

# The Magic Maker

A GUIDE TO BECOMING A VOLUNTEER FOR THE  
MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION OF MINNESOTA

## Help us make MAGIC!!

The Make-A-Wish Foundation® grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy.

Born in 1980 when a group of caring individuals helped a young boy fulfill his dream of becoming a police officer, the Foundation is now the largest wish-granting charity in the world, with 67 chapters in the U.S. and its territories.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota was incorporated in 1982 and has since

granted more than 3,000 wishes to critically-ill children throughout the state.

### Volunteers Make it Happen!

Support from volunteers in areas from fundraising to wish granting make all this possible. Volunteers bring the creativity and energy that make dreams come true. This support and dedication enables our chapter to make More than 200 wishes come true each year. Join more than 25,000 volunteers worldwide and *share the power of a wish*®!



### Our Mission:

We are dedicated to granting the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy!

*Hope. Strength. Joy.*  
You can help share the power of a wish®.

## M.A.G.I.C.- DESIRED & EXPECTED TRAITS OF EACH VOLUNTEER

### M.A.G.I.C. stands for:

#### Mission-driven

- Honor the hope, strength, and joy.
- Respect the wish process and the dignity of those we serve.

#### Adaptable

- Be flexible and responsive to change.
- Be willing to do whatever it takes to complete an assignment.
- Show patience and compassion when dealing with difficult situations.
- Use common sense.

#### Grateful

- Give thanks to those who help us accomplish our mission.
- Be friendly and responsive to requests.
- Show appreciation to other volunteers.
- Honor the diversity of those we serve.

#### Inspiring

- Never do anything to tarnish the magic.
- Share the power that wishes bring to children and families.
- Act with enthusiasm.

#### Committed

- Take responsibility and complete all volunteer assignments.
- Support other volunteers.
- Communicate to all team members openly, honestly and promptly.
- Focus on the child's wish and the efforts of all who help turn dreams into reality.
- Provide staff with constructive feedback.
- Invite others to join the team and make dreams come true.



**MAKE-A-WISH**

### Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Minnesota

615 First Avenue NE,  
Suite 415  
Phone: 612-767-9474  
Web: [www.wishmn.org](http://www.wishmn.org)

Volunteer Manager:  
Sarah Gavigan  
E-mail: [sgavigan@wishmn.org](mailto:sgavigan@wishmn.org)

## MAGIC MAKER

# Becoming a Volunteer



ARTWORK BY WISH CHILDREN



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION:  
[WWW.WISHMN.ORG](http://WWW.WISHMN.ORG)

"I really enjoy each and every minute I get to spend helping these kids. They are such a joy to be around and to be able to bring joy to them is unbelievably rewarding!"

-Kim Sunde, Volunteer



Make-A-Wish Foundation®  
of Minnesota  
615 First Avenue NE, #415  
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Phone: 612.767.9474  
Fax: 612.767.2768  
E-mail: [info@wishmn.org](mailto:info@wishmn.org)  
Website: [www.wishmn.org](http://www.wishmn.org)

### Step One: Explore the Possibilities

• Now that you've contacted us, please take a moment to review each of the volunteer opportunities listed below. Each opportunity includes specific traits to help you decide which is best for you.

• Once you have decided which type(s) of volunteer you would like to be, complete a new volunteer application and return it to our office.

### Step Two: Processing Paperwork

• Once we have received your completed application, we will conduct a mandatory criminal background check for all adults, 18 years and older. (Adult Volunteer Consent and Release background check form is included with your application paperwork for you to review, sign and return.)

• We will then contact you regarding upcoming orientations and trainings.

### Step Three: Attend an Orientation

• Once we have established your interests and the needs of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, you will be invited to attend an orientation. During this one-hour session, we'll cover basic organizational information, various volunteer opportunities available to you as well as Make-A-Wish volunteer policies, procedures and expectations.

### Step Four: Join Our Team

• Additional training will be provided for your assignment as needed.

• Once you have completed this process, you may begin making MAGIC!

## Volunteer Opportunities

### WISH AMBASSADORS:

#### Event Ambassadors:

These volunteers support the granting of wishes by planning and/or staffing various fundraising and educational events. Annually, we sponsor four main events: Wish Ball, Walk for Wishes, Delicious Wishes and Stories of Light®.

**Speakers Bureau:** This group represents the Foundation at various community, business and civic events; increasing the groups' level of awareness, passion and support for our organization.

**Kids for Wish Kids® :** This program empowers children to get involved and help make dreams come true for our wish kids. Through fundraisers and other projects, Kids for Wish Kids fosters the value of community service by providing hands-on experience in the wish granting process.

### WISH ASSISTANTS:

#### Wish Consultants:

Fulfill specific assignments through special skills or interests (i.e. translators [greatest need is for Spanish and Hmong speakers], graphic designers, handyperson, etc.).

#### Wish Greeters:

Greet the wish children and their families and assist them as necessary at the airport, hotels or other locations during the inception and/or completion of their wish.

#### Office Volunteers:

Office volunteers assist with projects such as answering phones, sending thank you notes, entering data, and various mailings during office hours (M-F 8am-5pm).



### WISH GRANTERS:

**Wish Granters:** Work with wish children to discover, plan and fulfill a wish. Wish Granters work in teams of two or three; use resources wisely by seeking donated goods and services; and make each wish a unique, magical and memorable experience for the family.

Wish granting time commitments vary from wish to wish, but average time commitment is about 5-10 hours per month. Additional training required.