

Make-A-Wish[®] MAINE FAQs

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

How did Make-A-Wish start? Make-A-Wish began on April 29, 1980 when officers of the Arizona Department of Public Safety granted the wish of 7-year-old Chris, who was living with leukemia, to be a police officer for a short time. The power of that wish in his life provided the inspiration for the Foundation. Today, there are 61 chapters across the US, and more than 37 international affiliates.

When did the Maine chapter open? Caroline and Wayne Morong of Camden founded Make-A-Wish Maine on October 20, 1992.

Are you a statewide organization? YES! Since our founding in 1992, we have granted wishes to numerous children in each of Maine's 16 counties.

How many wishes are granted in Maine? Each year varies, but our average is 70 wishes per year. There are currently 90+ wishes in progress across Maine. Since our founding in 1992, our volunteers have made the greatest wish of over 1400 Maine children come true.

What is the most popular wish? Walt Disney World[®] wishes are our most popular, followed by Atlantis, room redos, computer and celebrity meetings.

Who is eligible for a wish? Any Maine child who is between the ages of 2½ and 18, has a life-threatening medical condition that is confirmed by their doctor, and has never had a wish granted before.

How do you choose between children? WE DON'T! Every child that meets our simple eligibility criteria is granted their greatest wish.

Who can refer a child to you? A parent, legal guardian, the wish child, or someone from the wish child's medical team can make a referral. We encourage anyone knowing of a child that may qualify to call our office.

Does the family pay for the wish experience? NO! All wish expenses are fully covered, including travel and spending money. Our objective is to provide the child and family with a worry-free experience.

Is the family included in the wish? YES! We make every effort to include the entire immediate family in every wish experience.

What is the cost of a wish? In the last 12 months, it took an average of \$7,000 in cash and \$2,500 in donated goods and services to grant one wish to a Maine child.

Do you conduct phone or door-to-door solicitations? NO! Make-A-Wish Maine receives many calls from confused consumers who are led to believe that we are calling or knocking on their doors for funds. Make-A-Wish NEVER conducts telephone or door-to-door solicitations.

How are your funds raised? We raise funds through the generosity of individuals and businesses, and through events conducted by us and by outside community groups. Make-A-Wish Maine is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and all contributions are tax deductible.

Do you grant wishes involving chain letters or email solicitations? NO! Make-A-Wish NEVER grants these types of wishes. We are currently aware of BOGUS chain letters. Visit the national website at www.wish.org for more information.

What percent of donations goes to fund your program? 76% of every dollar donated goes directly to granting wishes, far exceeding Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability.

How Can I Help?

What can I do to help? The most significant gift you could give us would be the referral of a qualified child. If you know of a child that might qualify for a wish, please call us. Other ways to help include volunteering and providing financial support.

What volunteer opportunities are available? We utilize volunteers in many ways, including working directly with children and families to grant wishes, working on fundraising and special events, and representing us at public events such as trade shows and speaking engagements. Most volunteer opportunities with Make-A-Wish involve a sporadic, flexible schedule and can be done within a reasonable distance of your home.

What is an Adopt-A-Wish® Sponsor? An Adopt-A-Wish sponsor is an individual, business, service club or group of friends, students, or employees that commits to contributing the approximate average cost of a wish - \$7,000- within one year. This can be done by a direct contribution or by organizing and conducting one or more fundraisers. Once your funds are contributed, you are matched with a child whose wish will be granted in your honor, and you'll have the ability to see firsthand the power of a wish that you have shared with a deserving Maine child. Please contact us for more information about "adopting a wish".

What if I can't "adopt a wish"? Contributions of any size are needed and welcomed! We hope that you are motivated to support Make-A-Wish at a level that is significant to you.

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