



Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Southern Florida - Fact Sheet

Mission The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

A wish come true for a child with a life-threatening medical condition provides a special kind of magic. It creates an indomitable spirit within the child to help sustain him or her through extremely difficult times, in hopes that miracles can be achieved. It is this renewed strength that illustrates the power of a wish.

Origin The Make-A-Wish Foundation began in 1980 with the fulfillment of the wish of a 7-year-old boy with leukemia who wanted to be a police officer. Officers from the Arizona Department of Public Safety granted his wish with a custom-made uniform, a helmet, a badge and even a helicopter ride! That one child's delight in having his wish fulfilled provided the inspiration for the Foundation. Today, the Make-A-Wish Foundation is the largest wish-granting organization in the world with 65 chapters in the U.S. and 30 affiliates across five continents.

The Southern Florida chapter was started in 1983 by the Plantation Junior Woman's Club. In the 25 years since, there has been a tremendous increase in the demand for wishes. The Southern Florida chapter has grown from granting two wishes in 1983 to granting 527 wishes in fiscal year 2008. Today, the chapter serves the children of *Broward, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Indian River, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie* counties.

Administration A 30-member Board of Directors governs the Southern Florida chapter. Board members, elected to three-year terms, are diverse in their geographic representation and professional backgrounds. Board committees assist in all phases of the Foundation's efforts: financial development, community awareness, corporate relations, special events and wish granting. Additionally, a professional staff and approximately 500 volunteers assist in the Foundation's work.

Funding The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida finances its endeavors through corporate sponsorships, special events, foundation grants and individual contributions. The Foundation does not solicit funds by telephone and receives no federal or state funding. As a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, all contributions are deductible to the extent permitted by law. The Foundation's financial statements are audited locally by Grant Thornton, LLP.

Expense Each dollar spent is allocated in the following manner:

Distribution Wish Granting 79% Fundraising 17% Administration 4%

Impact More than 175,000 wishes have been granted by all the Foundation's chapters since 1980. Because each child's wish includes the entire family, thousands of individuals are positively impacted by the Foundation's efforts each year. The Southern Florida chapter grants one wish every 16 hours and has granted more than 7,000 wishes since its inception.

Good Business The Make-A-Wish Foundation is one of the nation's first recipients of The Council of Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance Seal, signifying the Foundation's adherence to the Alliance's strict, comprehensive standards for charitable accountability.

Wish Eligibility The Foundation grants the wish of any child who is between the ages of 2 ½ -18 and diagnosed by a physician as having a life-threatening medical condition. Children may be referred by the child's physician, parents or legal guardians, social worker or other health care professional, or even themselves! The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants wishes to children regardless of race, religion or socioeconomic status. The child may not have had a wish granted by another wish-granting organization.

Wish Fulfillment Volunteer teams work out the details of each wish. These teams rely on in-kind gifts and donations from individuals and corporations as well as the generous donation of time from celebrities. The Southern Florida chapter has granted wishes of every variety imaginable. The Make-A-Wish Foundation has built a treehouse, created a fantasy prom weekend, sent children to meet favorite celebrities and planned hundreds of magical visits to *Walt Disney World*®. The Foundation has never turned down the wish of a medically eligible child.

Wish Requests Wish requests fall into the following categories:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| Walt Disney World | 29% | Other | 12% |
| Travel | 23% | Celebrity | 11% |
| Shopping Spree | 14% | Computers/Electronics | 11% |

A wish is limited only by a child's imagination. The Make-A-Wish Foundation provides the structure, but it is the child's request that determines how Make-A-Wish volunteers will turn the dream into reality.

Wish Expenses In a time that is financially stressful to the family, wish expenses are fully covered. Paid expenses include: airline tickets, hotel accommodations, rental cars, meals, passes for attractions and entertainment and spending money.

Average Cost The average cost of fulfilling a wish is \$5,000.

Web Site The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida's web site features recent wish stories and has up-to-date information on activities, how to make a donation, how to refer a child and much more. Visit www.sfla.wish.org.