



## Make-A-Wish® U.S. Virgin Islands - Fact Sheet

<b>Mission</b>	Make-A-Wish U.S. Virgin Islands grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Make-A-Wish is dedicated to making every eligible child's wish come true and has never turned away the wish of a medically-eligible child. A wish is more than just a nice thing; a wish experience can be a game-changer for a child with a life-threatening medical condition.				
<b>Origin</b>	Started in 1980, Make-A-Wish is the largest wish-granting organization worldwide with 61 chapters in the U.S. and in nearly 50 countries across five continents. The U.S. Virgin Islands chapter granted 4 wishes in FY 2015.				
<b>Good Business</b>	Make-A-Wish is one of the nation's first recipients of The Council of Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance Seal, signifying adherence to the Alliance's strict, comprehensive standards for charitable accountability.				
<b>Wish Eligibility</b>	<p>To receive a wish, a child must be diagnosed as having a life-threatening medical condition by a physician and have reached the age of 2 ½ and be younger than 18 at the time of referral. Potential wish kids, medical professionals, parents, legal guardians and family members with detailed knowledge of the child's current medical condition can make a referral.</p> <p>Make-A-Wish grants wishes to children regardless of race, religion or socioeconomic status. The child may not have had a wish granted by another wish-granting organization. The privacy of the family is respected before, during and following the wish.</p>				
<b>Wish Requests</b>	<p>Make-A-Wish provides the structure but it is the child's request that determines how the volunteers will turn the dream into reality. Children's wishes are only constrained by the limits of their own imaginations, although traditionally they fall into four categories:</p> <table><tr><td>"I want to be" (something)</td><td>"I want to meet" (someone)</td></tr><tr><td>"I want to go" (somewhere)</td><td>"I want to have" (something)</td></tr></table>	"I want to be" (something)	"I want to meet" (someone)	"I want to go" (somewhere)	"I want to have" (something)
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<b>Wish Impact</b>	A 2011 study conducted by TCC Group found that 97% of adult former wish kids say they experienced improved mental and emotional health. 98 percent of parents felt the wish experience gave them the opportunity to be a "normal" family again. 89 percent of health care professionals said the wish experience can influence wish kids' physical health. 97 percent of volunteers reported feeling more grateful and thankful as a result of helping to grant a wish.				
<b>Wish Expenses</b>	The average cost of fulfilling a wish is \$5,000. In a time that is financially stressful for the family, wish expenses are fully covered with no tax implications. Paid expenses include: airline tickets, hotel accommodations, rental cars, meals, passes for attractions and entertainment and spending money. A wish is considered a gift – there are no strings attached for the family.				
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