

25 Things You Didn't Know About The Make-A-Wish Foundation®

- 1) The mission of the Make-A-Wish Foundation is to grant the wishes of children between the ages of 2 ^{1/2} and 18 who are living with a life-threatening medical condition to enrich the human spirit with hope, strength and joy.
- 2) The organization's very first wish was fulfilled in 1980 for a young boy named Chris who wanted to be a police officer.
- 3) Our chapter, which began in 1983, was the 8th Make-A-Wish® Chapter in the United States. There are 66 chapters throughout the United States—The Make-A-Wish Foundation is available to you wherever you live.
- 4) Our chapter's very first wish child was Bryan, a seven-year-old boy who wished to go to Texas to visit his uncle for one of his uncle's famous piggy-back rides.
- 5) In 2008, our chapter will grant its 10,000th wish!
- 6) Our wishes tend to fall into four categories—gift wish, celebrity wish, travel wish and occupational wish.
- 7) During our chapter's history, over 4,400 children have wished to go to Disney World.
- 8) In 25 years, more than 880 children have enjoyed the thrill of their very own shopping spree.
- 9) Approximately 610 children have experienced a once-in-a-lifetime chance to meet their favorite celebrity or sports hero over the last quarter century.
- 10) Currently, the Greater Pennsylvania and Southern West Virginia Chapter fulfills more than 700 magical wishes each year.
- 11) Our wish kids' wishes have ranged from an adaptable computer, to being a super hero for a day, to a magical trip to Disney World and hundreds of other locations. Their imaginations know no bounds.
- 12) Any child living with a life-threatening medical condition can qualify for a wish, regardless of the family's financial status.
- 13) Every member of the wish child's immediate family (parents and siblings under 18) is invited to participate in the wish.
- 14) We are a volunteer-driven organization, with more than 900 volunteers working directly with children and their families to help make wishes come true. We offer flexibility to our volunteers and impose no time-minimum.
- 15) We have speakers available to talk to your group, your school, your workplace or your club.
- 16) You can get involved and help The Make-A-Wish Foundation by sponsoring an event, helping to fund a wish, talking to your child's PTA or teacher about holding a fund-raiser or starting a Make-A-Wish group in your workplace.
- 17) A referral is easy and takes just a few minutes. A parent, doctor, friend, teacher and even the child himself can make a referral. It is the child's doctor who lets us know if the child meets the health qualifications for a wish.
- 18) The average cost of a wish is \$3,400 and has remained that for 25 years. You can be assured that your donation will stay in our chapter's territory.
- 19) Eighty-five cents of every dollar raised directly benefits our wish kids.
- 20) We have a great website at www.wishgreaterpa.org. There are inspiring wish stories, awesome kids and lots of information about volunteering, donating and referring a child.
- 21) The Make-A-Wish Foundation continues to be about children LIVING with a life-threatening medical condition; in fact, over 80 percent of the children who have received wishes in the past 25 years are still living today.
- 22) Our chapter provides magical wishes to children throughout 80 counties in two states, and to ensure that every child is reached, we have six regional offices that report to our headquarters located in Pittsburgh.
- 23) To recognize our chapter's commitment to being fiscally responsible, we were granted 4 Stars by Charity Navigator.
- 24) We have a very loyal staff. Our five-person leadership team has more than 65 total years of service to the Foundation.
- 25) 25 years – 10,000 wishes – over \$50 million!

**If you know of a child who may qualify for a wish,
please contact us at 800-676-WISH.**