

Mission: The mission of Make-A-Wish® Alabama is to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.



Make-A-Wish Foundation History: Make-A-Wish® was inspired in 1980 by the love that a family and friends had for a seven year-old boy named Chris, who had leukemia. Chris dreamed of becoming a police officer for a day, and his family and friends in the Arizona State Highway Patrol made his wish come true. From that simple wish, Chris has inspired more than 250,000 wishes nationally over the past 32 years. Every U.S. state is serviced by at least one of 62 chapters, and 36 international affiliates serve countries and regions on five continents.

Make-A-Wish Alabama History: Make-A-Wish was incorporated in the State of Alabama in 1986 to serve the children and families of Alabama. Several years later, the Alabama and Georgia chapters were combined and operated as Make-A-Wish Foundation of Georgia and Alabama for many years. Great wishes continued to be granted in Alabama during this time, but it was difficult to ensure that the state of Alabama was properly served as a part of a combined chapter. Therefore, on September 1, 2012, a new, independent chapter was created, and Make-A-Wish Alabama was born to better serve the children and families of our state. We are projected to grant over 120 wishes in the 2013 Fiscal Year and will continue to work hard to ensure that every eligible Alabama child receives his or her one true wish.

Make-A-Wish Alabama is one of 62 federated chapters of Make-A-Wish America. However, our mission is carried out on the local level – right here in Alabama. We are locally governed by a 17-member board of directors comprised of some of the most dedicated and enthusiastic individuals throughout our state, and our wishes are carried out by a cadre of dedicated, trained volunteers throughout Alabama.

Who is eligible? Make-A-Wish will fulfill the wish of any child between the ages of 2 1/2 to 18 who has been medically diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition. Children may be referred to Make-A-Wish by their medical personnel, by their parents or guardians, or they may even refer themselves!

Does the child have to have a terminal condition to qualify for a wish? No. Children qualify for a wish if they have a life-threatening medical condition—one that is progressive, degenerative or malignant and currently placing the child's life in jeopardy. Many of these children go on to live happy and healthy lives. The goal of Make-A-Wish is to bring hope, strength and joy into their lives during a very traumatic time. The child's treating physician determines if he or she medically qualifies for a wish.

Ways you can help:

- Volunteer: Help make wishes come true by becoming a trained volunteer.
- Adopt-A-Wish: Help fulfill a special child's wish through a corporate or individual gift.
- Planned Giving/Endowment: Make gifts through a will, bequest, life insurance policy, gift annuity or charitable trust.
- Special Events: Join dozens of individuals, schools and companies who organize special fundraising events for Make-A-Wish Alabama.
- Frequent Flier Miles: Help children and their families reach their dream destination by donating your miles.

