

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DID MAKE-A-WISH BEGIN?

In 1980, a seven-year-old Phoenix, Arizona boy with leukemia wanted to be a police officer. Officers from the Arizona Department of Public Safety granted his wish with a custom-made uniform, helmet, badge and even a helicopter ride! The young boy's delight in having his wish come true inspired a group of volunteers to form the first Make-A-Wish Foundation® chapter.

HOW IS THE ORGANIZATION STRUCTURED?

Although the first chapter started in 1980, the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of America was created in 1983 to oversee the growth and development of the organization and establish consistent policies and guidelines. Today, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has 77 chapters throughout the United States and 27 international affiliates. Make-A-Wish Foundation® International was formed in 1988. For international affiliate locations, please call the international office at (602) 279-9474.

WHEN DID YOUR CHAPTER START?

Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Metro St. Louis was founded locally February 1986. Chapter status was granted June 1990 as the 73rd Chapter. The Illinois Program Center opened in Collinsville in August, 2000.

WHAT IS A PROGRAM CENTER?

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Metro St. Louis has two Program Centers (PC). The Missouri Center is housed in the Headquarters building and the Illinois Center is located in Collinsville, IL. The Metro St. Louis chapter celebrated the opening of our chapter's first volunteer-run site in Breese, Illinois. This facility enables Make-A-Wish to work even more – In the community . . .

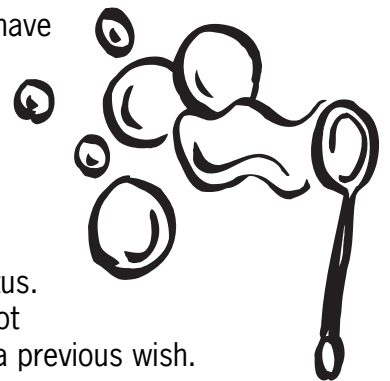
for the community . . . through the community. In other words, we do our work for area children in a community that supports us with both financially and with human resources.

All program services are conducted through these locations and chapter administration is the responsibility of the Chapter Headquarter staff.

Currently, all Missouri wishes, out-of-territory wishes and wish assists are primarily handled through the Missouri Center. Illinois wishes are the responsibility of the Illinois Center.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A WISH?

Any child under the age of 18 who has been determined by his or her physician to have a life-threatening illness. Make-A-Wish grants wishes to medically eligible children regardless of race, religion or socio-economic status. Also, the child cannot have been granted a previous wish.



For further information regarding the Make-A-Wish Foundation and criteria for qualifying children, please contact the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Metro St. Louis, (314) 918-WISH or 1-800-548-5058. In addition to a Missouri Program Center housed within its headquarters, this Chapter has an Illinois Program Center at #1A Eastport Plaza, Collinsville, Illinois 62234 and volunteer-run Community Site in Breese, Illinois at 111 N. Main Street, 62230.

MAKE··WISH®

WHERE SHOULD I CALL TO REQUEST A WISH?

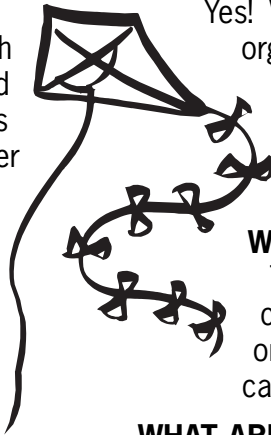
Make-A-Wish Foundation of Metro St. Louis, (314) 918-9474, in Missouri or in Illinois at the Collinsville location – (618) 343-9682, 1-800-548-5058 and Breese at (618) 526-0786.

WHO MAKES A WISH REQUEST?

Requests can be made by a parent, legal guardian, the wish child or medical professional associated with the wish child. If the initial call comes from someone other than the people listed, we ask that the child's family be notified to call directly on their own behalf.

HOW ARE WISHES GRANTED?

During an initial telephone contact, Make-A-Wish staff explains the purpose of the organization and medical eligibility requirement. After a child's medical eligibility is determined by his or her attending physician, a wish team comprised of two volunteers is assigned to the child. The team visits with the child and family to determine the child's wish. The wish team presents the request to the office, where it is processed for approval. After the request receives approval, the wish team begins to create the magic!



ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON A WISH?

Most wishes are limited only by the child's imagination.

DOES THE FAMILY HAVE TO PAY FOR THE WISH?

No! All wish expenses are fully covered, including any travel and spending money. Our objective is to provide the child and family with memories of joy that are not clouded with the worries of wish expenses.

HOW MUCH DOES GRANTING A WISH COST?

Our average total cost (direct and in-kind) for granting a wish is \$5,800, though wish costs vary and may be more or less expensive than the average.

WHAT IS THE MOST REQUESTED WISH?

Walt Disney World is the most requested wish, locally and nationwide. Nationwide, Disney World and Disneyland make up almost half of the requests. Most wish requests fall into four major categories: "I want to go ...; I want to be ...; I want to meet ...; or I want to have ...".

IS THE FAMILY INCLUDED IN THE WISH?

We make every effort to include the immediate family whenever possible.

HOW MANY WISHES HAVE BEEN GRANTED?

The number of wishes granted annually has constantly increased. In the last two years, we have averaged granting 200 wishes annually and since the organization began has granted over 1,3000 wishes. Nationwide, Make-A-Wish has granted more than 97,000 wishes since 1980.

HOW CAN I SPONSOR A WISH?

Call the Chapter headquarters at (314) 918-WISH or 1-800-548-5058.

DO YOU NEED MY HELP?

Yes! Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization and the majority of our work is accomplished through volunteers. Make-A-Wish has over 25,000 volunteers nationwide, including our chapter's corps of more than 400.

WHAT WOULD I DO AS A VOLUNTEER?

There are a variety of volunteer positions to choose from. Call the office, (314) 918-WISH or 1-800-548-5058 to find out how you can help.

WHAT ARE YOUR SOURCES OF FUNDING?

Funding is provided by corporations, groups, private donations, memorials and individual giving. A number of external fundraisers are held throughout the year and the local chapter annually hosts two major fundraisers, plus an annual campaign.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Metro St. Louis receives no funds from the United Way Campaign.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF EXPENSES GOES TO GRANTING WISHES?

Approximately 75 percent of expenses are used for purposes of Program Services. The remaining expenses are fundraising (9%) and general administration (16%).

WHAT IS YOUR ANNUAL BUDGET?

The FY2003 expense budget is \$1,326,663 (cash).

IS MY CONTRIBUTION TAX-DEDUCTIBLE?

Yes! The Make-A-Wish Foundation of America is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Contributions are deductible for income tax purposes to the extent allowed by law. Our financial statements and those of the national organization are audited by KPMG. Audit information is available upon request.

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