



2019 State Service Project Chairpersons

Katherine Kuehl, Midwest District Representative

Mrs. Lora Puckett, Midwest Adult Director

Make-A-Wish Illinois has been selected as the IAJHSC State Service Project for 2019-2020. Since 1985, this organization has granted more than 15,000 wishes to children with life-threatening conditions. At Make-A-Wish Illinois they believe that wishes are an important part of the recovery process.

The wish-making process begins with a referral. Medical professionals, parents and the children themselves are able to make this referral. Children must be from the age of 2 ½ to 18 and diagnosed with a critical illness to be medically eligible to make a wish. Wish teams are then sent to learn the child's one true wish. These volunteers connect with wish children and help them envision their wish coming true. Wish Granters create the experience driven by the child's wish. Wishes can be anything from a themed birthday party to going to Disney World.

All wishes are accepted. There is no waiting list and the family's financial status isn't considered. Make-A-Wish recently conducted a survey with the Wish Kids' families. Reportedly 81% of parents observed an increased willingness by their Wish Kids to comply with treatment protocols. 92% of parents saw their child experience

re-empowerment to take back the ability to make decisions in their lives. 85% of parents observed a decrease in their children's anxieties or fears and 92% in their siblings. These statistics show how much of an impact Make-A-Wish has on their lives.

All donations to Make-A-Wish Illinois will be used to directly sponsor a child's wish. Let's all come together to raise as many funds as possible to make these wishes a reality for as many kids as possible!

<https://illinois.wish.org>

Olivia's Wish ... to go to Hawaii

“ It was a celebration of life for Olivia and her being healthy a year later. ”

~Olivia, 17 Lymphoma