

FACTS

- ♥ The Make-A-Wish Foundation® is a non-profit organization that grants wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. We have 74 chapters in the U.S and 28 international affiliates. Over 143,000 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 1,700 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 FY2005 expense budget is \$1,618,163 (cash).



- ♥ 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.
- ♥ In the past four years, the Metro St. Louis chapter has averaged granting 186 wishes annually. Our chapter has a Program Center. In addition, our chapter has a Program Center in Collinsville, IL.
- ♥ The Foundation has a variety of donor programs including Sponsor for All Seasons, Adopt-A-Wish®, Annual Community Campaigns, planned giving and Kids for Wish Kids®.
- ♥ The Make-A-Wish Foundation relies heavily on its volunteers. Chapter-wide, our corps is 450 strong and is always looking for new members to join its rank.
- ♥ The Make-A-Wish Foundation does not engage in residential telemarketing nor 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 referred between the ages of 2½ and 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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**ILLINOIS
PROGRAM CENTER**

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Collinsville, IL 62234
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*Audited figures based on Chapter's FY2004.
Basic information updated July, 2005.*

