

Make-A-Wish[®]

ILLINOIS

Mission

Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

Be a WishMaker

A WishMaker is anyone who takes action for wish kids. There are so many ways to get involved! Join us in making wishes come true. Learn more at wish.org/illinois.

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.

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 enhance the quality of life for children and their families by promoting resilience and increasing well-being.

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. Wishes are made possible by dedicated staff and more than 1,000 caring volunteers who help each child discover, create, fulfill, and experience the lasting impact of their most heartfelt wish.

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

Reaching Every Child

For every wish granted, there are two more wishes waiting. Our vision is to reach every child with a critical illness. Make-A-Wish Illinois is proud to partner with hospitals and community organizations to serve communities statewide.

Managing Our Funds

In fiscal year 2024, Make-A-Wish Illinois raised \$9.4 million in cash revenue, with an additional \$5 million of in-kind support such as frequent flier miles, hotel discounts and other goods and services, to support the mission.

Our program service expense ratio in fiscal year 2024 (September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024) was 73 percent.

