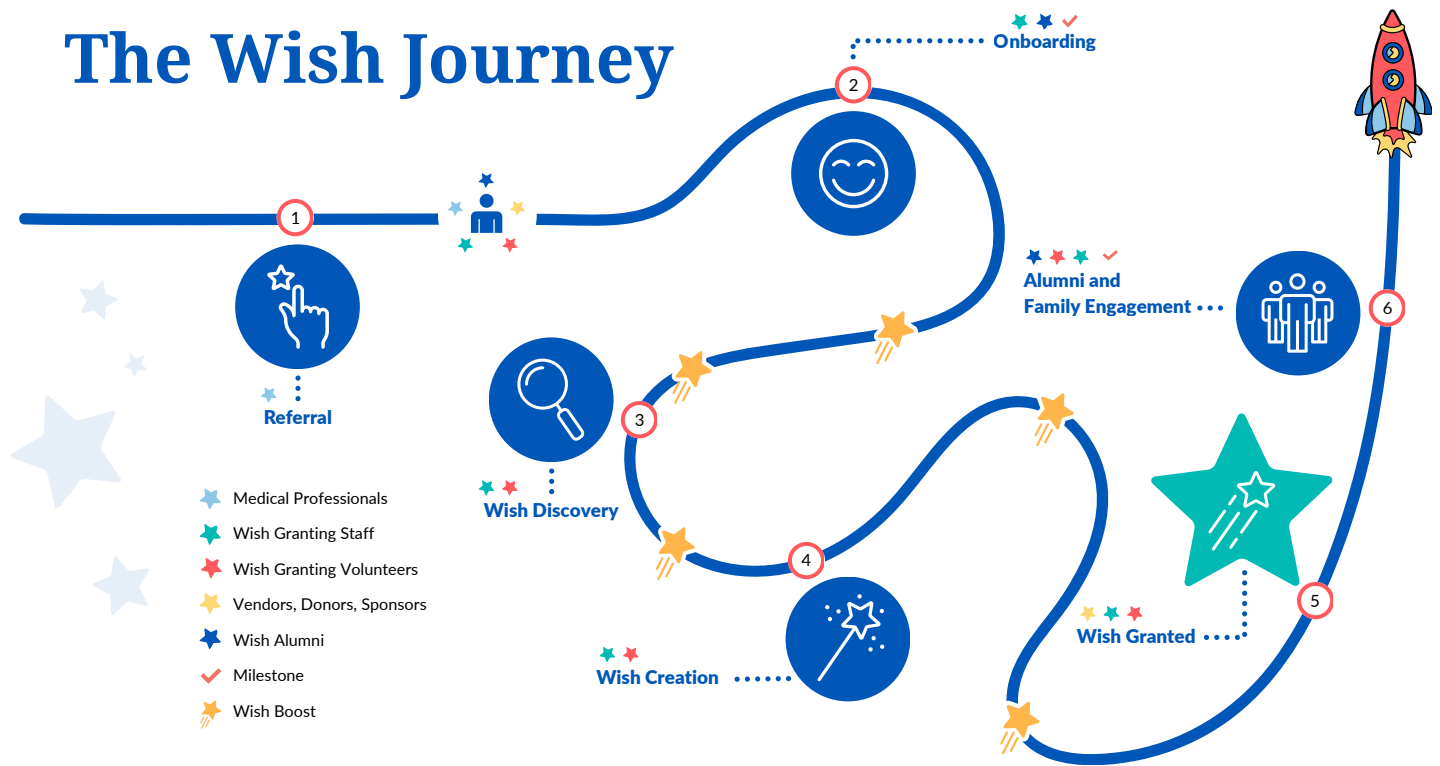




Make-A-Wish[®]
SOUTH CAROLINA

THE WISH JOURNEY & IMPACT

The Wish Journey



Wish Types

Wishes are as unique as the children making them and typically fall within five categories:

<p><i>I wish to have</i></p> 	<p><i>I wish to be</i></p> 	<p><i>I wish to meet</i></p> 	<p><i>I wish to go</i></p> 	<p><i>I wish to give</i></p> 
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Turning Point

The Wish Journey is often a pivotal experience during a wish kid's treatment and recovery.

9 out of 10 wish kids

reported that they felt more joyful, confident and hopeful for their future.

8 out of 10 wish parents

saw that the wish experience gave their child a stronger sense of empowerment.

9 out of 10 medical providers

say a wish increases compliance with treatment.

A wish is not simply a fleeting gift. In the fight against critical illness, each wish serves as a catalyst for renewed strength and encouragement for every child and family. It is a significant turning point in a child's medical journey that opens the door to exciting possibilities.

When you help grant a wish, you:

- Empower a child with a critical illness to reclaim their childhood and experience transformative joy.
- Immediately change the way a child sees themselves and transform their perspective so that they no longer see their illness as a barrier to experiencing the pure joy of childhood.

Rejuvenate a child's spirit and give them renewed motivation to persevere and envision a brighter future.

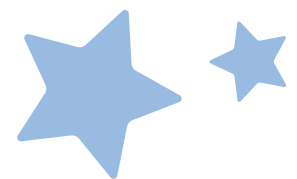
You can transform lives, one wish at a time.SM

The majority of kids whose wishes Make-A-Wish grants go on to beat their illnesses and live

typical, healthy lives – and they often credit their wish for shaping them into the person they are today. Whether it's influencing a child's compliance to treatment, or carving a path toward a dream career, or simply offering the chance to experience life beyond illness – a wish is a turning point in a child's medical journey that can improve their health outcomes ... and *you* have the power to create it.

“After frightening medical experiences, our son's wish was a major turning point! During his wish, he regained his appetite for nourishing foods, ability to make decisions for himself and zest for life.”

–Sherri, wish mom





Long-Term Impact

The impact of a wish lasts far beyond the hope and joy a child feels during their wish experience.

7 out of 10 wish kids

report that their wish improved their odds and gave them a better chance of surviving.

9 out of 10 wish parents

report that their child's wish experience strengthened their relationship with loved ones.

9 out of 10 medical providers

observed that the wish experience has a positive impact on a child's physical well-being and overall quality of life.

In the fight against a critical illness, each wish serves as a catalyst for renewed strength and encouragement for every child and family on their medical journey and throughout their entire lives. A wish provides a rejuvenating experience that can give a child a better chance of surviving and thriving.

A wish is not simply a fleeting gift, but a carefully planned journey that doesn't end once granted. It is designed to:

- complement a child's medical treatment.
- increase a child's compliance with care.
- help a child replace fear with confidence, sadness with joy and anxiety with hope.
- provide a supportive community to a child and family, when they need it most.
- restore hope and renew strength for a lifetime.

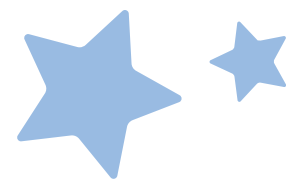
A Wish is Not a Last Wish – It Is a Lasting Wish

The majority of kids whose wishes we grant go on to beat their illness and live fulfilling, healthy lives – and they often credit their wish for giving them the physical and emotional strength they needed to fight their critical illness. Many wish alumni also say that their wish experience opened a door to exciting possibilities into adulthood and continues to serve as a reliable source of strength, hope, comfort and joy.

By granting a wish, you give children with critical illnesses so much more than a temporary escape. You forever transform their perspective, help them believe in brighter days ahead, and transform the lives of everyone around them.

“My wish of a college scholarship gave me long-term purpose and continues to remind me of what I am capable of achieving, despite my critical illness.”

–Wish alum





Strength to Fight

The Wish Journey gives children something to look forward to and renews their strength to fight their illness.

8 out of 10 wish kids

report that their wish gave them the strength to fight their critical illness.

8 out of 10 wish parents

say a child's wish experience serves as a coping mechanism during treatment.

8 out of 10 medical providers

reported that a wish is a necessary part of a child's treatment journey.

Research shows that children who have wishes granted can build the physical and emotional strength they need to fight a critical illness, which can give them a better chance of surviving and thriving. In fact, the majority of wish kids whose wishes we grant go on to beat their illnesses and live typical, healthy lives – and they often credit the wish for giving them an edge in their fight.

A Wish Is a Necessary, Powerful Tool During Treatment

When you help grant a wish, you give a child with a critical illness something to look forward to, which translates to renewed energy to fight their illness.

A wish is not a fleeting gift. It is a life-changing, powerful tool that pulls children with critical illnesses through their most difficult moments, not only during treatment but throughout their entire lives.

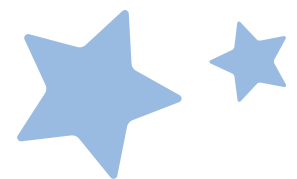
Did You Know?

A wish is:

- An opportunity for respite after the traumatic stress of diagnosis, countless hospital stays and painful procedures.
- The reward at the end of treatment and the motivation that helps a child overcome constant feelings of uncertainty, loneliness and fear.
- A rejuvenating experience that can lead to better health outcomes and improved quality of life.

“Before I received my wish, my quality of life was horrible, and I had no desire to keep going. When I learned I would be getting a wish, I had something that made me want to fight for my life.”

–Wish alum





Trauma Relief

A wish provides much needed relief from the trauma and stress caused by a child's critical illness.

9 out of 10 wish kids

reported that the wish experience relieved them from traumatic stress.

9 out of 10 wish parents

said the wish experience helped relieve their family from traumatic stress.

9 out of 10 medical providers

observed the wish experience helped relieve a family from traumatic stress.

Children who are fighting critical illnesses experience extreme mental and emotional challenges every day. Hospital stays, harsh treatments and scary surgeries are not only exhausting – they are traumatic. In fact, 90 percent of wish alumni and parents said their family experienced traumatic stress as a result of the child's critical illness. Such mental distress can impair a child's long-term healing, as feelings of hopelessness, depression and loneliness threaten their ability to endure the physical demands of their illness.

Make-A-Wish® is the Solution

Make-A-Wish offers children with critical illnesses much-needed relief from their trauma, through a rejuvenating experience that can give them a better chance of surviving and thriving. Our staff and volunteers work alongside medical care teams to support children and their families in taking back control of their lives. As we spend time with the

child, conversation shifts from fear to anticipation and joy. That's the moment a wish is born. When you help grant a wish, you immediately launch a child and their family onto a journey filled with exciting possibilities – and a chance to replace feelings of trauma with hope for tomorrow.

"It's the power of a wish, the anticipation of the wish, it's the actual wish, it's the memory of that wish that gives not only the wish kid, but the wish family, the ability to grow and learn from the trauma that we've all been through. I'm forever grateful for that opportunity."

—Aubrey, wish mom





Emotional & Mental Well-Being

Wishes have a positive impact on the emotional well-being of wish kids, their families and those involved in a wish.

8 out of 10 wish kids

reported that their wish experience helped them overcome hopelessness, depression and loneliness.

9 out of 10 wish parents

saw their child's emotional well-being improve with a wish.

100% of medical providers

report that the wish experience improves a child's – and their own – emotional well-being.

Children who are fighting critical illnesses experience extreme emotional challenges every day. Such mental distress can impair a child's long-term healing and leave them feeling hopeless.

At Make-A-Wish®, we believe that a child's mental and emotional well-being is integral to their physical fight against a critical illness. In fact, 7 out of 10 medical providers say a wish is a necessary part of a child's treatment, and research shows that a wish can often be a key way to help a child build the physical and emotional strength they need to fight, and help produce better health outcomes. The majority of kids whose wishes we grant go on to beat their illnesses and live healthy lives – and 9 out of 10 of wish alumni say the wish experience:

- improved their emotional well-being.
- helped them overcome feelings of sadness.
- made them feel more joyful.

Help Grant a Wish, Restore Hope for a Lifetime

With the hope of a wish, children who are fighting critical illnesses find light in the darkness of their circumstances and renewed motivation to persevere. The instant a child's hope is realized through a wish, they experience a powerful, life-changing and unforgettable joy that nurtures their spirit forever. This joy is irresistible; 9 out of 10 wish parents also say the wish experience improved their family's emotional well-being and even had a positive influence on their wish kid's siblings. A vast majority of medical providers say that their involvement with Make-A-Wish helps them feel more hopeful and more joyful, too.

“You literally put a smile on people's faces, you brighten up their day and you basically give kids like me a chance to feel alive again.”

–Johanna, wish granted 2021

