



## ABOUT MAKE-A-WISH EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

**OUR MISSION:** Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

**MAKE-A-WISH EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA AT A GLANCE:** Founded in 1986, Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina serves children ages **2½–18** battling critical illnesses across 49 counties from the Triangle to the coast.

- More than **4,800 wishes** have been granted since our founding, with almost 300 children still waiting on their wish
- **212 wishes** were granted in FY24 and **230 wishes** in FY25- our two most successful years in chapter history
- There are over **125** volunteers in eastern North Carolina who help grant local wishes
- The average cost of a wish is **\$10,000**
- Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina is 100% local, with all funds and wish kids coming directly from our chapter territories

**OUR ROOTS:** In 1980, 7-year-old Chris Greicius' dream to become a police officer inspired the creation of Make-A-Wish. Six years later, the Eastern NC chapter opened to bring that hope from the Triangle to the coast. Our first wish was granted in 1986, when 8-year-old Benny Strickland from Roanoke Rapids, bravely battling leukemia, met his favorite professional wrestlers thanks to our chapter.



Benny, 7, meeting  
the Rock 'N Roll  
Express

**FUNDING SOURCES:** As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina relies on the generosity of:

- Local fundraising events
- Corporate partnerships
- Individual donors & family foundations
- In-kind donations (flights, hotel points, services, and more)

**VOLUNTEERING:** Locally, volunteers play a vital role in:

- Wish granting
- Special event support
- Fundraising & partnerships

