



*I wish to go to
Walt Disney
World*

Ayven, 4
Heart condition

Wishes Need You

Partnership and Support Opportunity for
Make-A-Wish® Rio Grande Valley's
30th Anniversary

Make-A-Wish®
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2026

About Make-A-Wish[®] Rio Grande Valley

Make-A-Wish[®] Rio Grande Valley's mission is simple and clear. With the generous support from local donors, we do one thing: **create life changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.**

Make-A-Wish[®] Rio Grande Valley became our own chapter in 1997. Since then, we have been on a mission to bring every eligible child in our six-county area's wish to life driven by the knowledge that a wish is an integral part of a child's treatment. A wish is not a fleeting gift- it is a pivotal experience during a wish kid's medical journey and recovery.

Over the past 29 years the chapter has granted a total of 1,745 wishes: 71 wishes to *meet*, 779 wishes to *go*, 892 wishes to *have*, and 3 wishes to *be*. A wish is a carefully planned journey, designed to complement a child's medical treatment and increase their compliance with care. In fact **seven out of ten wish alumni said their wish gave them a better chance of surviving and recovering.** A wish helps to care for the whole child – mind, body and spirit – and even supports the community of caregivers, family and friends around them. By transforming a child's perspective, a wish can replace feelings of trauma with hope for tomorrow.

We have been fortunate to grant these 1,745 wishes because of partners in the community like yourself. Every dollar donated stays right here in Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy, Brooks, Kenedy, and Starr counties. Local funds. Local wishes.

Turning Point



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

We believe that a wish plays a vital role in a child's treatment, serves as encouragement to the family during a child's difficult medical journey, and provides a source of inspiration for thousands of people across the RGV. A wish turns fear into courage, worry into hope, and it recharges the fighting spirit in children. **Eight out of ten wish parents observed that the wish experience marked a turning point in their child's response to treatment.** Just as medicine heals the body, the wish experience heals the spirit.



9 out of 10 medical providers say a wish increases compliance with medical treatments.



9 out of 10 parents observe their child's emotional well-being improves with a wish.



9 out of 10 medical providers observe that the wish experience helps relieve a family from traumatic stress.



9 out of 10 wish alumni reported that their wish made them feel more joyful, confident and hopeful for their future.



9 out of 10 parents report that their child's wish experience strengthened their relationship with loved ones.

Wish kids need you – now, more than ever.

The cost of critical illness is childhood.

Every day, more than 70 children are diagnosed with a critical illness. Children go from living in freedom to living with daily fear. Confronted with extreme emotional challenges, they lose opportunities to play, travel, build friendships and enjoy new things. Parents feel helpless as they navigate hospital stays, disrupted routines and financial struggles. Distressed siblings watch their brother or sister undergo heartbreaking and painful medical procedures. Such mental distress can impair a child's long-term healing and leave them feeling hopeless.

Hope is essential to a child's treatment.

At Make-A-Wish®, we believe that the hope, strength and joy offered by a wish is vital to the treatment process of critical illness. In fact, research shows that a wish can help improve a child's quality of life, giving them a better chance of recovering. The majority of wish kids go on to overcome their critical illnesses, and a wish can help children build the physical and emotional strength they need to fight. A wish helps to care for the whole child – mind, body and spirit – and even supports the community of caregivers, family and friends around them. By transforming a child's perspective, a wish can replace feelings of trauma with hope for tomorrow.



"It's been more than 30 years since Chris received his wish, and I am still amazed and inspired how one little boy's dream ... has touched the lives of so many."

–Linda Pauling, Chris Greicius' mother and Make-A-Wish co-founder



I wish to go to Universal Studios

Tobias, 4
Cancer



Your investment in wishes is life-changing.

On behalf of all wish kids who are waiting, we respectfully ask you to consider a \$30,000 commitment to Make-A-Wish Rio Grande Valley over 5 years as a 30th Anniversary Philanthropic Contribution

YEAR	PLEDGE PAYMENT	TOTAL INVESTMENT
1	\$6,000	\$6,000
2	\$6,000	\$12,000
3	\$6,000	\$18,000
4	\$6,000	\$24,000
5	\$6,000	\$30,000

Please note, we are happy to break down your pledge into whatever yearly or monthly increments work best for you through 2030.

Honor and Recognition

In honor of your generosity as we prepare for our 30th Anniversary, we would like to offer the following recognition and engagement benefits that include but are not limited to:

- **Recognition as a Pearl Society Member*:**
 - Chapter’s Website (Wish.org/rgv) through 2030.
 - Evening of Wishes printed program and Website through 2030.
 - Wine for Wishes Website through 2030.
 - Printed newsletter (Summer/Winter 2026-2030) ‘Joy Report’
- **Annual Engagement**
 - Ongoing opportunities to attend signature events, wish celebrations, and wish reveals
- **Name and Logo Display on the new permanent Wall of Wishes in the Make-A-Wish RGV Office**
 - This will welcome wish families, visitors, and donors. The wall will highlight donors names and logos as well as the year of their donation. Wish Wall examples are pictured below.
- **Inclusion in 30th Anniversary Celebration**
 - Table of 8 for the Make-A-Wish Rio Grande Valley 30th Anniversary Luncheon or Breakfast in February, 2027 with recognition before, during, and after the event.



* Pearl Society Members mark impactful donations for the Make-A-Wish Rio Grande Valley’s 30th Anniversary

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**30
YEARS**

Why the Pearl?

As the traditional gemstone of a 30th anniversary, the pearl represents wisdom, resilience, and the quiet beauty that forms over time. Pearls begin as something small—often sparked by irritation or stress—yet with patience, care, and transformation, they become something precious.

Wishes are much the same.

They often emerge during some of life's hardest moments, yet they grow into a source of unexpected beauty, strength, and hope. Just like pearls, wishes remind us that even in challenging circumstances, something radiant can form—something that inspires, uplifts, and shines from within.

Our 30th anniversary pearl symbolizes not just a milestone, but the incredible beauty that comes from resilience, community, and the power of a wish.

Regardless of the specifics of a wish, they each have one thing in common: They provide hope at a time when there is not much good for a child to look forward to. Days in the hospital go faster when there is something to look forward to, and long days in a clinic pass more quickly when showing everyone around you pictures from your wish experience.

DOUGLAS SCOTHORN, M.D., PH.D.

CHAIRMAN OF THE MAKE-A-WISH AMERICA NATIONAL MEDICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL,
PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY, MISSION HEALTH, ASHEVILLE, N.C.

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