



**Make-A-Wish Mission**

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

**Make-A-Wish Vision**

To grant the wish of every eligible child.

**History**

Started in 1983 by the Plantation Junior Woman's Club, the Southern Florida chapter has grown from granting a wish every 180 days to granting a wish every 14 hours. In its 35-year history, the organization has granted more than 11,000 wishes. The 11,000<sup>th</sup> wish came true when Madison, a 14-year-old who is battling osteosarcoma, received her own horse.

Make-A-Wish America 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 62 chapters in the U.S. and in nearly 50 countries across five continents.

**Impact**

Every eligible child who is referred will have a wish granted. And because each child's wish includes the entire family, thousands of individuals are positively impacted by wishes each year.

**Wishes Granted**

In the 2019 fiscal year, we expect to grant more than 600 wishes to local children with critical illnesses. Additionally, we anticipate granting another 175+ wishes, in collaboration with other chapters, when children come to our territory to experience their wishes.

**Expense Allocation**

More than 75% of our \$10+ million annual budget is allocated to wish granting.

**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.

**Accountability**

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.

**Territory**

Make-A-Wish Southern Florida serves children and families in 22 Florida counties in Southeast and Southwest Florida, the Tampa Bay and Suncoast regions and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Wish Types**

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. In 2018, the most popular wishes were:

Walt Disney World®	31%	Shopping Spree	11%
Domestic/Int'l Travel	23%	Celebrity	7%
Cruise	16%	Other	11%

## **Volunteers**

More than 700 dedicated volunteers support our wish-granting mission. They assist as wish granters, at special events, in the office, as airport greeters and as members of our Speakers Bureau.

## **Eligibility**

Wish children can be referred by their doctors, social workers, other health care professionals, family members, or themselves. To qualify for a wish, they must be:

- between the ages of 2½ and 18
- diagnosed with a critical illness
- live or be treated in one of the counties in our territory
- not have already been granted a wish by any Make-A-Wish chapter or other wish-granting organization

## **Average Cost of a Wish**

The average cost of fulfilling a wish in the United States is \$10,000. The average cost in Southern Florida varies by region (Tampa Bay and Suncoast regions - \$8,000, Southwest Florida - \$6,000, and Southeast Florida - \$5,000). Money is raised to grant wishes through corporate sponsorships, special events, foundation grants and individual contributions. All funds that are raised locally are used to grant the wishes of local children. 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, spending money and more.

## **Wish Children Ethnicity**

The ethnicity of the children whose wishes were granted in the 2018 fiscal year:

Hispanic	40%	Haitian	5%
Caucasian/White	32%	Other	7%
African-American/Black	16%		

## **Digital Media**

Visit us on the web at [sfla.wish.org](http://sfla.wish.org). You can also connect with us on our social media channels:

Facebook ( <a href="https://facebook.com/makeawishsfla">facebook.com/makeawishsfla</a> )	Twitter ( <a href="https://twitter.com/makeawishsfla">twitter.com/makeawishsfla</a> )
YouTube ( <a href="https://youtube.com/makeawishsfla">youtube.com/makeawishsfla</a> )	Instagram ( <a href="https://instagram.com/makeawishsfla">instagram.com/makeawishsfla</a> )