

# Have you ever made a wish come *true?*



## CHILDREN WHO QUALIFY FOR WISHES

- Are older than 2½ years and younger than 18
- Are diagnosed with a critical illness, i.e., a progressive, degenerative or malignant condition that is placing the child's life in jeopardy
- Have not previously received a wish from Make-A-Wish or any other wish-granting organization

"I see so much value in referring.
Children with life-threatening medical conditions face challenges every single day that many of us have very limited or no understanding of. It's amazing to me to have an organization like
Make-A-Wish to help them see life through a different lens. The happiness and gratitude they experience in response is palpable."

—Tonia Hoffman, school nurse and referral source, Sublette County

## EVERY WISH EXPERIENCE BEGINS WITH A REFERRAL

To respect the privacy of families we serve, children who may be eligible to receive a wish can be referred by:

- 1. Medical Professionals such as providers (doctor, nurse practitioner or physician assistant), nurses, social workers or child-life specialists.
- 2. Parents or legal guardians.
- 3. Family members with detailed knowledge of the child's current medical condition.
- 4. Children being treated for a critical illness may also refer themselves if they are capable of doing so.

#### MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Medical conditions in a variety of subspecialties may qualify for a wish. Reference sheets are available for:

Cardiology
Endocrinology
Metabolic Conditions
Gastroenterology
Genetics
Hematology
Immunology & Infectious Disease
Nephrology
Neurology & Neurosurgery
Oncology
Pulmonology
Rheumatology

To submit a referral, receive a reference sheet or learn more about eligibility, please visit **WYOMING.WISH.ORG** 



"This trip gave us a chance to escape and gave us so many opportunities to just live in the moment and live for the 'right here' and the 'right now.' It made us focus on the important things... celebrating the life of our 7-year-old cancer fighter and celebrating the challenges that we have conquered together as a family."

Cassidy, mom of wish recipient Austin

### WHY DO WISHES MATTER?

#### Wishes can provide hope

When a child is diagnosed with a critical illness, everything changes. Every conversation is about treatments or medications. In hard times, a wish provides something positive — something that's just about the wish child's dreams for the future — to think about.

#### Wishes aren't just for terminally ill children

The majority of children we serve go on to live healthy lives. We believe a wish can be part of a brighter future, and we will work with the child's medical team to determine whether the wish is medically appropriate and when it should be granted. For some wish kids, a wish marks the beginning of a return to normalcy. For others, it serves as a launching pad into taking on a new treatment. For many, it's the beginning of a new outlook.

#### Every eligible child should have a wish

Wish families come from a variety of economic backgrounds. Some families worry that if their child has a wish granted, another child might miss out.

That's not a concern. Our goal is to work with the state's medical community to make sure we have the opportunity to grant a wish to every eligible child.

#### We're here in Wyoming to serve wish kids

The Make-A-Wish Wyoming chapter is in Casper, with volunteers and supporters all over the state. Our staff will work to exceed expectations for every Wyoming wish child!

#### **IMPACT OF A WISH**

Make-A-Wish has the unique ability to transform a child and family's life during some of their most difficult times. A wish helps a child look past his or her illness, helps a family overcome anxiety and brings entire communities together in an experience of hope and joy.

In the fight against a critical illness, a wish can serve as a spark for renewed strength and encouragement for every child and family on their journey.

of parents saw their child's emotional well-being improve through the wish experience.

99% of wish alumni said their wish made them feel more joyful.

95% of parents said their wish improved their family's well-being.

95% of wish alumni said the wish helped them overcome feelings of sadness.