

FISCAL YEAR 2025 AT-A-GLANCE



Mission

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

Be a WishMaker

A WishMaker is anyone who takes action for wish kids. There are so many ways to get involved! Join us in making wishes come true. Learn more at wish.org/illinois.

Support Wishes

Donations by everyday people are critical to making wishes come true. Until every wish is granted, we will continue to do it for the love of wish kids, and for the countless lives a single wish can change. Give today at wish.org/illinois/donate.

Wishes Change A Child's Life

For a child fighting a critical illness, every day of waiting for a wish is one too many. A wish helps kids look past their limitations, helps families overcome anxiety and helps entire communities experience joy. When you help grant a wish, you create a turning point in a child's recovery.

Recommended by Doctors

Research shows a wish can give kids strength to fight against and even overcome an illness. Medical professionals often include a wish as part of their overall treatment plan because wishes can enhance the quality of life for children and their families by promoting resilience and increasing well-being.

Why Make-A-Wish?

For 40 years, Make-A-Wish Illinois has been fueled by the hope we give our kids, granting more than 19,000 wishes across the state since 1985. Wishes are made possible by dedicated staff and thousands of caring volunteers who help each child discover, create, fulfill, and experience the lasting impact of their most heartfelt wish.

Who is Eligible for a Wish? A child with a critical illness who has reached the age of 2½ and is younger than 18 at the time of referral is potentially eligible for a wish. A child's diagnosis does NOT have to be terminal to qualify. Visit wish.org/illinois/refer

Reaching Every Child

With support from WishMakers who make an impact as volunteers, donors and partners, Make-A-Wish Illinois continues to *share the power of a wish[®]* with a vision to reach every child with an eligible condition.

Managing Our Funds

In fiscal year 2025, Make-A-Wish Illinois raised \$9.8 million in cash revenue, with an additional \$5 million of in-kind support such as frequent flier miles, hotel discounts and other goods and services to support the mission.

Our program service expense ratio in fiscal year 2025* (September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025) was 70 percent.

*preliminary

I wish to meet a unicorn

Valentina, 12
cancer



As we celebrate our 40th Birthday, Make-A-Wish Illinois is reflecting on the impact of thousands of wishes granted and countless lives touched because of the generosity of everyday people. Last fiscal year (September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025) Make-A-Wish Illinois brought hope and joy to wish kids across the state.



709

Wishes Granted

647

New Referrals

1,150

Wishes in Progress

What do Illinois children wish for?

Donations by everyday people are critical to making wishes come true. Every contribution is important and meaningful. As long as children face devastating critical illnesses, they'll be counting on WishMakers like you to create the hope and strength they need to fight. Children are empowered by discovering their one true wish, and each wish is as unique as the child who dreams it.



477
WISHES TO GO



185
WISHES TO HAVE



2
WISHES TO BE



44
WISHES TO MEET



1
WISHES TO GIVE