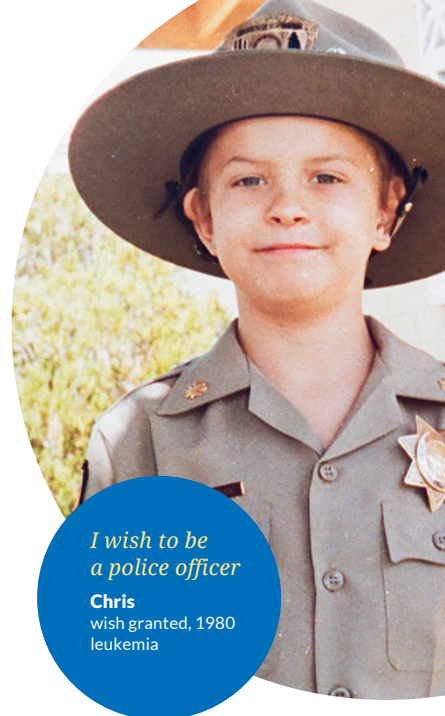


About Make-A-Wish® Philadelphia, Delaware & Suquehanna Valley

Our History

Inspired by the wish of 7-year-old Chris Greicius, whose dream of becoming a police officer sparked the creation of Make-A-Wish in 1980, the organization has grown into the nation's largest wish-granting nonprofit for children with critical illnesses. Wishes replace fear with confidence, sadness with joy, and anxiety with hope—bringing strength to children, families, and entire communities.

Since 1986, Make-A-Wish Philadelphia, Delaware & Susquehanna Valley has granted more than 8,700 wishes for local children across 13 counties in Pennsylvania and Delaware. Together with generous donors, volunteers, and community partners, we continue to create life-changing experiences that inspire hope and transform lives, one wish at a time.



Our Mission

Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

Our Vision

To grant the wish of every eligible child.

Types of Wishes



I WISH TO GO



I WISH TO BE



I WISH TO MEET



I WISH TO HAVE



I WISH TO GIVE

Fast Facts

- ★ Last year alone, we granted 70 life-changing wishes for local children in the state of Delaware.
- ★ This fiscal year, we have already granted 220 wishes across our entire chapter, bringing hope and joy to children and families facing some of life's toughest challenges.
- ★ Today, 437 children in our region are currently waiting for their wish.
- ★ For every wish we grant, there are two more children with critical illnesses whose wishes need your financial support.

Did You Know?

8 out of 10

medical providers said a wish improves a child's medical outcomes.

9 out of 10

of medical providers have observed that a wish increases a child's compliance with treatment.

8 out of 10

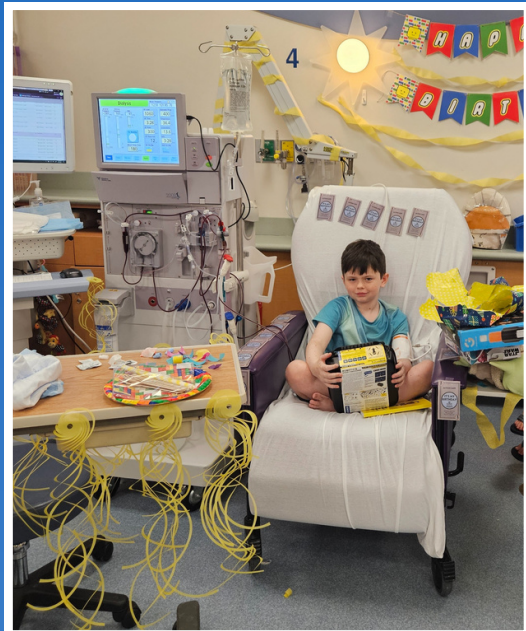
medical providers believe a wish is a necessary part of a child's medical journey.

10 out of 10

medical providers said they observed that the wish experience helps relieve families from traumatic stress related to their child's illness.

"Regardless of the specifics of a wish, they each have one thing in common: They provide hope at a time when there is not much good for a child to look forward to. Days in the hospital go faster when there is something to look forward to."

-Douglas Scothorn, M.D., Ph.D. Chairman of the Make-A-Wish America National Medical Advisory Council, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Mission Health



A Journey of Hope and Healing

At just 10 years old, Liam has already shown incredible strength and resilience. For over a year, he endured dialysis five days a week while waiting for a life-saving kidney transplant. His family made regular trips to the hospital for treatment, always staying hopeful for the day when they would receive the call they had been waiting for.

During that time, Liam's social worker referred him for a wish, and his wish journey began. Liam had his Wish Discovery meeting at the hospital, where he shared his one true wish: to have a shed. As he shared with the volunteers, "I want a place just for me to enjoy when I have to stay at home for a while after surgery. I want a place to play with my brother and have fun in the backyard." His excitement and passion for his wish were clear as he spoke about this special space he dreamed of a place where he could escape and enjoy himself during his recovery.

That call came in November, just before Thanksgiving when Liam's family received the life-changing news: a kidney match had been found. The transplant was a success, and Liam was able to go home just in time to celebrate Thanksgiving with his family. But his journey didn't stop there.

Within a week of being home from the hospital, Liam's wish came true! The shed was built in his backyard and Make-A-Wish volunteers came to decorate the inside with all of Liam's favorite things. Liam couldn't contain his excitement as he watched the shed come together and was thrilled to see it transform into his special space. The moment he stepped inside, his face lit up as he discovered it was filled with Star Wars gear, Nerf guns, and comfortable seating, perfect for him and his brother to enjoy together.

For Liam, the shed is more than just a structure—it's his private retreat, a space that gives him a sense of normalcy and joy during his recovery. Liam's mom Danielle shared, "As a mom, I can't even put into words how much Liam's shed has meant to him. He was so excited about it from the very start. He told his teachers, neighbors, family, and anyone who would listen—even while he was still waiting for his kidney transplant. He couldn't wait to have his own special place, and now that it's here, it's everything we could have hoped for and more. It's been such a bright spot during his recovery, and we are forever grateful for this amazing gift."

Today, Liam is doing wonderfully and continuing to heal while eagerly anticipating his return to school in a couple of months. His wish has truly demonstrated the incredible power of a wish. It has given him a space to call his own, where he can find comfort, joy, and a sense of normalcy during his recovery, helping him stay positive through this challenging journey.

Luci's Wish: A Dream Day as a Zookeeper

For 10-year-old Luci, what started as a simple love for animals turned into a lifelong dream of becoming a zookeeper. Thanks to Make-A-Wish, that dream became a reality during an unforgettable trip to Zoo Miami.

Luci, who has battled through a challenging medical journey that led to a liver transplant, was immersed in an animal lover's paradise. From feeding giraffes to marveling at elephants, her day was nothing short of magical. Accompanied by Zoo Miami's renowned goodwill ambassador, Ron Magill, Luci received VIP treatment, getting up close and personal with the zoo's wildlife.

"She loves every animal, getting to see them, experience them," shared Luci's mom, Elena. But for Luci and her family, this wish went far beyond just meeting animals—it was a much-needed escape from the medical challenges they had endured.

Luci's journey has been marked by perseverance. After living a healthy childhood, everything changed suddenly when her condition worsened, leading to a liver transplant. "You saw her so sick and laying in a hospital bed for so long. It kind of tore you down as a parent," Elena said, recalling those difficult days.

But that all changed when Luci arrived at Zoo Miami. Her visit wasn't just a wish come true; it was a glimpse of her old self, the vibrant, energetic girl she had been before her illness. "I see the normal little girl I saw before she got sick because she was, you know, healthy for most of her life, and then things just changed very quickly," Elena said.

Throughout the day, Luci's joy was infectious. A singing parrot serenaded her with "Happy Birthday," she held a tiny reptile that fell asleep on her, and she stood in awe beside a giant tortoise. As Magill, the zoo's ambassador, remarked, "I truly believe these animals know that these kids have faced challenges. They seem to react to them differently than they do with other people in many ways."

For Luci and her family, this day was a much-needed moment of relief, a chance to forget the hospital beds and procedures. "I asked her, you know, is there anything different that could've been done? She's like, 'It's a perfect day, this is a perfect day,' and that's all we could've asked for," Elena said.

Grateful to Luci's care team and Make-A-Wish for making her dream come true, Elena expressed how much this wish meant to them. After all the challenges, Luci's day at Zoo Miami was a reminder of hope, healing, and the power of a wish to bring a smile back to a child's face.



Soriah's Wish:

A Journey of Healing and Joy

Soriah's wish to go to Disney World was more than a trip—it was a chance for her and her family to step into a world of magic, healing, and togetherness. For a little girl who had faced more challenges than most children her age, the opportunity to escape into a place filled with wonder and joy was nothing short of transformative.

When the family finally arrived at Disney World, it felt like stepping into a dream. Castles, parades, laughter, and beloved characters surrounded them at every turn. For Soriah, who had spent so much of her young life focused on doctor's visits and treatments, this was her chance to just be a kid—carefree, joyful, and full of awe.

Her family shared:

"Soriah's wish trip to Disney World was truly the experience of a lifetime. From the moment we arrived, we were swept into a world of wonder, where every detail had been thoughtfully planned to bring joy, comfort, and ease. As parents, it's hard to describe the feeling of watching your child experience pure happiness after everything she's been through. Seeing Soriah's face light up when she met her favorite Disney princesses or when she rode the rides she had only dreamed of, those moments are etched in our hearts forever. The laughter, the awe in her eyes, the freedom in her spirit, it was all so beautiful and healing.

Even after we returned home, the spirit of the wish lingered. We still talk about the castle fireworks, the character breakfasts, and the feeling of being treated like royalty. Soriah will forever carry those moments with her, and we see how they've lifted her spirit and given her something bright to hold onto.

As a family, we've often reflected on how that time away helped us reconnect, relax, and simply be together in a way that life's challenges rarely allow. We weren't thinking about appointments, medications, or worries; we were just together, in joy."

For Soriah's family, the wish created something priceless: moments where time slowed down and all that mattered was being together. It was a reminder of how powerful joy can be, and how even the simplest things, giggles over a favorite ride, a hug from a princess, a night under fireworks, can become treasured memories that last forever.

This is the heart of a wish: creating space for pure joy, healing, and connection, no matter what challenges a family may face.



I wish to go to Disney World

Soriah, 14

genetic disorder



Make-A-Wish®
PHILADELPHIA, DELAWARE
& SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY