

Granting A Wish

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The Make-A-Wish Foundation is a non-profit organization that helps fulfill wishes of children who have critical illnesses. Tens of thousands of volunteers, donors, and supporters help boost the foundation and grant wishes for the children. In the United States, wishes are granted almost every 34 minutes. These wishes are for children who are eighteen and under. Patients who are a part of the foundation typically request help paying for travel, food, and accommodations.

This all started when The Make-A-Wish foundation was founded and developed on April 29, 1980, in Phoenix, Arizona. It was first created by the Phoenix community, which wanted a little boy's wish to come true. The boy was Christopher James Grecius. Christopher was a 7-year-old boy who was battling Leukemia. He wished to be a police officer, which inspired his community to come together and create a foundation that would later have an effect on millions of lives. They were able to create a turning point in Christopher's life and do the same for many other kids afterwards.

The main purpose of this foundation is to help support families and children before they might say their last goodbyes. It brings life-changing wishes to children who are suffering from critical illnesses. Wishes give families hope and strength through some of their darkest times. Ashton Ayers, a senior at Perry High School has had his wish granted from the foundation and said that he really appreciates the foundation because, "They help kids with critical illnesses have a chance to go on a vacation or meet someone famous or buy something they want." He also explained that this stuff has a huge impact on kids and their families because, "It gives them hope. It brings them happiness. And it gives them strength to fight harder against their illness." It

is recorded that 99 percent of doctors say that wishes have had an impact on families by helping them relieve traumatic stress; 75 percent of doctors also say that a wish could have an impact on a kid's medical outcome

Seven-year-old boy, Zayden, is an example of one kid who was granted a wish, giving him hope and strength. Zayden had been struggling with a heart condition that required four open heart surgeries. He wished to "blast off to Saturn in a red rocket ship." He was given "astronaut training" and then got to experience a virtual reality trip. This was the virtual reality wish that they said "[revealed] a Universe of Possibilities." Jade was another 7-year-old whose wish was granted. Jade had a genetic disorder that has required her to go through many surgeries and appointments. She wished to have a white fluffy puppy to help her and bring her comfort, confidence, and courage.

Other than wishing for things like this, many kids dream of meeting some of their favorite celebrities. A lot of celebrities are in fact involved with granting kids' wishes and helping the foundation. Singer Demi Lovato is an example of one celebrity that has made an impact on many kids. Demi has been able to grant thirty wishes. WWE fighter John Cena is a very common celebrity that kids dream of meeting. This year John Cena has been announced to have a record-breaking amount of wishes granted through the Make-A-Wish Foundation: he has granted 650 wishes. Due to kids having to be in the hospital so much, a lot of them have said that they have fallen in love with some sports that eventually has something to do with their wish. This gets sports teams and athletes involved in the foundation. This year 7-year-old Dorian got to go meet some players from his favorite NFL team, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, after attending their week nine game of the regular season. This had an impact on Dorian because he has been suffering from a genetic disease that affects his nervous system. The boy has already been able to

outlive the life expectancy his doctor had estimated. Eight-year-old Tiago also got involved with a sport. After spending so much time in the hospital due to his brain tumor, he began to love bobsledding and wished to be able to try it one day. He eventually got to go bobsledding with athletes in northern New York who became an “everlasting family” for the young boy. Hearing the news that he got to go gave him lots of courage and hope that there are better days ahead.

Many people help grant children's wishes by supporting the foundations. Ashton also said that for other people to get involved and help, “you can donate money to the foundation.” If someone were to go on wish.org they could click on the donate button and then receive many options on how they could donate. The website gives an option to donate a one-time gift or sign up for an amount to give as a monthly gift. It also gives the option of the donation destination. Whether choosing a monthly plan or just a one-time gift, it gives an opportunity for people to donate nationally, locally, or internationally. There are many places that will collect donations for the foundations. For example, when eating at a fast food restaurant there are many times where they will ask if you would like to donate to the foundation. Sometimes people are even sent to collect donations at places like grocery stores. They might have little coin bins that you can put your donation in and sometimes they might have someone sitting outside the store encouraging shoppers to help and donate.