



## FACTS AT-A-GLANCE



**Wishes Globally:** Make-A-Wish is the largest wish-granting organization in the world with 62 chapters in the U.S. and its territories and 38 international affiliates serving 50 countries. Tens of thousands of volunteers, donors and supporters advance the Make-A-Wish® vision to grant the wish of every child diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition. Worldwide, a wish is now granted every 21 minutes, reaching more than 350,000 children and their families since its founding in 1980.



**Wishes Locally:** Founded in 1985 by a group of local volunteers, Make-A-Wish Illinois has granted more than 13,000 wishes to children across the state. In fiscal year 2016, we granted 706 wishes reaching approximately 60% of children diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition.



**Who Do We Serve?** Children between 2½ and 18 who have a life-threatening medical condition are eligible for a wish. A child's diagnosis does not necessarily have to be terminal, but life-threatening.



**How Are Wishes Granted?** Our promise is to bring hope, strength and joy to wish children and their families. We do this by helping children discover their one true wish. Then we meticulously plan the experience, make thoughtful decisions and communicate openly with families, and surround them with support along the way.

**Know A Child?** Reaching every eligible child is a community-wide effort. A child's parents, legal guardians or a close family member with knowledge of the child's condition may make a referral directly to Make-A-Wish. Doctors, nurses, social workers, or other health care professionals may also refer a child. Make-A-Wish will grant a wish for any child who is deemed medically eligible by their treating physician. For more information about nominating a child, visit [www.illinois.wish.org/refer](http://www.illinois.wish.org/refer).

**How Much Do Wishes Cost?** The average total cost of a wish is \$10,000. There is no cost to the family in fulfilling a child's wish. Every expense, every phone call, every travel arrangement is taken care of by Make-A-Wish.

**Who Funds Wishes?** Financial support for Make-A-Wish Illinois comes from individual, corporate and foundation donors.

**How Does Make-A-Wish Rate?** Our program service expense ratio in fiscal year 2016 (September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016) was 81 percent. This ratio exceeds the standards set by both Make-A-Wish America and the Better Business Bureau.

**Why do wishes matter?** Wishes bring hope, strength and joy to children and their families by replacing the fear, suffering and despair serious illness brings. Wishes deliver measurable impact to children, families, and communities.

Make-A-Wish® Illinois  
640 N. LaSalle Dr., Ste.280  
Chicago, Illinois 60654  
312.602.9474 main  
800.978.9474 toll free  
[www.illinois.wish.org](http://www.illinois.wish.org)  
@wishillinois