to have a gaming computer
- Jesse, 5, wishes to have a backyard playset
- Elijah, 8, wishes to go to Disney World
- Derick, 12, wishes to have a Dallas Cowboys Experience

There are **nearly 600**
children in Los Angeles
waiting for their
wishes to be granted.
Join us in granting
these wishes today!



SCAN ME

This past fiscal year we...



Granted 200 local wishes and assisted with 389 wishes for children whose wishes brought them to Los Angeles



Received more than 500 hours of donated time from our dedicated volunteers

Thank you to our volunteers, donors, staff and community for helping to grant these transformative wishes!

Types of Wishes

I wish...



to be



to have



to give

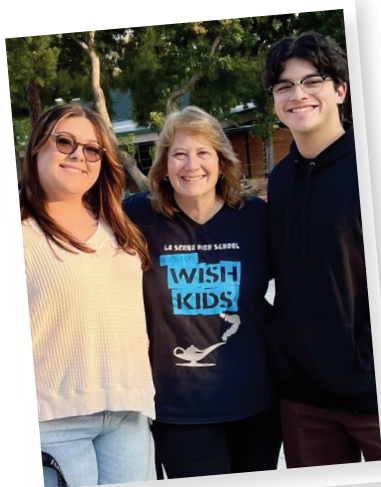


to go



to meet

Student Fundraising - Donor Spotlight



La Serna High School

La Serna High School has been a dedicated partner of ours for the past 15 years. Coleen Garcia, affectionately known as Senora Garcia, was the faculty advisor for the Kids for Wish Kids Club at La Serna High School in Whittier, CA, where she worked as a Spanish teacher. Her dedication to her students and the mission is evident with the countless events and fundraisers created, including a Disney-themed Walk-A-Thon that the club hosted to support wishes in LA County. Coleen has reached the momentous time in her teaching career where she has hung up her teacher's hat and recently retired. We are grateful for her dedication and belief in the power of a wish. Senora Garcia and her students have raised more than \$32,000 through their inspiring efforts. We can't wait to see the legacy she has left behind and what is to come for La Serna's Wish Kids Club.

Kids for Wish Kids

Through our Kids For Wish Kids® program, students can learn the importance of giving back. A couple of shining stars this past year were Palos Verdes High School, which raised over \$23,000 through their Project Runway event.

Another super star is 16-year-old Luke, who raised over \$10,000 to help grant Disney wishes for local children. Share the importance of giving back – let them know about Kids For Wish Kids! Learn more at LA.Wish.org/KFWK



Wish Gala 2024 - A Masked Night to Remember



More than 650 guests donned masks and joined together to support Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles and Wish Children at our annual Wish Gala on October 19th. From the debut performance of wish kid Angela, the dazzling magic show, and exciting live auction to being entertained by host Anthony Anderson, hearing Wish Alum Ashley Park's story, and dancing to the music of Fitz and the Tantrums, it was a spectacular evening of celebrating the power of a wish together.

We were delighted to honor Kev Zoryan with the Power of a Wish Award, Ashley Park with the Alumni Leadership Award, and Kendra Scott with the Philanthropic Leader Award. We are grateful for your support and generosity, which helped us raise more than **\$1.2 million!** These critical funds will help grant wishes to some of the nearly 600 local children currently waiting.

Wish Granted



16-year-old Marcus loves baseball and football, playing video games, cars, and spending time with his family and friends. Marcus was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare cancer. When connected with Make-A-Wish, Marcus's number one wish was to go to a Formula One Race! Marcus wanted to see the cars in action, the pit crew, learn how the drivers became racecar drivers, and enjoy this experience with his Dad. Marcus and his whole family went to Miami to get a VIP Experience with Formula One!

Volunteer Spotlight

Max Goldberg and Judy Bravard - A Dynamic Duo

Judy and Max are friends and committed Wish Makers!

Max has been volunteering with Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles for 18 years, and he introduced Judy to Make-A-Wish nearly a decade ago. Judy and Max often join together to help grant wishes to local children.

Max shared, "I feel that every wish is important because no child asks to be sick with a life-threatening illness and, in some small way, a wish can help each child cope with the circumstances that life has given them. Each wish kid is special, and every wish is unique!"

Judy, who is bi-lingual, often helps grant wishes with our Spanish-speaking families! She shared, "I have visited families from many different backgrounds and am so moved by how one child with an illness affects the entire family. Each wish is important, no matter how grand or simple. It is such an honor to be able to be a part of this amazing organization."

Learn more about volunteering at [Wish.org/LA/Volunteer](https://www.wish.org/LA/Volunteer).



Partnership Spotlight



Black Bear Diner

Craving something sweet this holiday season? Visit your local Black Bear Diner this December to support Make-A-Wish! Black Bear Diner locations across the country will be donating \$1 from the sale of select desserts, including wish kid Amy's Strawberry Dream. Customers can also donate \$1 or \$5 online or when they dine in. Find your nearest Black Bear Diner at [Blackbeardiner.com](https://www.blackbeardiner.com).

teleflora

Teleflora, through its #LoveOutLoud holiday program, will support and feature Make-A-Wish as its charity of choice from November 16, 2024 – December 31, 2024. Send the 'Santa's Little Helper' Bouquet to someone special and 15% of the proceeds will be donated to Make-A-Wish! Learn more at [Teleflora.com](https://www.teleflora.com).

Other Ways to Give Back

Wishes in Flight



Nearly half of the wishes we grant involve air travel! Do you have extra air miles? You can donate them to make children's wishes come true. Visit [wish.org/la/wishes-flight](https://www.wish.org/la/wishes-flight) or scan here to learn more and donate miles to our chapter.

Planned Giving



ESTATE PLANNING

Your will or living trust can provide for loved ones and leave a legacy supporting a great cause. Naming Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles as a beneficiary is easy, flexible and often provides tax savings for your heirs. Naming us a beneficiary of a qualified retirement asset or insurance policy is also a great way to leave a significant gift that creates hope for generations to come. [Wish.org/LA/Planned-Giving](https://www.Wish.org/LA/Planned-Giving)

Wish Your Way



Board Member Raj Mehrotra recently completed an Ironman and raised more than \$10,000 for Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles.

Celebrating a milestone (birthday, anniversary, wedding, etc.) or upcoming holiday? Instead of gifts, why not ask friends and family to support Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles? You can create a unique and personalized fundraising site where funds directly support local wish granting. To learn about Wish Your Way, please choose Online Fundraising at [wish.org/la/fundraise](https://www.wish.org/la/fundraise).