Make-A-Wish®
EAST TENNESSEE

2026 IMPACT REPORT

September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026



I wish to have a playset

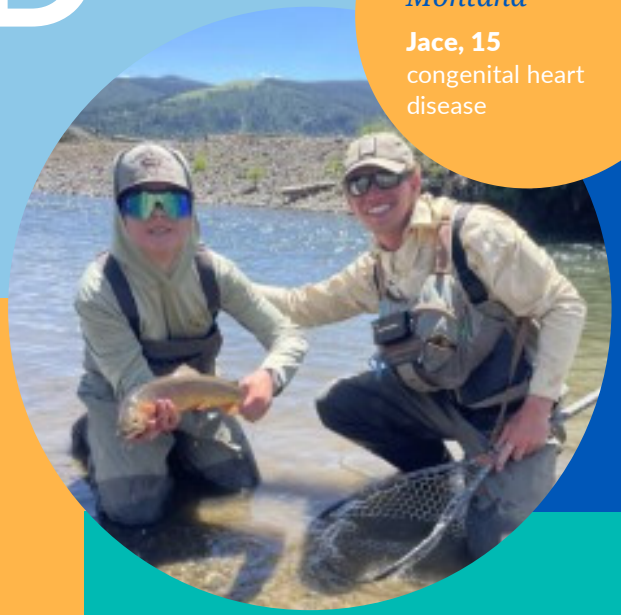
Haven, 5
leukemia

122 *wishes* GRANTED

40 wishes transferred from struggling chapters through the Wish Relief program

I wish to go on a fishing trip in Montana

Jace, 15
congenital heart disease



104 kids on the waiting list

97 *qualified referrals*

IN FISCAL YEAR 2026 WE GRANTED....

47 Walt Disney World vacations
16 Shopping sprees
5 Beach vacations
5 Golf carts
4 Playsets
3 Hawaii vacations
3 New York City trips
3 Fishing trips
3 Above-ground pools
2 Dogs
2 Universal Epic Universe vacations
2 Pop-up campers
2 Smokey Mountain Staycations
2 Sequoia National Park adventures
2 Car remodels
1 Backyard makeover
1 Swingset
1 African grey parrot
1 Meet Xavier Worthy
1 Meet Twenty One Pilots
1 Meet Mike Trout
1 Meet Dana Terrace
1 Tennessee football game
1 Formula 1 race
1 Philadelphia Eagles home game
1 FIFA World Cup
1 Outdoor family gathering space
1 Disney Cruise Line vacation
1 Gaming PC
1 DJ equipment
1 Sensory room
1 Anna Maria Island vacation
1 Ocoee Riverside Farm getaway
1 Grand Canyon & Route 66 road trip
1 Lourdes France vacation

Events

Grandstand Classic

$139,254 raised by our annual derby themed gala in Knoxville





Golf Classic

$28,796 raised by our golf tourment in Jonesborough

Telethon

$32,436 raised in partnership with Channel 11 and WXBQ



2,000 Wishes as a Chapter!



This year, we celebrated 2,000 wishes granted across East Tennessee since 1988. To mark the milestone, our community came together around 7-year-old Isabelle and her wish to visit Chuck E. Cheese. From her family and medical team to volunteers and community partners, so many people played a part in celebrating Isabelle and helping us recognize what 2,000 wishes truly represent.

Give More Save More Campaign

Our national partner JTV supported Make-A-Wish through its Give More Save More campaign, giving customers across the country an opportunity to help make more wishes possible. They also helped create wish magic right here in East Tennessee, welcoming wish kid Bronson for a gemstone scavenger hunt and surprise wish reveal at JTV headquarters.



Swishes for Wishes Campaign

In its first year, Swishes for Wishes raised $16,419 to help grant wishes for children across East Tennessee. For every three-pointer, point, or assist Tennessee basketball player Ja'Kobi Gillespie made, fans, businesses, and community supporters pledged a gift or made a fixed donation, turning each stat into meaningful support for local wish children.



My Wish

SportsCenter







For the first time, a Make-A-Wish East Tennessee wish kid was featured nationally on ESPN's "My Wish" series. Bailey Phillips, a 16-year-old Tennessee fan, received the ultimate University of Tennessee experience, from participating in the Vol Walk to taking the field at Neyland Stadium. Her story brought an East Tennessee wish to a national audience!

Some of This Year's Wishes Included









The Wishing Place

Powered by JTV

This year, we opened our new office, The Wishing Place powered by JTV, providing more space for wish children and families to gather, dream, and celebrate while positioning our chapter to grow and serve even more families across East Tennessee.







FY26 was a year we will never forget.

Because of you, Make-A-Wish East Tennessee granted 122 wishes, more than in any other year. Behind each number is a child who experienced joy, a family that found renewed hope during a difficult journey, and a community that came together to make the impossible feel possible.

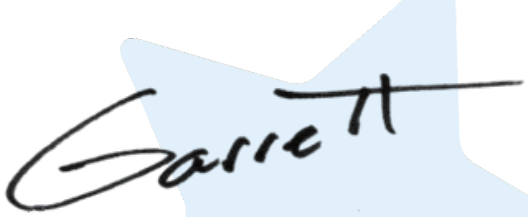
Your support helped generate $2.2 million in cash and in-kind revenue, allowing us to serve more wish children and families throughout East Tennessee. It also allowed us to open the doors to The Wishing Place, a space where families can dream, celebrate, and experience the support of a community that cares deeply for them.

This year, we also granted the 2,000th wish in our chapter's 38-year history. That milestone represents thousands of volunteers, donors, partners, medical professionals, and families who have shared in our mission since the chapter began in 1988.

This Impact Report reflects not only what was accomplished, but the difference you made. Every wish granted and every milestone reached began with someone choosing to believe in the life-changing power of a wish.

Thank you for helping make FY26 our most impactful year yet.

Wishing you all the best,



Garrett Wagley
President & CEO



Rebecca Huddleston
FY26 Board Chair

Make-A-Wish®
EAST TENNESSEE



"Make-A-Wish was a bright spot we desperately needed, and having something to look forward to was a true game-changer for Graham and our whole family. While the experience itself was extraordinary, what touched us most was knowing that you genuinely cared. In hard times, having someone take a true interest in your story and try to make your world brighter is beyond measure."

-Graham's Dad

A child makes a wish – YOU make the difference.

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