



Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina  
3809 Computer Drive, Suite 201  
Raleigh, NC 27609

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2026

Media Contact : Ashley White  
(252) 423 1813, [awhite@eastnc.wish.org](mailto:awhite@eastnc.wish.org)

## MAKE-A-WISH EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CELEBRATES WORLD WISH MONTH

RALEIGH, NC (April 7, 2026) – **Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina has officially launched its month-long World Wish Month celebration**, honoring the anniversary of the very first wish. In 1980, a young boy named Chris Grecious had his wish to be a police officer granted in Phoenix, Arizona, sparking a global movement that continues to transform lives today. This year's celebration carries even greater significance for Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina as **the chapter marks 40 years of granting life-changing wishes** for children from the Triangle to the coast.

**Throughout April, the organization is inviting individuals across eastern North Carolina to become Wishmakers.** A Wishmaker is anyone who takes action to help bring a child's wish to life, in whatever way is most meaningful to them. That could mean donating, referring a child, volunteering, or hosting or attending a fundraiser. Every action plays a role in creating hope and joy when it is needed most.

"Right now, more than 300 children across eastern North Carolina—from the Triangle to the coast—are waiting for their wishes to be granted," said Mary Elizabeth Bennett, CEO of Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina. "We have both the opportunity and the responsibility to show up for these children battling critical illnesses. World Wish Month shines a light on what's possible when our community comes together. Every action, big or small, helps bring hope, strength, and life-changing moments to children and families who need it most."

**Nearly 300 children across eastern North Carolina are currently waiting for their wishes to be granted.** Each wish requires the support of an average of 50 Wishmakers, and every single person has the power to help transform a child's life.

### ABOUT MAKE-A-WISH EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

For 40 years, Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina has been granting life-changing wishes for children aged 2.5–18 battling critical illnesses. From the Triangle to the coast, we've brought hope, joy, and lasting memories to over 4,900 children and their families. As a 100% local chapter, all funds are raised right here in Eastern North Carolina through events, corporate partnerships, and generous individual donors. Part of a nationwide network of 58 chapters that have granted more than 340,000 wishes, we are proud to continue giving every eligible child in our 49-county community the chance to experience the transformative power of a wish. Learn more at <https://wish.org/eastnc>.

###