



Make-A-Wish ® Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana • 12625 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77477
MEDIA CONTACT: Michelle Mason, Director of Marketing, mmason@texgulf.wish.org, 713-562-5594

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Kaneka Named as Inaugural Presenting Sponsor
for 2026 Wish Ball:
*Miracles Among Magnolias***

Houston, TX — October 17, 2025 — Make-A-Wish ® Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana is proud to announce **Kaneka** as the Inaugural **Presenting Sponsor** for the chapter's third-annual **Wish Ball: *Miracles Among Magnolias***, taking place on **Friday, April 10, 2026**, at **The Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Park**.

Kaneka's journey with Make-A-Wish has been one of steady growth and deepening engagement since 2017. For nearly a decade, Kaneka has been one of Make-A-Wish Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana's most dedicated and compassionate partners.

Their longstanding commitment has helped bring countless wishes to life—transforming moments of fear and uncertainty into joy, strength, and hope for local children and families. Together, we've built more than a partnership; we've built a legacy of kindness and community impact that continues to grow each year through Kaneka's generosity, employee engagement, and unwavering belief in the power of a wish.

This announcement marks a momentous milestone for the chapter: an unprecedented 650 wishes granted in a single year — the highest in our history. This incredible achievement was made possible by a record-breaking fundraising year, with over \$7 million raised to fuel our mission and bring hope to children across our community.

“We are honored to welcome Kaneka as the first-ever Presenting Sponsor of our Wish Ball. Their unwavering support of Make-A-Wish over the past three years has been instrumental in helping us grant wishes to children when they need it most,” said **Shelly Millwee**, President and CEO of Make-A-Wish Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana.

This year’s theme, *Miracles Among Magnolias*, celebrates the beauty and resilience of wish families and the community that surrounds them. The evening will highlight **42 years of wishes granted across the Texas Gulf Coast** and commemorate a special milestone — **20 years of transformational wishes in Louisiana**.

“At Kaneka, we believe in the science of dreams – what we call *Dreamology* – where innovation and compassion come together to create value that improves lives. Supporting Make-A-Wish allows us to live that philosophy beyond the laboratory and into the hearts of children and families who need hope most. Together, we’re turning imagination into possibility, and possibility into reality. We are so honored to stand with Make-A-Wish in bringing dreams to life,” said **Everett L. Smith**, Vice President, for Kaneka North America LLC.

Returning sponsors include:

- **Kristin and Barry Palmer**, serving as the 2026 Wish Ball Chairs
- **Red & Black Productions LP**
- **Carol and Bill Windham**
- **Enterprise**
- **Valero**, recognized as this year’s **Corporate Honoree**

Melissa Wilson, Medical Correspondent and Anchor for Fox 26 News, will be returning as event emcee.

Additional corporate sponsors and special guests will be announced in the coming months. For sponsorship inquiries, please contact **Suzanne Farrow** at sfarrow@texgulf.wish.org.

For media inquiries or more information about Make-A-Wish and the year ahead, please contact:

Michelle Mason

Director of Communications and Marketing

📞 713-562-5594

✉️ mmason@texgulf.wish.org

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About Make-A-Wish ® Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana

Make-A-Wish ® Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana is one of 58 chapters throughout the United States and its territories. Since our inception in 1984, we have granted more than 11,900 wishes to local children, and, during fiscal year 2025, we granted 650 wishes – a record for the organization. Make-A-Wish creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

Together with generous donors, supporters, staff, and volunteers, Make-A-Wish delivers hope and joy to children and their families when they need it most. Make-A-Wish aims to bring the power of a wish to every child with a critical illness because wish experiences can help improve emotional and physical health.

Make-A-Wish is the No.1 Most Trusted Nonprofit Operating Locally Across 50 states, per Morning Consult, serving children in every community in the United States and in 50 countries worldwide. Since 1980, more than 575,000 wishes have been granted to children around the world.

Change a local child's life today at wish.org/texgulf