

FACT SHEET

- ♥ The Make-A-Wish Foundation® is a non-profit organization that grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. We have 77 chapters in the U.S and 27 international affiliates. Over 97,000 wishes have been granted.
- ♥ The Foundation was founded in 1980 in Phoenix, Arizona. A small group of people helped a very ill little boy named Chris achieve his wish – to be a state trooper for a day. Now, over 25,000 volunteers help make thousands of wishes come true each year.
- ♥ The first local wish was granted in 1986; the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Metro St. Louis received chapter status in 1990. We serve 48 counties in eastern Missouri and southern Illinois and have granted over 1,300 wishes to local children.
- ♥ Wishes fall into four categories. I wish to go ... I wish to meet ... I wish to have ... and I wish to be ... The most popular wish is for a trip to Disney World. Other popular wishes include shopping sprees, computers and Hawaii wishes.
- ♥ To the degree possible, the Foundation encourages family members to be a part of the wish experience, knowing that parents and siblings, like the wish child, need a respite from the stress of the critical illness at hand.
- ♥ Throughout the year, our chapter provides Wish Children and their families with Special Moments. These are moments in addition to children's wishes that complement the organization's mission and help our kids to "remember to be kids again."
- ♥ The average cash and in-kind cost of a wish for our chapter is \$5,800.
- ♥ The FY2003 expense budget is \$1,326,663 (cash).



- ♥ Locally, approximately 75 cents of each dollar expended goes to program services. The remaining 20 cents goes to general administration (16%) and to fundraising (9%).
- ♥ In the community, for the community and through the community, funds raised in our area remain in our community to grant wishes to local children.
- ♥ The Metro St. Louis chapter is one of the fastest growing in the nation, leaping from 136 wishes granted in FY2000 to averaging 200 wishes in FY2001 and FY2002. In addition, our chapter has opened a Program Center in Collinsville, IL and a Community Site in Breese, IL.
- ♥ The Foundation has a variety of donor programs including Sponsor of all Seasons, Adopt-A-Wish®, an Annual Community Campaign, and Kids for Wish Kids®.
- ♥ The Make-A-Wish Foundation relies heavily on its volunteers. Chapter-wide, our corps is 400 strong and is always looking for new members to join its rank.
- ♥ The Make-A-Wish Foundation does not engage in residential telemarketing or door-to-door solicitations.
- ♥ To qualify for a wish, children and/or their parents, guardians, or associated medical professionals, can make a wish referral by contacting our offices. The life-threatening nature of the child's illness/condition must be confirmed by the child's doctor before a wish can be granted. Wishes are granted to children under 18.

For more information or to learn more about the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Metro St. Louis, call or write:

**HEADQUARTERS:
MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION
OF METRO ST. LOUIS**

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St. Louis, MO 63124
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**ILLINOIS
PROGRAM CENTER**
One A Eastport Plaza Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234
(618) 343-9682

**BREESE
COMMUNITY SITE**
111 N. Main Street
Breese, IL 62230
(618) 526-0786

*Audited figures based on Chapter's FY2002.
Basic information updated March, 2003.*