

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Committee Members & Fund Advisors.

Date: November 6, 2019

Contact Information

Organization Name: Make-A-Wish® Phila., DE & SV
Address: 5 Valley Square, 210, Blue Bell, PA 19422
Phone: 215-987-3147
Website: philadesv.wish.org
Year Incorporated: 1986
FEIN: 22-2755963

CEO Name: Dennis J. Heron
CEO Email: dheron@philadesv.wish.org
Board of Directors Chair: Andrew F. Smith
Primary Contact Name: Karen Traten
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Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes ___ No Not Sure ___
Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes No ___ Not Sure ___
___ Donor Advised Fund(s) ___ Fund for Chester County Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

___ Arts, Culture & Humanities ___ Environment/Animal Welfare ___ Education
___ Health Human Services ___ Religion

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): We serve Chester County, the surrounding counties in Southeastern PA, the Susquehanna Valley and the state of Delaware.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served: Make-A-Wish serves children with critical illnesses up to the age of 18. In FY19 we served 319 children and families; 32 resided in Chester County.

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

Proposal Summary: Wishes provide kids hope when they need it most. Research shows they have effects on children's overall well-being and health outcomes. In fact, wishes have proven physical and emotional benefits that can give children with critical illnesses a higher chance of survival. We are seeking new partners to help fund our work for children living in Chester County and the areas surrounding it. For more information about wish impact, please visit: <https://wish.org/impact>

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is: N/A

___ Mission, Vision & Strategy ___ Governance & Leadership ___ Strategic Relationships
___ Fundraising & Development ___ Technology Other: _____

| | |
|--|---|
| Annual Budget \$6,651,000 | 20 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff |
| 82% of budget for program expenses | 19 # of Board Volunteers |
| 9% of budget for administrative expenses | 219 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers |
| 9% of budget for fundraising expenses | 3200 # of Volunteer Hours |
| 100 % total | |

Top 3-5 funding sources: DLL Group, US Restaurants, Turn5

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$11,000



[Make-A-Wish® History and Mission](#)

In 1980, 7-year-old Christopher James Greicius wished to be a police officer for a day. Little did he know that his wish would create a movement that would transform millions of lives. Chris' wish inspired the eventual creation of Make-A-Wish. And since Chris' life-changing experience, Make-A-Wish has granted the wishes of hundreds of thousands of children battling critical illnesses all around the world. With each wish, comes renewed strength and encouragement for every child and family we serve. We believe that wish experiences will continue to play a vital role in a child's treatment, serve as encouragement on a family's journey and provide a source of inspiration for millions of people.

Founded in 1986, Make-A-Wish® Philadelphia, Delaware & Susquehanna Valley has granted over 6,700 wishes--319 in FY19 alone. We serve the following counties in Pennsylvania: Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Montgomery, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and Philadelphia and the state of Delaware. To learn more about our chapter, please visit philadesv.wish.org

[Who is eligible?](#)

Medically eligible children are between the ages of 2½ and 18 (at the time of referral) and have been diagnosed with a critical illness. Children are ineligible if they received a wish from another wish-granting organization. The child's physician, certified nurse practitioner or certified physician assistant determines whether a child is medically eligible to receive a wish. In our area, it is estimated that some 450+ children are diagnosed each year with medical conditions that qualify them for a wish.

[Wish Process](#)

- **Step 1: Wish Referral**
Out of respect for the privacy of the children and families we serve, only these sources may refer a child: a medical professional treating the child; the child's parents or legal guardians; the potential wish child; another member of the child's family who possesses sufficiently detailed information to make a complete referral.
- **Step 2: Determining the Child's Eligibility**
Children older than 2½ and younger than 18 (at the time of referral) who are diagnosed with critical illnesses may be eligible for a wish. The treating physician, certified nurse practitioner or certified

physician assistant determines whether a child is medically eligible to receive a wish. A child also must not have received a wish from another wish-granting organization to qualify.

- **Step 3: Choosing a Wish**

Once the child is deemed medically eligible, we send one of our enthusiastic wish teams to learn the child's one true wish. Our passionate volunteers help children explore their imaginations for the experience that will thrill and inspire them.

- **Step 4: Making a Wish Come True**

Our wish granters create an unforgettable experience driven by the wish kid's creativity. The experience enriches the lives of the children, their families and sometimes their entire community. All members of the wish kid's immediate family take part in the wish whenever possible, and all expenses are fully covered by Make-A-Wish – giving the wish children and their families a respite from the stress of dealing with a critical illness.

Funding Sources

Make-A-Wish® is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization that finances its work through generous contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and events in the local community. Make-A-Wish does not raise funds by door-to-door, telephone solicitation methods or receive funding from federal programs. In-kind donations of goods and services such as frequent flier miles and hotel loyalty points also help finance our mission. 82% of expenses are devoted to the mission – far exceeding the program service allocation standards set forth by the nation's leading charity watchdog groups, including the Council of Better Business Bureaus' Wise Giving Alliance.

Goals

The core of our mission is wish-granting: thus, our primary goal is to continue to increase the number and quality of wishes we grant so that we can maximize our impact on the community.

Objectives:

- To conduct at least 340 wishes by August 31, 2020.
- To provide human resources sufficient to discharge the mission of Make-A-Wish by: a) training new volunteers (including Spanish speaking) needed to conduct wish granting, b) maintaining necessary paid staff to support operations.
- To continue building awareness among the medical community, especially pediatric professionals, social service agencies, and the community-at-large about Make-A-Wish and its mission serving critically ill children.

The Need

There are over 450 local children in the wish pipeline. Every one of these kids needs a wish to give them strength and help them heal.

Applications are received every day and are fulfilled continuously throughout the year. With the recent expansion of our chapter geographical footprint, there is a greater number of referrals from doctors and health professionals. Too many children are not getting everything they need to help them fight their illnesses. Increased funding is needed to reach these children each year.

Wishes have proven physical and emotional benefits that can give children with critical illnesses a higher chance of survival. And wishes not only help these children – they also have far-reaching, positive impacts on their families and communities. Medical professionals view a wish as an important part of the child's medical journey, and a way of offering a child something they can't give. Please consider joining us as a partner in wish granting.

Wish Impact Feedback from Local Parents

"She definitely felt like a little rock star during the whole trip and knew she was the reason we were all their together. She knows she's special but this wish truly proved to her just how awesome she is. Her confidence increased and her smile never faded. Even with her sight gone, she was able to enjoy the trip to its fullest."

Aydriana's Disney World Wish

"Emy's overall quality of life and happiness on this earth has been enhanced by having a backyard pool. She loves water! Our favorite part of the wish experience is that we get to continue to make memories with Emy, together as a family, daily!" **Emy's Above Ground Pool Wish**

"It was the most refreshing thing to see our daughter relaxed, without a care in the world, experiencing new things and forgetting for once that she is sick. Life with CF isn't easy, it's not glamorous and it's frequently scary. CF is one of those diseases that hides in plain sight, where no one knows it's there, but the family affected feels it every moment of every day. One of the treatments for CF is salt water - typically received via hypertonic saline and a nebulizer. On this trip, both of our girls were able to swim (and surf!) in the ultra salty Pacific Ocean, and would you believe that the simple act of being able to do that meant that they didn't need their salt treatments at all the entire time we were there? It was a little gem of a bonus gift for us to allow them to receive mother nature's salt instead of from a machine. We are all thankful and forever grateful to Make A Wish for this opportunity of a lifetime." **Jessica's Hawaii Wish**

"The hot tub is great for Ankita's self-image. She usually wears a long-sleeved swim shirt to hide her large, scarred arm. When she is in her hot tub at home she can wear a regular suit and not feel self-conscious. She loves it and it's great that she can be comfortable not having her arm covered." **Ankita's Hot Tub Wish**

"We were benefitting from his wish before we even left. It became the focus for so many months." After years of attention and focus on Von's illness, the hot topic around the dinner table became something fun-Von's upcoming wish. While in Hawaii, his mom said, "we would catch him just relaxing and smiling. It was a total recharge for our entire family. You don't think about when's the next lab draw." **Von's Hawaii Wish**

"When your life turns upside down in a flash, you need help and support in so many areas. Of course, your family, friends, and spiritual support is critical. The medical needs are gigantic. But nobody brings the smiles to sickness like Make-A-Wish. They are the fun side of being critically ill. What it meant to Halle and our entire family was actually much more than the wish itself. In the midst of horrific circumstances and a future filled with uncertainty, it meant excitement and hope. It meant something wonderful to think about and dream about...a distraction from the daily bad of an aggressive, painful treatment program. Halle's granted wish of a trip to Paris was a major turning point in her recovery. Leading up to the trip, she could hardly contain her excitement. The anticipation was intoxicating. After the trip, she was so pumped up with the memories, and she did not stop smiling." **Halle's Paris Wish**