

*Wish kid
Masyn posing
with officers
at his wish
celebration.*

Best Wishes

SPRING 2025

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World Wish Month celebrations are right around the corner and the work of remarkable WishMakers (people who take action for wish kids) is all around us!

Make-A-Wish® Mid-South has been fortified by incredible volunteer leadership- from our Regional Board and event committees to our Associate Board and Board of Directors. This year, we'll be celebrating a few key leaders as they transition off the Board of Directors—Julie Farrell, Sharon Harris, and Veronica Tansey. Each of these women have played a vital role in our growth, learning, and inspiration during their service on our Board.

Another exceptional group of WishMakers are the organizers of the Have-A-Heart Wish-A-Thon. This February, during the event's 27th year, the remarkable people in Northeast Arkansas raised more than \$547,000 in a single day. It was amazing to celebrate a historic and remarkable year for the Have-A-Heart Wish-A-Thon.

I can't mention amazing WishMakers without a huge shout-out to our young professional's group, the Associate Board. This year, the group had a record number of sponsors at their annual Wine for Wishes event, and blew their fundraising goal out of the water! We're so proud of and grateful for their hard work.

So many incredible things have happened but the work is far from done. In the next 20 minutes, a child will learn that they have a critical illness. And 20 minutes later, another. As long as children face this devastating reality, they'll need WishMakers to help give them a piece of their childhood back.

Each April, in honor of the founding wish and the original WishMakers, we're recruiting the next generation of mountain movers, heart-forward make-it-happeners, donors, volunteers, partners, and collaborators.

Because wishes don't come true by luck or chance. They come true because of WishMakers. Everyone has the power to help make wishes come true. **You, too, can be a WishMaker.**

We hope you'll join us in celebrating World Wish Month- by joining us at an event, by volunteering to grant wishes, referring a child, or sharing our messages on social media.

WishMakers Wanted.

Best wishes, Casey Tansey, President & CEO





I wish to meet my heroes

Home-grown *hope*

• COVER STORY •

Masyn's wish is a home-grown story of hope, displaying the true power of WishMakers coming together to create a remarkable wish celebration for a Central Arkansas wish kid.

When the Carr family lost their child in a car crash, they committed to remember him with an act of kindness each year. This year, that amazing commitment ended in a wish granted for a Cabot, AR child named Masyn.

The Carr family experienced a huge showing of support from their community in fundraising for a wish. Within days, the family had enough to sponsor Masyn's wish!

Seven-year-old Masyn was the perfect wish kid to be paired with the Carr family. He loves law enforcement, Disney World, he's spunky and bursting with personality!

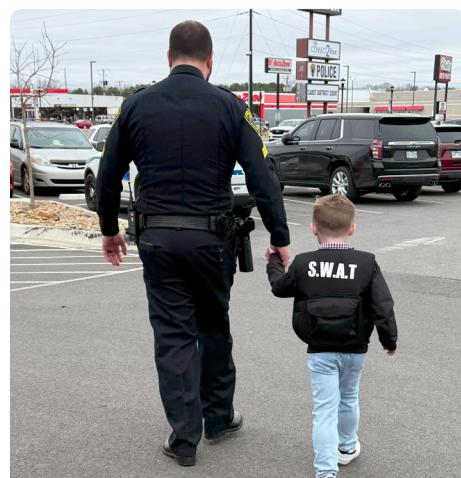
When Wish Granter Cliff Carter got word of Masyn's love for law enforcement, he knew he had to create an extra special wish celebration for him ahead of his Walt Disney World wish trip.

The result? Masyn had an epic wish celebration in which WishMakers across his city came together to celebrate his wish and bring his love for law enforcement front and center!

"When a wish brings the mayor of a community to tears as he swears in a wish kid as a deputy, that's the power of a wish. I believe there's only one thing more powerful than a wish and that's the power of a wish kid," said Carter.

Masyn wished to go to Walt Disney World and meet his favorite characters. He and his family had a fun-filled wish trip!

From wish family to sponsor and volunteers to all of the WishMakers involved, everyone can agree on one thing: we should never underestimate the power of a wish.





*I wish to be
a princess*

Bella, 5
cancer

You can help every eligible child receive a wish! If you know a child who is between 2 ½ and 18-years-old facing a critical illness, please consider referring them. A family member, medical professional, or potential wish kid can refer to Make-A-Wish Mid-South.

Just call 888-376-9474 or visit **wish.org/refer** to begin the simple process. It takes only a few minutes and you just need basic

Make-A-Wish
MID-SOUTH

Mia Robinson

A Wish Alum Wishing It Forward

• VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT •

When Mia Robinson was just two months old, doctors diagnosed her with chronic kidney disease. It's a condition she has lived with her entire life, requiring countless hospital visits, medications, and ultimately, a kidney transplant. In 2021, when her transplanted kidney failed, she found herself back on dialysis at 16-years-old.

That's when Mia learned she was eligible for a wish.

"I had always heard of Make-A-Wish, but I didn't know I could qualify," Mia said. "When my child life specialist brought it up, I was so excited."

Mia's wish to visit the *Walt Disney World*® Resort and stay at Give Kids the World Village was a dream come true. For the first time, she and her family could take a break from the stress of medical treatments and just enjoy being together. But the experience left a lasting impact on Mia far beyond the few days of her wish trip.

"It made us want to give back," she shared. "We wanted to be part of the Make-A-Wish community in a bigger way."

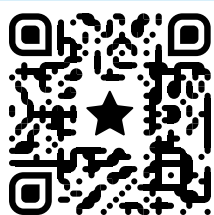
That desire led Mia and her mom to become Wish Granting Volunteers, helping grant wishes for other kids facing critical illnesses. Now, as a Wish Alum, Mia brings a unique perspective to her role.

"I may not have the same condition as every wish kid, but we all understand what it's like—the hospital stays, the doctor visits, the medications," Mia said. "It helps me connect with the kids and their families in a really special way because we understand exactly what you're talking about."

One of Mia's most memorable wish granting experiences was for a young boy named Jacob, whose family Mia and her mom instantly bonded with. Jacob's mom was so moved by the experience that she also became a volunteer and later helped Mia with another wish.

"This is why we do it," Mia said. "Wishes don't just change the lives of the kids—they create connections, support systems, and lasting friendships."

Now, on top of being a full-time nursing student, Mia continues to wish it forward, ensuring other kids feel the same joy and hope she once did.



You can join Mia in making a difference! Scan the QR code or visit wish.org/midsouth/volunteer to learn more and begin your journey in bringing life-changing wishes to kids in our community.



*I wish to
go to Rome*
Abigail
cancer



Ink
Gives
BACK

Special thanks to Ink! for donating our wish family tee shirts.



*I wish to go to
a Dude Ranch*
Macee, 18
kidney
transplant

Wish



*I wish to
go to Hawaii*
Caroline, 19
lymphoma



*I wish to meet
my favorite
superheroes*
Declan, 13
nervous system
disorder



*I wish to go
to the Smokey
Mountains*
Siobhan, 4
genetic disorder



*I wish to go to
the Walt Disney
World® Resort*
Kiley, 8
nervous system
disorder



*I wish to
have a room
makeover*
Eli, 15
cancer



KIDS



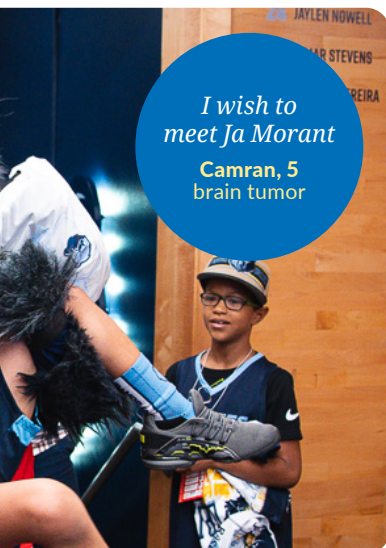
*I wish to
be a fashion
designer*

Alanna, 7
leukemia



*I wish to go to
the National
Rodeo Finals*

Hazel, 14
blood disorder



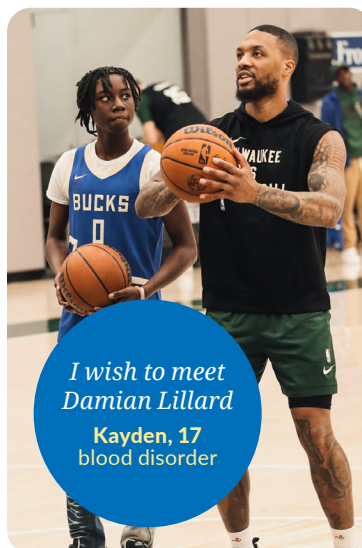
*I wish to
meet Ja Morant*

Camran, 5
brain tumor



*I wish to go to
New York City*

Samantha, 15
lymphoma



*I wish to meet
Damian Lillard*

Kayden, 17
blood disorder



*I wish to meet
Cinderella*

Gianna, 4
cancer



*I wish to go to
the Walt Disney
World® Resort*

Hatley, 10
brain tumor



*I wish to go to
the Walt Disney
World® Resort*

Claire, 5
cancer



*I wish to meet
princesses*

Harper, 3
cancer



**WISH
GRANTED**

Make-A-Wish
MID-SOUTH

*I wish to go to
the Walt Disney
World® Resort*

MK, 18
blood disorder



*I wish to go to
the Walt Disney
World® Resort*

Kynlee, 4
cancer



CALENDAR of EVENTS

KTCS Wish-A-Thon

Fort Smith, AR
April 11, 2025

Dishes for Wishes

Memphis, TN
April 27, 2025

Walk for Wishes®

Springdale, AR
May 3, 2025

Make-A-Wish Mid-South

Golf Classic

Collierville, TN
June 23, 2025

Evening of Wishes

Little Rock, AR
November 15, 2025

*Learn more about these events
and more at wish.org/midsouth*



Look for artwork made by our wish kids during
Art of Wishing at this year's Evening of Wishes event!

At Make-A-Wish Mid-South, we know that the power of a wish extends far beyond the moment it is granted. That's why the Wish Alum Program was created—to continue the sense of community and connection that wishes bring. Wishes don't just change lives for a moment; they create lasting impact.

Thanks to our 2024-2025 Wish Ambassadors—Bellamy, Opal, Aaliana, Hattie, and Jackson (featured right, top to bottom). These alumni and their families have helped **grant wishes, raise funds, and share their own wish stories**, reminding everyone that a critical illness can affect any family, regardless of economic status, race, or community.

Wishes are radical acts of hope, and we are deeply grateful for our Wish Alumni who choose to give back. Their commitment to Wishing It Forward ensures that more children across the Mid-South experience the life-changing power of a wish.



Join the ever-growing Wish Alumni community and learn how to Wish It Forward and make future wishes come true.

Scan the QR code or visit facebook.com/groups/midsouthwish today.



Clock In, WishMakers!

WishMakers at Work® is a fun and meaningful way to rally your team around granting wishes for local children fighting critical illnesses in your community. Whether through payroll deductions, online fundraising, matching gifts, or creative office events, your company can make a real impact—no matter your size or industry!

Get involved with exciting campaign ideas like Wish Week dress-up days, Office Olympics, cooking competitions, or even a “Soak Your Supervisor” challenge. Your Make-A-Wish Mid-South staff partner can help customize a plan that works for you and your team.

Did you know? 71% of employees say it's important to work where giving and volunteering are encouraged! (Source: America's Charities Snapshot Employee Donor Research)

To learn more, contact Gretchen Klobucar, Director of Development, at gklobucar@midsouth.wish.org. Let's make wishes come true—together!



ArcBest staff with wish kid Natawan, aka MK, during their Spirit Walk.



IPS Corporation staff with wish kid Caroline and family.

92%

of Americans who are employed full/part time say they would be more committed to their employer if it supported Make-A-Wish.*

79%

of people ages 18–34 would feel more engaged with their company if it supported Make-A-Wish.*

75%

would be more likely to recommend their employer to other potential employees if their company supported Make-A-Wish.*



Make-A-Wish Mid-South took over downtown Memphis for this year's Wine for Wishes, which took place on Friday, February 21.

Hosted by the Make-A-Wish Mid-South Associate Board, the event featured an exciting auction and brought together supporters to help grant wishes for Memphis wish kids.

Every sip and bid helped fund another life-changing wish. Thank you to all the WishMakers who partied with us at Wine for Wishes!



Waiters for Wishes 2024 brought together the University of Arkansas Men's Razorback Basketball Team and Make-A-Wish Mid-South for a night of teamwork, generosity, and impact.

Wish alum Anthony and his mom, Susan, shared how his wish to see the Knicks play at Madison Square Garden changed his life. Thanks to our celebrity waiters and supporters, together, we're serving up more life-changing wishes for kids in NWA!

Evening of Wishes



On October 12, 2024, Evening of Wishes brought together WishMakers for a dazzling night at The Venue at Westwind, raising vital funds for kids in Central Arkansas.

Guests enjoyed an elegant evening featuring dinner, cocktails, exclusive auctions, and heartfelt moments with wish alumni. Dressed to impress, attendees celebrated the power of wishes, making an unforgettable impact on Central Arkansas wish kids.

Special thanks to:



Dr. Rhonda and Ken Dick

Mid-South Holidays

During November and December, Make-A-Wish Mid-South embraced the holiday spirit by celebrating wishes and spreading cheer across the community. From Chick-fil-A Mid-South's Daddy Daughter Date Night at the Memphis Zoo to Christmas at the Park in Jonesboro, this season of giving highlights the joy, hope, and strength that wishes bring to children and families when they need it most.



Have A Heart Wish-A-Thon



The 27th Annual Have-A-Heart Wish-A-Thon proved once again that Northeast Arkansas has the biggest heart-raising an astounding \$547,341 for wishes!

Hosted by the Jonesboro Media Group, KAIT, and Make-A-Wish Mid-South, this treasured event brought the entire community together through powerful storytelling and donations collected at roadblocks across Northeast Arkansas.

Every dollar raised means more wishes coming to life for kids fighting critical illnesses.





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Northwest Arkansas

One West Mountain
Suite 108
Fayetteville, AR 72701

wishmakers wanted

JAY
Fundraiser

MARISOL
Fundraiser

SEVEN
12, end-stage
kidney disease
I wish to be
a chef

CATHY
Donor

DARREN
Volunteer



YOU are essential.
Aprons optional.

As long as children face devastating critical illnesses, they'll be counting on WishMakers like you to create the hope and strength they need to fight.

Make-A-Wish[®]
MID-SOUTH



Become a WishMaker[®] at
wishmaker.org