Make-A-Wish® ILLINOIS

# FISCAL YEAR 2026 AT-A-GLANCE

WishMakers in communities across the state joined Make-A-Wish Illinois in creating hope, strength and joy last fiscal year (September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026). Here are a few highlights of our reach and impact.

**677** QUALIFIED REFERRALS

**20,000** WISHES GRANTED SINCE 1985

**1,000** VOLUNTEERS STATEWIDE

## WISHES GRANTED

Last year **Make-A-Wish® Illinois** granted **600** life-changing wishes across the state. These wishes were possible because of caring medical partners, dedicated volunteers and staff, individual and corporate donors, local businesses and WishMakers of all kinds.



**398** Wishes to **GO**



**2** Wishes to **BE**



**151** Wishes to **HAVE**



**47** Wishes to **MEET**



**2** Wishes to **GIVE**

## OUR FUTURE

Behind every number is a child waiting for a life-changing wish. We know the impact a wish can have on a child's life, and we're more committed than ever to reaching every child when they need it most.

### Strategic Priorities

- REACH EVERY ELIGIBLE CHILD
- PROVIDE TIMELY, HIGH-QUALITY EXPERIENCES
- DO THIS WORK SUSTAINABLY YEAR OVER YEAR

### Fiscal Year 2027 Goals

- GRANT 650 WISHES
- RAISE $12.6 MILLION
- ADD 200 WISH CELEBRATION VOLUNTEERS

Make-A-Wish®
ILLINOIS

## OUR MISSION

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

### 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

A majority of doctors surveyed agree that a wish is a necessary part of the medical treatment journey. For kids battling critical illnesses, wishes can change everything – creating better health outcomes and increasing their odds of recovery.

### Why Make-A-Wish?

When a wish comes true it creates strength, hope and transformation in a child — and a community. Research consistently links hope with greater emotional resilience, stronger coping, improved quality of life, family connection and optimism during medical treatment.

### 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.

### WishMakers Wanted

A WishMaker is anyone who takes action for wish kids. Each wish is a community effort, with more than 50 WishMakers needed to make each wish possible. As long as children face devastating critical illnesses, they will be counting on WishMakers to give them the hope and strength they need to fight. Volunteer now at **wish.org/illinois/volunteer.**

### Managing Our Funds*

In fiscal year 2026, Make-A-Wish Illinois raised $10.9 million in cash revenue, with an additional $4.2 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 2026* (September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026) was 70 percent. *(*preliminary)*

### Giving

Granting more wishes requires more resources. Donations of all sizes by everyday people are critical to making wishes come true. Give today at **wish.org/illinois/donate**.




*"This experience expanded his ideas about what is possible for him. He is now interested in seeing more of the world. It allowed him to see something good coming out of his years of suffering. Sickle cell has taken so much from him, and Nic's wish allowed him to feel like he got something back."*

**Find more wish stores at wish.org/illinois**

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