



Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina  
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MAKE-A-WISH EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA NAMES MARY ELIZABETH BENNETT NEW CEO

**RALEIGH N.C.-** Mary Elizabeth Bennett was announced as the new CEO for Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina.

Naming Mary Elizabeth as CEO is a strategically significant decision for the organization. Under her leadership as VP of Development, the chapter achieved its two most successful consecutive fiscal years to date. Mary Elizabeth has initiated record-breaking fundraising milestones, including a 15% annual operating budget increase, and positioned the chapter for sustainable long-term impact. This has allowed the organization to grant a record breaking 212 wishes in FY24, with a goal of 230 wishes in FY25. This leadership shift isn't just an internal promotion - it's a moment of momentum that will support children battling critical illnesses from the Triangle to the coast.

Mary Elizabeth's connection to the mission began years ago when her cousin's wish was granted as a child. That lived experience has shaped her leadership journey and the powerful results she's delivered over the past six years holding various roles at the chapter.

"Our mission is simple: to create joy and deliver hope," Mary Elizabeth said. "I'm honored to lead our chapter into its next phase of growth, working to grant even more wishes for children right here in eastern North Carolina. This community is truly special, and it's a privilege to share our stories and help drive meaningful local impact."

"Mary Elizabeth has been a driving force behind our growth and impact for several years. Her passion for our mission, deep understanding of our community, and strategic mindset will drive further impact for the children and their families in eastern North Carolina," said Board Chair Jeff Donahoe.

### About Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina

Founded in 1986, Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina grants life changing wishes for children aged 2.5-18 battling critical illnesses. Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina is 100% local, with all funds and wish kids coming from the 49 counties east of the Orange/Alamance county line. Since its founding, the chapter has granted over 4,600 wishes, with a record breaking 212 being granted in FY24, and a goal of 230 in FY25. For more information about Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina, visit <https://wish.org/eastnc>.

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