

Make-a-Wish Foundation® of New Jersey



Dear Friends,

You know the old saying, "A stranger is just a friend you haven't met yet." Keep this in mind as I share with you an experience I recently had with the father of a wish child.

Bethany, age 11, and battling Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (A.L.L.) had a wish to go to the Bahamas, what she called "the most beautiful place on earth." She first learned about the Atlantis resort a couple of years ago when she saw a picture in the travel section of her dad's newspaper, while sitting on his lap, enjoying her morning cereal. She knew immediately how to answer when our volunteers asked her last month, "If you could have one wish, what would it be?"

Upon their return from their trip, Bethany's dad, Jim, called and told me all about how wonderful she looked and was feeling, smiling and acting like the kid he remembered her to be before her illness struck. And then he asked me, "How did you get the funds to send my family on this trip...a trip that my wife and I could never have given Bethany if we lived to be a 100 years old."

I answered him simply – "It comes from folks who believe in our mission and want to share in your daughter's wish being fulfilled. They care about your little girl." Not satisfied with that answer, he pressed, "But WHY?"

I explained further, "The reasons why may vary, just as varied as "who" gives, as support comes from all types of sources each year." I gave him several examples of different donors, be it an individual, a couple or a family...companies and businesses...or even volunteers who conduct events on our behalf...there are many people who contribute, and many ways to do so. We spoke

a bit more as I gave him specific examples of each.

Now Jim seemed satisfied with my reply, and he closed the conversation with, "You've given me a lot to think about, I'll be back in touch shortly."

Later that night I received the following email from Jim:

"I feel it is important for me to share the impact of the wish experience on Bethany and my family. In short, it was exactly what she needed, and, for a marriage that has been challenged over the last two years, and for two other children who have not had a vacation trip in more than 7 years, it was just perfect, and exactly what we, as a family, needed. We all feel like we got our batteries re-charged! All we cared about was Bethany, but one day while sitting on the beach she said, 'For my wish, I just wanted to give you all something we could all share and enjoy... I hope you're having a good time... thank you for all you do for me.' My wife and I were in tears, and my two daughters jumped into the water to cover theirs'. That night after dinner, following the most incredible sunset we had ever seen, we started a new family tradition - the family group hug with an 'I love you' cheer!

"But I need to share something else, a lesson-learned for me.

The reason I wanted to know how Make-A-Wish makes it possible to help my daughter and so many other children was because I used to think that we live in a rather cynical society, however, my little

girl's experience has taught me a great many things and has humbled my wife and me on so many occasions, but mostly, it has challenged me to think differently...I mean, how could I honestly continue to think that I live in a cynical society when you explain to me that complete strangers to us wanted to help my little girl, and thereby her sisters and my wife and me, to do something that we otherwise would not have been able to do during a time that was so painful and difficult for us all...what does THAT say about a society that a group of donors to Make-A-Wish circle the wagons around my little Bethany? Cynical?? No way! Humbling, giving, self-less, generous, caring??? OH YES!"

So, on behalf of Jim, thank you for being a friend to Make-A-Wish! Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "A friend is the hope of the heart." Here's hoping our friendship continues – and that it continues to bring hope, strength, and joy to our very special wish children in the year ahead.

On behalf of the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Jersey and the children we serve, thank you for your continued friendship and support, thank you for caring, thank you for helping our children experience the joy of a wish fulfilled. Our heartfelt wishes to you and your loved ones for a wonderful holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Best wishes,

Thomas P. Weatherall
PRESIDENT & CEO

Jason's Biggest Wish is to Grant Them

What makes Jason a remarkable young man is not that he is battling a rare life-threatening illness at 12 years old. It's not that when his illness benched him from playing basketball and ice hockey, he simply took up bowling and golf. Or that he's already figured out that he wants to be a sports broadcaster.

All of these things are terrific. But what makes Jason extraordinary is his capacity – at such a young age – to take personal adversity and gratitude for a wish granted and then put it to good use helping other children who come to the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Jersey for a dream come true.

A Life-Threatening **Diagnosis**

Jason's story begins on January 11, 2002, at age 9, when on the escalator to attend a Philadephia 76ers game, he suffered a stroke. He and his family were stunned and frightened to learn that he had a rare congenital disease called Cerebral Arteriovenous Malformation that caused the stroke. This dangerous condition is marked by malformations of tangled blood vessels in which the arteries and veins are connected abnormally.

Thankfully, the stroke did not cause any long-term damage to Jason. Radiation therapy was used to shrink the malformed blood vessels, but he had to make several major lifestyle changes to thwart any future complications. That meant he couldn't do anything that would elevate his blood pressure. That meant giving up basketball and ice hockey. And for Jason, that meant everything.

"The biggest difference is that I can't play sports anymore," says Jason, a resident of Cherry Hill. "I was a good athlete."

Jason has missed sports a lot. "It made him sad to give up his favorite pastimes," says his father, Scott. It was a hard transition for

him, so when the idea of Jason getting a wish granted through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, he and his family thought it was a great idea.

The Wish

The mission of the Make-A-Wish Foundation is to grant the wishes of children between ages 2 1/2 and 18 who have a life-threatening medical condition.

"Since our inception in 1983, the New Jersey chapter has granted more than 4,400 wishes," says Tom Weatherall, president and chief executive officer of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Jersey. "This vear alone, we will grant more than 450 wishes."

Jason decided to pick a wish that would brighten his life every day. Because he loved sports yet high-contact sports were too dangerous for his medical condition - he asked for an arcade game, Arctic Thunder, that is challenging and full of action. The Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Jersey purchased the game and retrofitted it into his basement. Make-A-Wish also granted him and his family a fun-filled, jam-packed day at The FunPlex, a 25-acre indoor and outdoor entertainment center in Mount Laurel, where it was safe for him to play.

How did it feel to have his wish granted? "Ah, I can't even describe how good it was," recalls Jason.

Wish Giving

Four years later that feeling still lingers in Jason. The emotion and passion that made him feel strong and active again drove him to help other children like him. Earlier this vear, when it was time for Jason to select a community service project



MAKE (A.Wish

for his bar mitzvah, it didn't take long for him to decide: He would help other children through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"I know how great it was to get a wish granted," says Jason. "I wanted other kids to feel as good as I did."

Jason jumped in and organized a charity bowl-a-thon. Dubbed "Jason's Bowling Bash for Wishes," the event on September 9, 2005, raised a remarkable \$57,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, More than 400 individuals bowled, sponsored a lane, or were part of the event. Jason worked with Make-A-Wish staff to select seven wish recipients from the proceeds.

"Since my diagnosis, I've learned how to appreciate things a lot more," says the 12-year-old, speaking with the wisdom of someone much older. "Being able to make someone else feel as good as I did is a wonderful experience." He says he hopes to meet the recipients someday.

Jason's dad says his son was once very private about his illness and didn't like to talk about it.

"But now he can speak freely and openly about it in front of 400 people," says Scott. "He has learned that it is better to give than to receive."

"It just goes to show you that one person -either the one giving or the one receiving - can make a difference," concludes Scott.

Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Jersey President Tom Weatherall says he is humbled all the time by the caring people who volunteer to help the organization and provide once-in-a-lifetime experiences for seriously ill children, but especially when it's children helping children.

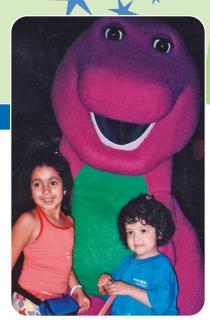
MAKE (A.W.ISH.



Alejandra, 3

"Thank you for making my wish come true. It was a wonderful experience.
I'll never forget it and I'll keep you in my heart forever...[thank you] for all your love, time, and efforts that every one of you give to make dreams come true for all the special kids."

Alejandra's Family



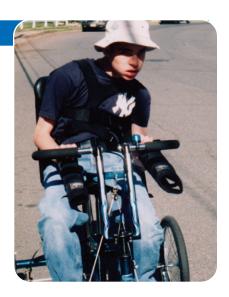


Thomas, 12

Dear Make-A-Wish,

Thank you so much for granting our son Thomas his special wish of a bicycle. Due to his disability, Thomas is not able to enjoy many things on his own, but his bicycle has given him new found freedom. Seeing him enjoy his bicycle just like other children his age brings joy to our hearts. Your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. Wishes really do come true.

Sincerely, Thomas' Family





Valeria, 7

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is for those whom have made our daughter's wish possible. Valeria and our family had the most wonderful time fulfilling her dream to go to Disney. She loved the different characters and enjoyed all the rides, games, and parties held at the park and on the Disney cruise ship. My wife and I had never before seen such excitement and happiness in our daughter. Valeria and her younger brother had a magnificent time swimming together, and playing, laughing and dancing with the many Disney characters. The memories we made will stay with us for a life time. We all sincerely thank you for making Valeria's wish come true.

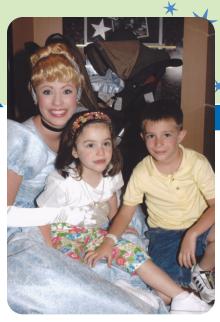
Sincerely, Valeria's Family

Box

Heather, 11

"Thank you does not express how truly grateful we are for this much needed vacation (to Atlantis)... I could not think of one thing that could have been better. It was great to have Heather forget about her illness and just think about what we were going to see or do next. Thank you for everything, it truly was a wish that came true for Heather and the whole family."

Heather's Family



Maria, 5

Dear Everyone at Make-A-Wish,

Maria had a wonderful time on the Disney Cruise. We would like to thank you so much for granting our family this special trip that we will never forget with Maria.

> Warm Wishes, Maria's Family





Karl, 15

Dear Everyone at Make-A-Wish,

Thank you so much for all that you did for K.D. After seeing the photos, he said it felt like it was the greatest birthday he ever had. He is so loved and it's such a compliment to Make-A-Wish. I'm sure that it seemed like a small idea but the thought of having a normal day with your friends and shopping without worry of price is anyone's fantasy so we thank you for making it come true. We like to send you these photos to be able to add to your bulletin board of another wonderful day you created and a lasting memory of your organization in our hearts.

God Bless, Karl's Family

Sarah, 3

Dear Make-A-Wish,

Thank you so very much for enabling Sarah's wish to go to Orlando come true! Sarah and our entire family had a once-in-a-lifetime experience at Give Kids the World and at the theme parks.

Words cannot express how much this trip benefited Sarah and all of us... to be able to forget about her medical condition, doctor's visits, needles, and hospitals was truly a blessing that brought us close together and helped us realize how blessed we are to have each other and how wonderful all the people are that help bring this together for so many children. As you can see by the enclosed pictures, Sarah's favorite by far was the carousels.

Thank you again and God Bless you all! Sarah's Family



Wish Events

Make (A.Wish.

When Irish Eyes Smile

And so they did – dozens and dozens of them at the Dangler family's annual St. Patrick's Day party last March. The "must go-to" fundraising event –featuring Irish music, food, and drink – was held immediately following the West Orange St. Patrick's Day parade in the parking lot behind the Dangler's funeral home. The 2005 event raised nearly \$30,000, which funded four wishes of children in Essex County. Since they started the event 11 years ago, the Danglers have raised more than \$200,000 for MAWFNJ.

Remember the King Pin

When we lose a young person unexpectedly and suddenly, a community comes together to mourn. As part of the healing process, family and friends gathered to celebrate the life of Ryan West on July 18, 2005 for an inaugural outing, dubbed Remember the King Pin. Ryan West was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident at age 19. More than \$25,000 was raised, with major support from State Farm agents and employees. Ryan's father, Scott, is a State Farm agent. The funds were used to grant two phenomenal travel wishes: one child traveled to Atlantis in Paradise Island, Bahamas and the other traveled to Italy.



Blue Knights Motorcycle Run

The Harvey C. Irons Memorial Run on October 16, 2005, sponsored by the Blue Knights® NJIX, brought out avid cyclers from New Jersey to Sussex County, who participated in this one-hour police escorted ride through the county to raise money for Make-A-Wish. The Blue Knights is an organization comprised of Law Enforcement Officers who ride motorcycles and work to promote the positive image of motorcycling, while at the same time raise funds for area charities and persons. The NJIX Chapter averages raises about \$100,000 each year in donations that are then distributed to a variety of very important causes. The Irons Memorial run is named in honor of Blue Knights Nick Irons' father, who was a great supporter of Make-A-Wish. This year's run totaled about \$40,000 in gifts. A major supporter of the event was the Freewheelers Car Club 1, Inc., a charitable organization established to assist charities helping children, under the direction of President Rich Muchenski. A special thanks to Blue Knights Nick Irons and Jeff Hunker, who organized this successful event.

Square Dancing Fun for Everyone

Thanks to a dedicated – and funloving – group of registered Make-A-Wish volunteers the "Wild, Wild Wish" Square Dancing event was organized and raised \$27,000. The event was held on Saturday, October 15, 2005, at the Spring Lake Day Camp in Ringwood, NJ. Complete with a square dance caller, mechanical bull rides, raffles, silent auction, and tricky tray, fun was had by all. Special thanks to the National Honor Society of West Windsor/ Plainsboro High School South, who came out and volunteered to help make this event such a success.

Community Service at Its Best

There's more to being a Boy Scout than learning how to build a campfire and pitch a tent. Just ask Zac Petrucci, 11, of Sparta, who decided that he wanted to send a child to Disney World. The idea came to him following an annual family trip to Disney, when his mother gently reminded him that there are other children not as fortunate and healthy as him to get to travel to Disney each year. This inspired Zac to raise money to send a child to Disney. He went to his troop and asked for their help. Together, they organized a beefsteak dinner at the Sparta Fire House and raised \$6,400 for Make-A-Wish. Those funds will go directly to grant the wish of a Sussex County child who wishes to go to Walt Disney World.

Dishes for Wishes

Make-A-Wish volunteers have done it again! On Sunday, October 16, the group sponsored its Sixth Annual Dishes for Wishes benefit for Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Jersey. The event, "On the Boardwalk," was held at Merri-Makers at the Water's Edge in Sea Bright. The evening included dinner, dancing, a silent auction, and games of chance. This year the event raised more than \$25,000 for MAWFNJ. During the past few years the event has raised in excess of \$125,000.

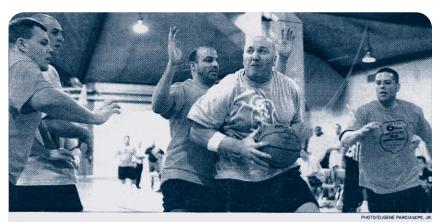
This annual event was inspired by MAWFNJ volunteer Susan Gronbeck, who is from Monmouth County. When she became an official Make-A-Wish volunteer several years ago, she realized that there were no fund raising events in Monmouth County. She and fellow volunteers, along with a local restaurateur, came up with the idea of a food tasting event. The first event included 20 local Monmouth County restaurants and has since grown substantially. All the decorations and auction items are completely donated to keep overhead costs to a minimum to maximize the amount of funds that are donated to Make-A-Wish.

Save the Date!

On May 19, 2006, very special friends of Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Jersey will be honored at the MAWFNJ's annual gala. The gala event, to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Jersey City, is a major component of Make-A-Wish's fundraising efforts. Last year's event was attended by more than 500 supporters.

Battle of the Blue

They came out in full force to compete against one another to make a wish come true for New Jersey Wish children. Police officers from 21 departments throughout Bergen County headed to the basketball courts at the Rothman Center at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, N.J., on March 30, 2005, to hold the "Sixth Annual Battle of the Blue" Basketball Tournament. Over the years, the event has raised more than \$64,000. This year's event raised over \$8,700. "Battle of the Blue" participants will once again take on the challenge at the 2006 event, to be held on March 29 at the Rothman Center.



Police Officer Jerry Molion looks to score as the Allendale Police Department team played against the West New York Police Department at the "Battle of the Blue" fundraiser. Donations and proceeds from the game will benefit the Make a Wish Foundation of New Jersey.

Why we volunteer

Sharing in a

eyes when we tell them that their wish will come true is the most intense feeling in the entire world! My mother and I cannot think of a better way to spend our time then with these courageous and magnificent children. Their strength and determination is an inspiration to both of us and volunteering for Make-A-Wish is a dream come true for us every time we meet a new child and their family. As a child life specialist, working with children battling life-threatening illnesses everyday, I see first hand the power and magnitude that a wish can have not only on a child, but on their family as well. A wish provides hope, strength, and joy and allows a child the opportunity to simply put, be a kid. It is an honor for my mother and I to volunteer for such an amazing mission, and we plan on helping the Foundation grant many many more wishes throughout the years ahead.

- Anna Ferrante MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION OF NJ VOLUNTEER 8

Make Wish.

Giving Them the Ride of Their Lives

For David Seelinger, the motivation behind his support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Jersey are the children – his own two daughters, Madison, 5, and Dakota, 9 months, plus the many of wish children his companies have driven in style.

The president and CEO of Empire International and the newly acquired CLS Worldwide, two luxury chauffeured transportation companies headquartered in Norwood, N.J., Mr. Seelinger says that words cannot express how he feels about the bravery of the children for whom his companies' limousines and drivers provide rides to their wishes.

"When you have two healthy children, you just can't imagine what these families are going through and it makes me want to do everything we can to help make these children's wishes come true," says Mr. Seelinger, who lives in Upper Saddle River and Los Angeles with his wife, Michelle, and their girls.

The limousines and luxury vehicles of Empire International and CLS Worldwide transport clients to their destinations all over the world. But to Mr. Seelinger and his staff, the children of Make-A-Wish are the true VIPS. Time and again, he says, his chauffeurs – the unsung heroes



Volunteer Highlight:

Empire International is one of the leading participants in Limousine Digest's annual Limo Digest Show, which includes a charity auction whose proceeds go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Jersey. Pictured (I-r) are Tom Weatherall, MAWFNJ President & CEO; Paige Armstrong, a wish child from the Philadelphia MAW Chapter who performed at the event, two auction winners, and David Seelinger.

on the frontline of the wishes – relate to him the pleasures they encounter as they drive children to their destinations.

"Often the chauffeurs are so moved by the experience, whether it's taking a boy to Yankee Stadium or a girl to Six Flags Great Adventure or a teenager from store to store on a shopping spree to New York City," says Mr. Seelinger. "We're so grateful to be a part of Make-A-Wish and will continue to help out."

For the past three years, Empire International has provided more than \$100,000 worth of limousine rides for wish children. In addition, Mr. Seelinger has served as the auctioneer for several years at the annual Limo Digest Show's charity auction to support Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Jersey. "When something doesn't get bid on, I usually buy it," he confesses.

Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Jersey President & CEO Tom

Weatherall says he is grateful for the support of Mr. Seelinger and his entire company: "Wish children feel like VIPs, (and aren't they though) when they are whisked off to their wish destinations. No matter what the wish, Empire International has helped us to create magical experiences for our children."



The Annual Make-A-Wish Foundation® "Walk for Wishes"

Hundreds of walkers came together on October 1, 2005 at Campbell's Field in Camden, and on October 15, 2005 at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Jersey. The participants, comprising of wish children and their families, Make-A-Wish volunteers, and many corporate and individual friends of the Foundation,

took part in this MAWFNJ signature grassroots fundraising event. Proceeds from "Walk for Wishes" support our wish-granting mission so that every medically-eligible child in New Jersey can experience the magic of having a wish granted! This year, nearly \$100,000 was raised for our wish granting program.

A special thank you to our sponsors: UAW-GM, Starbucks, Manhattan Bagel, Camden Riversharks, Camden Parking Authority, SoJO 104.9 FM radio, KTU 103.5 FM radio, Commerce Bank, New York Sports Club, Avis, Peerless Water, and the countless volunteers who helped make the events a success.











- 1 Janelle's Dream Team walked Oct. 1 at our first South Jersey Walk at Campbell's Field in Camden, NJ.
- 2 Miss New Jersey 2005, Julie Robenhymer, with a wish child and member of the "Walk for Wishes – Dream Team."
- 3 Tommy, a wish child, with MAWFNJ President & CEO, Tom Weatherall, kick off our "Walk for Wishes" on Oct. 15 at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, NJ.
- 4 Jeremy's Dream Team lead by his mom, Tina, came out in full force, with more than 100 team members, some even arriving by bus.

Here's How You Can Make a Wish Come True

MAKE (A.W.ISH.

Make an Individual Donation

Your tax-deductible contribution plays a critical role in helping to make wishes come true for children facing life-threatening illnesses. Whether it is \$10, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, or more, please know that whatever amount you decide to contribute will help us fulfill the fondest wishes of New Jersey wish children this year. Also, did you know that many companies will match employee giving? This is a great way to increase your donation by two, three, even four times. For your convenience, please use the enclosed reply envelope in making your donation. To make giving even easier, we accept major credit cards and electronic transfers.

Adopt a Child's Wish

The Adopt-A-Wish Program enables you, your family, your business, or organization to proudly sponsor a child's wish and make his or her dream come true. Please call us today to find out more information about our most popular program. Please call Karen M. Moore at 800-252-9474.

Become a Corporate Partner

Many New Jersey-based companies have asked their employees to suggest a non-profit that could be selected as a recipient of a companywide giving campaign and/or an outright gift from the corporation. There are many ways for you and your company to support Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Jersey, call us to find out how your company can get involved.

Leave a Legacy

One of the best known and most frequently used methods for making a gift to Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Jersey is by a bequest or other planned giving instrument. A simply worded phrase in your will, such as, "I bequeath (any gift you desire) to Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Jersey to establish an endowment for the use and benefit of the Foundation or to add to such endowment if it already exists," will ensure that your favorite charity is remembered in the way you want and it allows you to take pride in your gift today.

Honor a Special Person with a Tribute or Memorial

Make a donation in honor of someone special for a birthday, anniversary, wedding, or some other special occasion, and we will send the honoree a note acknowledging your gift. Many of our donors choose to make a donation in lieu of flowers in memory of a friend or loved one who has passed away. What a beautiful way to help keep a loved one's memory alive...alive in the smile and joy it brings to a wish child.

Donate Airline Miles

Nationally, the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Jersey estimates it will need more than 800 million frequent flier miles to fulfill every child's travel request this year. By donating your miles, you can help make many of these wishes come true. For a complete listing of participating airlines and detailed contribution procedures, please visit www.wish.org or email us at jersey@wishnj.org.

Organize a Special Event

Join the many individuals and corporations who organize special fundraising events for Make-A-Wish. These include golf outings, wine tastings, motorcycle rides, sporting events, carnivals, art auctions and much more. Each special event helps a very deserving child realize his or her dream.

Let Us Speak to Your Organization

If you would like more information about Make-A-Wish, we welcome the opportunity to speak with your group, business, or organization.

Contact Us.

If you have questions about these or any other giving opportunities or would like more information, please call Karen M. Moore at 800-252-9474. If you are in the South Jersey Counties, please call Hope Feldscher at 888-600-9474. You can also email us at jersey@wishnj.org











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DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Angela Xon

RECEPTIONIST

Two Picnics, One Result:

Their wishes have been granted. Their memories etched in scrap books and photo albums. But their friendships remain. That's what happens when you join wish children and their families with our Make-A-Wish family of volunteers and staff. There is a profound connection. A connection that was celebrated this past fall

at the MAWFNJ annual Wish Family Picnics. The North Jersey picnic was held on Sunday, September 18 at Bristol Myers Squibb in New Brunswick, NJ. The South Jersey Picnic was held on Sunday, September 25 at The Funplex in Mount Laurel, NJ.

- Whether you're into balloon hats or just need a hug, this MAWFNJ Family Picnic brought together wish families and volunteers from throughout North Jersey.
- 2 South Jersey wish families spent their day at The Funplex, where they partook in numerous fun activities together.













Make-A-Wish Foundation® of New Jersey

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Did You Know

Make-A-Wish Foundation® never solicits funds over the telephone. If you receive a call asking for a donation, it is NOT from Make-A-Wish Foundation.® We keep our lists of donors confidential. We do not sell or trade our donor lists with any other business organization.