

# fact SHEET

MAKE-A-WISH®

ALASKA, MONTANA,  
NORTHERN IDAHO &  
WASHINGTON CHAPTER

## What is the Make-A-Wish® mission?

We grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

## How and when did the chapter begin?

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Washington granted its first wish in 1986 to Sarah who wished to go to Disneyland®. In its first year, the chapter granted six wishes. Word quickly spread about this unique and inspirational organization; in 2000 the chapter increased its service area by adding Alaska, Montana and Northern Idaho. Today, the chapter serves the largest geographic territory in the country spanning 800,000 miles with a population of 7,000,000 people.

## How many wishes has the chapter granted?

Since its inception in 1986, the chapter has granted more than 4,250 wishes to children throughout the territory. This year, we will grant 340 wishes to kids who live as far north as North Pole, Alaska and as far east as Sidney, Montana.



Photo courtesy of Don Mason Photography.

Zachariah visited Disney World on his wish trip.

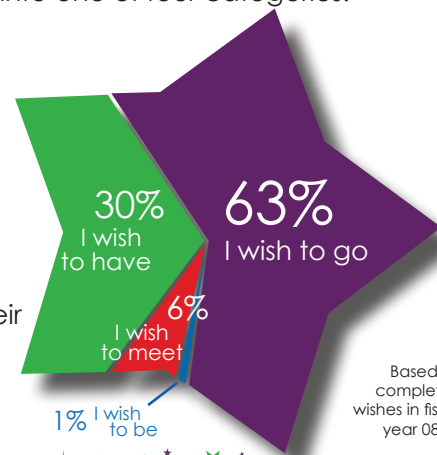
## What types of wishes are granted?

The Make-A-Wish Foundation provides spectacular wishes to the children we serve. Most wishes tend to fall into one of four categories:

- ★ "I wish to have..."
- ★ "I wish to go..."
- ★ "I wish to be..."
- ★ "I wish to meet..."

## Who can refer a child?

Eligible children may be referred to the Foundation by the children themselves, their parents or legal guardians, or by medical professionals such as physicians, nurses, social workers, child-life specialists and therapists.



Based on completed wishes in fiscal year 08-09



Photo courtesy of Folger Photography.

Kalkidan wished to meet her favorite character at Disney World.

## offices

Seattle: 800.304.9474  
Spokane: 800.207.8476  
Alaska: 877.510.9474

[www.northwestwishes.org](http://www.northwestwishes.org)



Jonathan wished for a brand new computer.



Fiona traveled to Ireland to visit her grandmother.



Gary wished to meet the crew of *The Deadliest Catch*.



Alisa went on a Disney Cruise.

## Who is eligible to receive a wish?

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is a life-affirming organization that focuses on the joy of the wish experience, not the pain and uncertainty of the child's medical condition. Before a wish can be granted, three criteria must be met:

- ★ The child must be between the ages of 2½ and 18 years old.
- ★ The child's physician must medically qualify the child.
- ★ The child must not have received a previous wish from the Make-A-Wish Foundation or any other recognized wish-granting organization.

## How is the chapter funded?

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization and is solely financed through private charitable donations and in-kind contributions. The Foundation does not participate in telemarketing, chain letters or door-to-door solicitations. Donations are tax-deductible as permitted by law. Please visit our website to learn more.

## How can I help?

You can **share the power of a wish®** by:

- ★ Becoming a wish granting volunteer
- ★ Making a charitable contribution
- ★ Donating frequent flier miles
- ★ Donating in-kind goods or services
- ★ Adopting a wish
- ★ Sponsoring an event

## About the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of America traces its beginnings to 1980 when a community of individuals rallied together to help seven-year-old Chris Greicius realize his wish to be an Arizona state trooper for a day. From that one special wish, the Foundation blossomed into a worldwide phenomenon with 66 chapters in the U.S. alone. Make-A-Wish Foundation International serves 31 countries on 5 continents. To date, the Foundation has granted more than 200,000 wishes worldwide.

## expenses BY FUNCTION



### On this page:

Jonathan's photo courtesy of the wish family.  
 Fiona's photo courtesy of Folger Photography.  
 Gary's photo courtesy of the wish family.  
 Alisa's photo courtesy of Don Mason Photography.