



OUR MISSION

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

ABOUT MAKE-A-WISH AMERICA

Make-A-Wish is the world's leading children's wish-granting organization, serving children in every community in the U.S. and in 50 countries worldwide. More than 300,000 wishes have been granted since our inception in 1980, when our first wish-child, Frank "Bopsy" Salazar, asked to be a fireman.

Make-A-Wish granted 15,400 wishes last year alone – on average, one every 34 minutes. But for every wish granted, another child is diagnosed with a potentially qualifying condition. A child who needs a wish.

We all look forward to the day when no more children have life-threatening medical conditions. Until that time, Make-A-Wish remains committed to a vision of granting a wish to every eligible child. Because wishes make very sick kids feel better – and sometimes, when they feel better, they get better.



HOW IT ALL STARTED

The creation of Make-A-Wish was inspired in 1980 by the fulfillment of a wish of a 7-year-old boy with leukemia named Chris Greicius, who wished to be a policeman. His mother, several friends and a group of police officers, with the cooperation of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, granted his wish with a custom-made uniform, helmet, badge and helicopter ride! The day after the special day, Chris had to be readmitted to the hospital, where he passed away a few days later.

After the wish, those involved—including Tommy Austin, U.S. Customs Agent, and Ron Cox, Arizona Department of Public Safety Officer—were inspired and eager to bring that same hope, strength and joy they saw as a result of Chris' wish to more children. Their simple idea has led to the continued growth of the world's largest wish-granting organization, now operating in nearly 50 countries.

MAINE CHAPTER AT-A-GLANCE

About Make-A-Wish Maine

The Maine chapter of Make-A-Wish opened in 1992. Founded by Wayne and Caroline Morong, in Camden, Make-A-Wish Maine has grown to serve children in each of Maine's 16 counties. We have granted over 1,950 wishes since our first year and this organization grants an average of one wish every four days. Robbie Seelye, of Calais, was Maine's first wish kid who received an ATV for his wish in March of 1993.

Our Purpose

Make-A-Wish Maine is dedicated to granting the special wishes of Maine children, who have critical illnesses. In doing so, we strive to provide the child and family with special memories of care-free happiness and laughter which are dramatically different from hospitals, doctors and treatment programs. A “wish” offers a welcome respite – a time of just plain fun and escape!

Who Is Eligible

The Foundation will grant a wish to any eligible child with a life-threatening medical condition, between the ages of 2½ and 18 years, anywhere in the state of Maine. A child can be referred to Make-A-Wish by the child, the child’s parents or medical personnel. We work closely with the child’s doctor in determining medical qualification. We include the nuclear family in the child’s magical wish. The wish is a time which provides joy, respite and family healing and togetherness. It is a time when the focus is NOT on the child’s illness

HOW WISHES ARE GRANTED

The Maine Chapter uses trained volunteer wish granters who meet the child and family to determine the wish. Staff wish-granting coordinators then work to put the wish together. The average cost of a wish is \$8,500. All wish expenses are fully covered, including travel and spending money. Our objective is to provide the child and family with a worry-free experience. We rely upon in-kind gifts and donations from individuals and corporations, as well as the generous donation of time and talents of over 200 statewide volunteers.



Wish Categories

I wish to go... Travel throughout the United States and Internationally.

I wish to have... Special gifts (computers, shopping sprees, bedroom makeovers, or a puppy)

I wish to be... Experience the thrill of being police officer, firefighter, model, or recording artist.

I wish to meet... A favorite celebrity, athlete, or musician.

Impact of a Wish

89% of parents observed an increase in their child’s emotional strength and overall health status.

81% of parents observe an increased willingness by their child to comply with difficult medical treatments.

97% of parents said the wish experience strengthened their families and gave them the opportunity to be a “normal” family again.

91% of volunteers and **94%** of wish parents expressed a deeper commitment to philanthropy and volunteering.

YOUNG LEADERS COUNCIL

Position Description

The Young Leaders Council is comprised of young professionals who desire to help further the mission of Make-A-Wish Maine through supporting its fundraising and advocacy efforts.

Meetings

The group conducts nine (9) meetings per term starting in September. Each meeting is led by the Council Chair and overseen by Make-A-Wish Maine staff member(s) who are managing fundraising efforts. Meeting dates are set for the following fiscal year in August. The location of the meetings is primarily at the Make-A-Wish offices in Scarborough with call-in and virtual options offered. Every Young Leaders Council member is expected to attend at least half of the scheduled meetings.

Expectations

Each member is asked to donate \$50 personally to Make-A-Wish Maine at the first meeting of the year. In addition to personal gifts, members are asked to support fundraising efforts throughout the year by soliciting donations for Make-A-Wish. In a combination to be determined by each member, together with the Make-A-Wish Maine staff liaison, each member should give, or get, a total of \$500 each term and sell 5 tickets to an official Make-A-Wish event. 25% of solicited in-kind donation values are eligible to count towards this goal. This “give/get” expectation will increase by \$250 for every subsequent term a member remains active on the Council but shall not exceed \$2,500.



Term

The fiscal year for Make-A-Wish Maine (September – August) defines the term year for Young Leaders Council members. Annual terms are renewable each September with notification required by July of the same year.

Application

Each Young Leaders Council member will complete an application process. This includes a written application with current resume, and upon acceptance, a background check, signed conflict of interest form and ethics statement.

Vetting

The resume and application will be reviewed by the Make-A-Wish Maine President & CEO, Board Advisor, Director of Development, and incoming YLC Chair and Chair-Elect. An interview in-person or over the phone will follow. Prospective members must have been living and working in the market for at least 6 months.

Recruitment

Members will be asked to apply based on recommendations of the Make-A-Wish Maine Board of Directors and current Young Leaders Council members. Notices of open applications will be sent to wish granters, wish families, and other Make-A-Wish community partners.

Membership

Young professionals between the ages of 25-40 years old who are interested in the growth and development of Make-A-Wish Maine are eligible for membership. The Young Leaders Council is a volunteer entity of Make-A-Wish Maine. This is not a voting member position of Make-A-Wish Maine Board of Directors, nor is it defined in the bylaws governing the chapter.

Committee Structure

The Young Leaders Council consists of two slated positions of Chair and Chair-Elect, general members, and a Make-A-Wish staff liaison. The Chair shall create additional committees as needed and assign their duties. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Council. The Chair-Elect shall assist the Chair and shall assume the duties of the Chair in their absence. The Chair-Elect shall automatically assume the Chair role the following term. The staff liaison will serve as Secretary and Treasurer.

CONTACT

Please direct Young Leaders Council questions to Nichole Rutherford at nrutherford@maine.wish.org or call 207.221.2306.

Complete the following application and submit with a resume to nrutherford@maine.wish.org or the mailing address below.

Make-A-Wish Maine
Attn: YLC
66 Mussey Road
Scarborough, ME 04074



APPLICATION FOR YOUNG LEADERS COUNCIL

Date: _____

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Birthday: _____ Pronouns: _____

Preferred Phone #: _____ Mobile
Home

Preferred E-mail: _____

Education: _____

Employer: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

Business Telephone # _____

Work E-mail: _____

History/Involvement with Make-A-Wish Maine:

Other affiliations with individuals, corporations, and foundations:

Fundraising Experience:

Other Volunteer Experience (Please include organization name, length of relationship, and any related roles/ responsibilities):

Professional/personal characteristics and skills that would benefit Make-A-Wish Maine:

Why do you wish to join the Young Leaders Council of Make-A-Wish Maine?

Additional Comments:

Please attach a current resume to this application and submit to
nrutherford@maine.wish.org or 66 Mussey Road, Scarborough, ME 04074