



LOCAL WISHES LASTING IMPACT

2025 Prince Edward Island Impact Report

With Gratitude: A Letter to You

On behalf of Make-A-Wish® Canada, thank you for the generosity and belief that make our work possible. Your support continues to deliver meaningful impact for children with critical illness and their families across Prince Edward Island.

Children facing critical illness endure far more than physical symptoms; they experience prolonged uncertainty, fear, and emotional strain. A wish intervenes at a pivotal moment, providing more than joy or distraction. Wishes help restore hope, strengthen resilience, and support emotional well-being at a time when it is needed most. **Wishes Are Medicine.**

As a supporter in Prince Edward Island, you are an essential part of this impact. This report highlights how your generosity translates into measurable outcomes and real experiences for children in your community — from key statistics and insights to stories that reflect the depth of change a wish can create.

Your commitment ensures that more children can access this critical intervention when they need it most. As Wish Mom, Jessie, shared: “I truly felt [my daughter] had given up on her fight. Experiencing her wish was a breath of fresh air, and post-wish she is happier, more content, and has regained her willingness to endure medical procedures along with a happy spirit that shines so brightly. Having her personality restored is the biggest win I could have ever asked for.”

Thank you for believing in the power of a wish and for helping deliver hope, strength, and healing to wish kids and families across Prince Edward Island.

With sincere appreciation,



ABOUT MAKE-A-WISH CANADA — Make-A-Wish Canada creates life-changing wishes for children diagnosed with critical illnesses. **Wishes Are Medicine** — a vital part of a child’s medical journey that helps restore strength, hope, and resilience. Research shows that prescribed wishes can improve adherence to treatment, reduce emergency room visits, and deliver lasting health benefits.

Make-A-Wish Canada is part of the world’s leading children’s wish-granting organization, serving children in communities across Canada and in 50 countries worldwide. Over the past 43 years, Make-A-Wish Canada has granted more than 40,000 wishes, including 1,835 last year alone.

(On the cover: Navy, 3, I wish to go to my favourite theme park)

Not All Medicine Comes in a Bottle

Wishes Are Medicine

Every day across Canada, children face critical illnesses no child should have to endure. In these moments, hope, strength and resilience matter more than ever. With your support, they receive something research shows is a powerful part of their care: a wish prescription that supports their medical journey and reminds them they are so much more than their diagnosis.



“Having a wish to look forward to definitely helped Millie get through her treatments. When she felt like she couldn’t handle another poke or IV, we reminded her of seeing dolphins soon and she would muster up her strength.”

Pamela, Millie’s mom

[Click to watch Millie’s story](#)



95% of surveyed doctors believe wishes improve health outcomes.

Patients who received a wish reduced their likelihood of using the emergency room by half.

95% of surveyed medical providers observed that wishes gave children strength to fight their critical illness.

Medical Advisory Committee



“There are reasons why some people do better than others, and we don’t always know what they are. Sometimes it’s the power of positivity, the power of hope, the power of kindness, and that can literally make the difference in people’s care.”

Dr. Sarah Dyack, Medical Geneticist, IWK Health Centre
Make-A-Wish Canada Medical Advisory Committee

[Click to learn more from Dr. Sarah Dyack](#)



Strength in Simplicity – Gibson’s Wish



I wish to go to my favourite theme park

Gibson, 6
neuromuscular disorder

Gibson is a smart, silly, and courageous boy who dreams of becoming a fisherman. But his life has been anything but ordinary. In January of 2022, Gibson’s family heard the words neuromuscular disorder for the first time. The news came when he was just three years old and struggling to climb stairs and jump. “The diagnosis was devastating, we felt isolated and alone,” remembers Gibson’s mom, Jill.

Now at six years old, Gibson has lived through more medical appointments than most people experience in a lifetime. While he tires easily and sometimes cries from sore legs after a busy day, his joyful spirit and unwavering determination continue to shine through, inspiring everyone around him.

His wish to visit his favourite theme park was a chance to step away from the medical world and be a kid again. From meeting beloved characters to swimming in the pool and riding the rides, every moment for Gibson was amazing. But the true highlight? “Eating popcorn every day,” says Gibson.

For Gibson and his family, his wish was more than a vacation; it was a celebration of resilience, love, and healing. “Watching Gibson light up with joy reminded us how powerful the simplest moments can be,” shares Jill. “We’ll forever cherish these memories. The power of Gibson’s wish knows no bounds.”



A Wish That Lasts – Jonas’ Wish

Jonas was a joyful and thriving three-year-old until a sudden infection led to kidney disease, ultimately causing him to lose kidney function. “Jonas was airlifted to the regional children’s hospital, and we faced the darkest days of our lives, unsure if he would survive,” remembers Jonas’ mom, Heather.

In the years that followed, Jonas bravely endured regular dialysis, frequent hospital stays, and nine surgeries. His daily routine was filled with strict medication schedules, routine bloodwork, and ongoing transplant biopsies. In May 2024, after many long years of treatments, Jonas received his life-saving kidney transplant. “Because his transplant kidney is in the front of his belly, Jonas must avoid contact sports and other dangerous activities, which can be very hard for a boy,” says Heather. Even with his post-transplant restrictions, Jonas is becoming a more typical and active eight-year-old with each passing day.



When Jonas thought about his wish, he originally leaned towards travel but decided to wish for something he could enjoy every day: a game room! His new space included a PlayStation 5, a virtual reality system, and all the bells and whistles a gamer could dream of. Jonas was speechless when he saw his wish come true. “Opening all the boxes and finding out what was inside was the best part,” recalls Jonas.

Today, Jonas is always in his game room and calls it his favourite place in the world. “Jonas’ wish brought light into a very dark time. We’re so grateful to Make-A-Wish for bringing happiness and hope to Jonas’ life,” said Heather.

I wish to have a gaming room

Jonas, 8
kidney transplant

Wishes by the Numbers

132

Wishes granted in Atlantic Canada in FY25

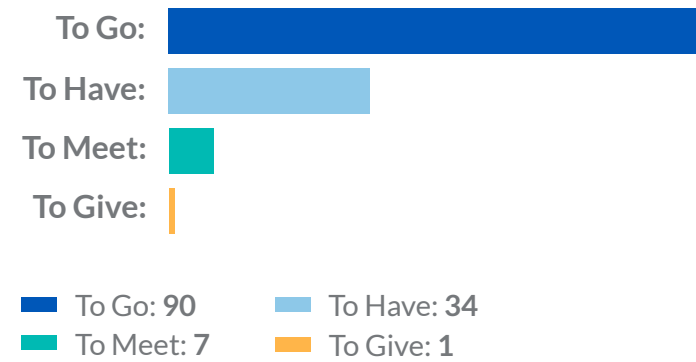
1,835

Wishes granted in Canada in FY25

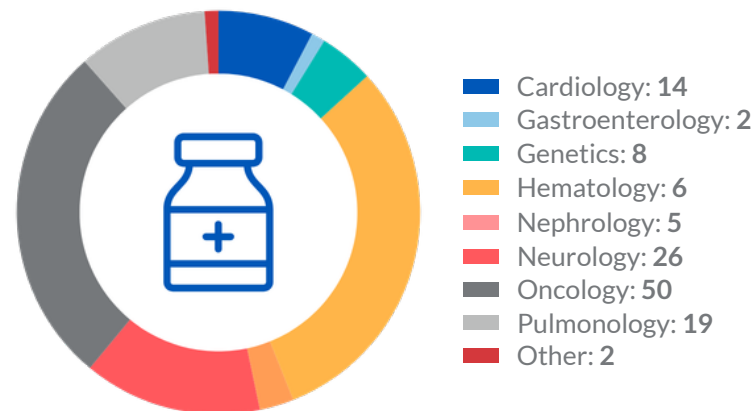
92

Communities wishes were granted in Atlantic Canada in FY25

Wishes by type in Atlantic Canada: 132



Wishes by Illness in Atlantic Canada:



Every 2 hours...

a child in Canada is diagnosed with a critical illness

3,531 Wishes Are Waiting

in Canada as of October 1, 2025

126 referrals

were received in Atlantic Canada in FY25

Want to Learn More?
Click to view our FY25 Annual Impact Report.

Wish Leadership

Celebrating those who guide, inspire, and support wishes across Prince Edward Island.

STARboard unites wish alumni ages 13 to 18 who volunteer to be a voice for wish children. Their advice, event support, and ambassador work help Make-A-Wish Canada better respond to the needs of wish families across the country.

Meet Your STARboard Member: Canon

“Hello, my name is Canon, and I’m 14. When I was 11, I started having pain in the left side of my stomach. After months of scans, doctors found a mass on my kidney, and I had to have my entire left kidney removed. I was diagnosed with cancer and began seven months of intense chemotherapy. Losing my hair and feeling sick week after week was difficult, but learning I was eligible for a wish gave me something to look forward to and helped me stay positive.

I’m obsessed with all things Halloween, so I wished to go to the largest Halloween convention in the world as a YouTuber! Getting to cut the ribbon to open the show, explore the massive floor, and connect with other Halloween fans was unforgettable.

I joined the STARboard because I know the impact a wish can have on a child going through treatment. A wish allows someone to dream each day instead of worrying. I’m excited to use my creativity and passion to help make a difference in other children’s lives, just like Make-A-Wish did for me.”



Chapter Advisory Board

Prince Edward Island’s Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) supports Make-A-Wish in delivering fundraising and wish-granting efforts across the province. We are deeply grateful to the volunteers who share their expertise, time, and leadership.

Jeanette Wakelin (Chair)

Mike Fitzpatrick (Vice Chair)

Grant Canvin

Jordan Fraser

Kathleen Casey

Kent Scales

Mona Jeffery

Pam August

Robert MacKinnon

Wish Granting Excellence

Generosity takes many forms. Here's just a few examples of how supporters in Prince Edward Island are helping grant life-changing wishes.

HMCS Charlottetown Run for Wishes

For 22 years, HMCS Charlottetown has brought the community together to support children with critical illnesses. Over five days, the crew ran across Prince Edward Island in a relay, raising funds to help fulfil life-changing wishes. In 2025, they set out to surpass last year's goal of \$50,000 and succeeded, raising almost \$60,000. Each step reflects the dedication of the crew and the collective effort of the community, turning determination into hope and creating lasting moments of joy for children and families.



Trees of Joy PEI

Trees of Joy PEI celebrated its third year on December 1, 2025, at the Delta Prince Edward Hotel in Charlottetown. Eleven beautifully decorated trees highlighted the creativity and care of sponsors, volunteers, and wish families. Guests experienced firsthand the joy that a wish can bring as children paraded to find their personalized tree. Sponsors like Peakes Quay, who have been supporting wishes since 2005, demonstrate the lasting impact of generosity. Through this magical event, the community comes together to celebrate courage, resilience, and the transformative power of a wish.



Olde Dublin Pub

For 16 years, the Olde Dublin Pub has supported Make-A-Wish Canada through pancake breakfasts, St. Patrick's Day 50/50 draws, and special events like their 40th birthday celebration. In 2025 alone, they raised over \$3,000. Owners Kent MacPhee and Kent Scales understand the impact of a wish on children and families, and their consistent support demonstrates how local businesses can create meaningful, lasting change. Through fun, community-driven initiatives, they help turn generosity into moments of hope and strength that extend far beyond the walls of their establishment.



Mr. Christmas – Light Show

For 38 years, James Gallant transformed North Rustico into a festive wonderland with his iconic Christmas light display, honouring his late son, Brian, and supporting Make-A-Wish Canada. Islanders near and far made the display a holiday tradition. In 2025, following James' passing, his other son, Phillip, continued the tradition – raising nearly \$10,000 with community support. This spectacular display brings joy and celebrates resilience. It shows how a dedicated community can create magical moments that brighten children's lives.



Women for Wishes – Jeanette Wakelin

Jeanette Wakelin, Chairperson of the PEI Make-A-Wish Board, led the creation of Wish Angels, a women's 9-hole golf tournament at Glasgow Hills. With a goal of raising \$10,000, Jeanette and her team exceeded expectations, raising over \$25,000 in 2025. Her leadership reflects a deep understanding of the impact of wishes on children, families, and the wider community. Through creativity, determination, and strong community connections, Jeanette demonstrates how thoughtful initiatives can transform generosity into meaningful experiences, inspiring hope and connection that last far beyond the event itself.



COWS Ice Cream

COWS Ice Cream's annual Ice Cream for Wishes campaign takes place across all Canadian locations on National Ice Cream Day. For one day in July, \$1 from every ice cream sold supported children with critical illnesses, raising over \$15,000! This simple, joyful act turned everyday treats into moments of hope, showing how small gestures can create big impact. From families enjoying a cone to wish kids receiving life-changing experiences, COWS demonstrates the power of combining fun and generosity to create smiles, memories, and lasting positive change.



Ways to Give

Click to learn more about the many ways to support our mission.



Celebration & Recognition

Rooted in Community

Bringing hope and healing for decades.

For nearly 40 years, the Parkdale-Sherwood Lions Club has been a steadfast supporter of wishes in Prince Edward Island. Their journey with Make-A-Wish Canada began in 1987 with their first wish granting, and they have continued ever since.

Year after year, the Lions show up in meaningful ways. They proudly support a wish annually and volunteer their time at the PEI International Shellfish Festival, where their commitment to community is always on full display. For the past three years, they have also been sponsors of Trees of Joy, helping bring hope to families during the holiday season.

What drives the Parkdale-Sherwood Lions is simple: a deep belief in giving back and a genuine desire to make a difference close to home. Their long-standing dedication reflects the power of consistency and what can happen when a community stands beside children and families year after year.

As they approach 40 years of wish granting, their impact is felt not only in the wishes they help make possible, but in the enduring sense of care and connection they bring to Prince Edward Island.



Number of Active Volunteers in Atlantic Canada: 240



Jeanette Wakelin
Provincial Volunteer
of the Year



Hannah Mackenzie
Rookie of the Year



Braggers' Cup Committee
Community Impact Award

Thank You for Making a Difference

Click to join our volunteer team.



What Healing Looks Like

Thanks to your support vital wish prescriptions were filled for kids like...



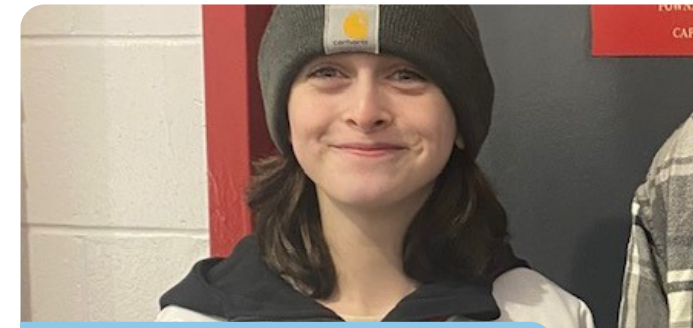
*I wish to meet my favourite
basketball player*

Mason, 12
blood disorder



*I wish to go to my favourite
theme park*

Weston, 8
lymphoma



*I wish to go to my favourite
theme park*

Marlie, 12
lymphoma



*I wish to go to my favourite
theme park*

Rory, 3
cancer



*I wish to go to my favourite
theme park*

Gibson, 6
neuromuscular disorder



I wish to have a gaming room

Jonas, 8
kidney transplant



I wish to go to my favourite theme park

Mason, 7
congenital heart disease

Invest in Hope






A gift of publicly traded securities is a meaningful way to help grant life-changing wishes for children facing critical illness.

You may eliminate capital gains tax and receive a charitable receipt for the full value — while granting more wishes across our province.

Learn how you can invest in hope:
makeawish.ca/donate-securities

Imagine Accreditation

Accredited under Imagine Canada's National Standards Program, Make-A-Wish Canada ensures that every donor gift is managed responsibly to create meaningful impact.

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881291918 RR 0001

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