



Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina
3809 Computer Drive, Suite 201
Raleigh, NC 27609

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2025
Media Contact: Ashley White
(252) 423 1813, awhite@eastnc.wish.org

MAKE-A-WISH® EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA RAISES \$700,000 AT WISH BALL 2025 TO GRANT LIFE-CHANGING WISHES FOR LOCAL CHILDREN

RALEIGH N.C.- Make-A-Wish® Eastern North Carolina announced its annual Wish Ball, held Thursday, August. 7 at Union Hall Raleigh Union Station, raised more \$700,000 to grant wishes for children with critical illnesses across the region. The event marked the most successful fundraiser in the chapter's history.

More than 400 guests attended the disco-themed celebration which featured inspiring wish stories, moving testimonials, and appearances by local wish families. The evening was co-hosted by Marcus Ginyard, former UNC basketball national champion and a former wish recipient, Manny Lee.

The event was led by Mary Elizabeth Bennett, Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina's youngest CEO, and a family member. Funds raised at Wish Ball 2025 will directly support wishes for children throughout eastern North Carolina. A wish can be a powerful part of a child's treatment journey, providing strength and joy during some of their most difficult days.

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>.

###