



Make-A-Wish® Southern Florida - Fact Sheet

Mission	Make-A-Wish Southern Florida grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Make-A-Wish is dedicated to making every eligible child's wish come true. A wish is more than just a nice thing; a wish experience can be a game-changer for a child with a life-threatening medical condition.
Origin	<p>Make-A-Wish began in 1980 with the fulfillment of a 7-year-old boy's wish to be a police officer. That one child's delight in his fulfilled wish provided the inspiration for Make-A-Wish. Today, Make-A-Wish is the largest wish-granting organization worldwide with 61 chapters in the U.S. and in nearly 54 countries across five continents.</p> <p>The Southern Florida chapter was started in 1983 by the Plantation Junior Woman's Club. The chapter has grown from granting one wish in 1983 to granting 560 wishes in fiscal year 2015. Today, the chapter serves the children of <i>Broward, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Indian River, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie</i> counties in the United States plus children in the <i>US Virgin Islands</i>.</p>
Administration	A 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 financial development, community awareness, corporate relations, special events and wish granting. Additionally, a professional staff and more than 600 volunteers assist in the chapter's work.
Funding	Make-A-Wish Southern Florida finances its endeavors through corporate sponsorships, special events, foundation grants and individual contributions. Make-A-Wish 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 chapter's financial statements are audited locally by CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP.
Expense Distribution	Each dollar spent is allocated in the following manner: Wish Granting 77% Fundraising 18% Administration 5%
Exceptional Performance	Make-A-Wish Southern Florida has earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. This rating indicates that we adhere to good governance and other best practices. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Make-A-Wish Southern Florida from our peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.
Brand Equity	Make-A-Wish is ranked in the top 10 in 10 significant categories (ex. quality, trust, brand equity) in Harris Interactive's 2013 EquiTrend® study and is considered the #2 health nonprofit in America. The survey gauged the perception of 1,500 brands based on the responses of 40,000 consumers.
Good Business	Make-A-Wish is one of the nation's first recipients of The Council of Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance Seal, signifying adherence to the Alliance's strict, comprehensive standards for charitable accountability.



- Reach** More than 265,000 wishes have been granted by all Make-A-Wish chapters since 1980. Because each child’s wish includes the entire family, thousands of individuals are positively impacted by wishes each year. The Southern Florida chapter grants a wish every 16 hours and has granted more than 10,000 wishes since its inception.
- Wish Eligibility** To receive a wish, a child must be diagnosed as having a life-threatening medical condition by a physician and have reached the age of 2½ and be younger than 18 at the time of referral. Potential wish kids, medical professionals, parents, legal guardians and family members with detailed knowledge of the child's current medical condition can initiate the referral process. Make-A-Wish 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 coordinate the details of each wish, relying on in-kind gifts and donations from individuals and corporations. Make-A-Wish has granted wishes of every variety imaginable. The Southern Florida chapter has built tree houses, created superheroes, sent children to meet celebrities and to dream locales, and planned hundreds of *Walt Disney World*® vacations. Make-A-Wish has never turned down the wish of a medically-eligible child.
- Wish Requests** A wish is limited only by a child’s imagination. Make-A-Wish provides the structure, but it is the child’s request that determines how the volunteers will turn the dream into reality. Wish requests fall into the following categories:
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| <i>Walt Disney World</i> ® | 32% | Shopping Spree | 11% |
| Domestic/Int’l Travel | 20% | Celebrity | 8% |
| Cruise | 17% | Other | 12% |
- Wish Impact** A 2011 study conducted by TCC Group quantified the ripple effect of a wish. 97% of adult former wish kids say they experienced improved mental and emotional health. 99% of parents reported the wish experience gave their children increased feelings of happiness, while 98 percent felt the wish experience gave them the opportunity to be a “normal” family again. 89 percent of health care professionals said the wish experience can influence wish kids’ physical health. 97 percent of volunteers reported feeling more grateful and thankful as a result of helping to grant a wish.
- 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.
- Connect Online** Visit us on the web at sfla.wish.org. You can also connect with us online on: Facebook (facebook.com/makeawishsfla), Twitter (twitter.com/makeawishsfla), YouTube (youtube.com/makeawishsfla), Instagram (instagram.com/makeawishsfla) and Tsū (tsu.co/makeawishsfla).