

# WARM WISHES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MAKE-A-WISH® ORANGE COUNTY AND THE INLAND EMPIRE



Vicky, 15  
autoimmune disease

I wish to be a singer

MAKE-A-WISH®  
Orange County and  
the Inland Empire



# ABOUT MAKE-A-WISH®

## WHO WE ARE

Make-A-Wish® Orange County and the Inland Empire is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that fulfills the wishes of medically eligible children between the ages of 2 ½ and 18.

Since 1983, Make-A-Wish has granted more than 5,300 wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions.

## WHAT WE DO

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

## WHY WE DO IT

Much more than simply a “nice” experience, a wish has a powerful impact and the ability to transform life-threatening illnesses into life-affirming triumphs.

A few statistics:

- A combined 89 percent of nurses, doctors, social workers and child life specialists say they believe that the wish experience can influence a wish child’s physical health.
- 74 percent of wish parents say the wish is a positive turning point in their child’s battle against their illness.
- Wish children say a wish provides the ability for them to see themselves as more than someone who is sick. It rekindles a belief in their abilities and the possibility that a future is waiting for them.

## OUR COMMUNITY

We grant wishes to children living in **Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties**. More than 600 volunteers help us deliver our mission of granting the wish of every eligible child in our territory.

To learn more visit:

[OCIE.WISH.ORG](http://OCIE.WISH.ORG) | 714-573-9474



Challenges are not new to Vicky Venegas and her family. The 15-year-old from Apple Valley was diagnosed in May of 2013 with an autoimmune disease and has overcome many obstacles ever since. Shortly after Vicky’s younger brother was officially in remission from leukemia, she was diagnosed with lupus and endured five months of chemotherapy.

***“Everything was different when I was diagnosed, I couldn’t go out, we were stuck inside or away from people to avoid getting sick,” said Vicky.***

That’s when she turned to music as an outlet.

***“Vicky has always loved music but then she discovered the power of singing,” said Vicky’s mom, Nela. “It helps her get through the rough patches, it’s a positive affirmation.”***





# A SONG in her HEART



\*Photos courtesy: Gemina Gowdy and Brandon Brown

When approached by Make-A-Wish volunteers it was no surprise that Vicky wanted to take her passion for music to the next level and be a singer.

With the help of Los Rios Rock School out of San Juan Capistrano, her wish became a reality. Vicky took vocal lessons and was paired up with four other teen musicians to form a band. The group met for rehearsals over the course of a few months, all in preparation for Vicky's musical debut on August 8 at the Anaheim House of Blues.

***"We are extremely impressed and inspired by Vicky," said Tyler Marolf, CEO and Founder of Los Rios Rock School. "She has brought all of us together and has energized the***

***entire school. Being able to help grant her wish was a magical experience."***

On the day of her wish, Vicky and her family were taken by limo to the House of Blues at Downtown Disney, she toured the famous venue and then prepared backstage with her band in a large dressing room.

Finally, the moment came when she took the stage and was greeted with cheers from nearly 800 concert goers.

Overflowing with excitement, the spotlight shone on her as she confidently walked out on stage and took hold of the microphone. With a smile, she nodded to her band that she was ready to begin.

Vicky swayed to the beat as she sang "House of the Rising Sun" by The Animals and "Love Don't Die" by The Fray to the packed venue.

At the end of her performance, the crowd went wild and Vicky felt like a true rock star!

***"This wish has been a blessing and huge impact on my life. It's something that I will definitely remember and cherish forever." - Vicky***

Watch Vicky's wish video by scanning the code or visiting [ocie.wish.org](http://ocie.wish.org).





# LOCAL WISHES



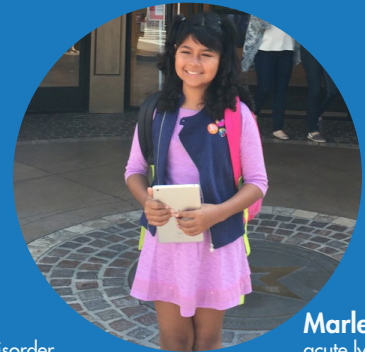
**Mike, 15**  
leukemia

I wish to meet Mike Trout



**Kahlyn, 3**  
neurological disorder

I wish to go to the Disneyland® Resort



**Marleny, 13**  
acute lymphoblastic leukemia

I wish to have an American Girl doll



**Azmi, 6**  
Duchenne muscular dystrophy

I wish to go to Aulani®, a Disney Resort & Spa



**Shayla, 13**  
severe sickle cell anemia

I wish to have a talk show experience



**Josef, 17**  
leukemia

I wish to have a shopping adventure



**Milan, 3**  
brain tumor

I wish to go to the Disneyland® Resort



**Humberto, 10**  
embryonal sarcoma

I wish to have an English bulldog puppy



**Isaiah, 16**  
acute lymphoblastic leukemia

I wish to go to the UEFA Champions League Final Berlin 2015



**Gabriela, 12**  
osteosarcoma

I wish to meet my favorite celebrity



**Jack, 10**  
osteosarcoma

I wish to go to Atlantis



**Cesar, 16**  
brain tumor

I wish to have a shopping adventure





**Royce, 10**  
lymphoma

I wish to meet a polar bear in Alaska



**Samantha, 17**  
malignant Tourette's syndrome

I wish to meet my favorite band



**Jayden, 12**  
malignant paraganglioma

I wish to have a Camaro SS experience



**Ericka, 17**  
chronic kidney disease

I wish to have a shopping adventure



**Ruben, 4**  
leukemia

I wish to go to the Disneyland® Resort



**Chrystal, 15**  
heart condition

I wish to go to the BET Awards

# wish assist

Each year, our chapter welcomes hundreds of children from around the world to have their wishes granted in our own backyard. These wishes are in addition to the hundreds of wishes granted for children who live in Orange County and the Inland Empire.



Xzavous, 18 – Make-A-Wish® Texas Gulf Coast  
I wish to meet my favorite actor



Olivia, 4 – Make-A-Wish® Alaska & Washington  
I wish to go to the Disneyland® Resort



Adar, 14 – Make-A-Wish® Israel  
I wish to go to the Disneyland® Resort



David, 13 – Make-A-Wish® Illinois  
I wish to go to VidCon



# FAST FACTS

## Who is eligible for a wish?

Children between the ages of 2 ½ and 18 with life-threatening medical conditions.

## Life-threatening medical condition, as defined by Make-A-Wish, satisfies one of the following:

- Progressive: worsening in severity over time; or
- Degenerative: of, relating to, causing, or characterized by on-going deterioration of specific tissues or organs with corresponding impairment or loss of function caused by the disease or its treatment; or
- Malignant: tending to metastasize; cancerous.

## A list of specific medical conditions that typically qualify a child for a wish are the following:

- AIDS
- Batten Disease (*Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinoses-Infantile*)
- Bone Marrow/Stem Cell Transplant (*within one year of transplant*)
- Cancer (*all types- within one year after end of treatment*)
- Congestive Heart Failure
- Cystic Fibrosis (*with any respiratory or lung involvement*)
- Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy
- End Stage Renal Disease
- Fanconi's Anemia
- Heart Transplant
- Hypoplastic Left Heart
- Intestinal Transplant
- Kidney Transplant (*within one year of transplant*)
- Leigh Syndrome
- Liver Failure
- Liver Transplant (*within one year of transplant*)
- Lung Transplant
- Sanfilippo's Syndrome
- Scleroderma (*Systemic Sclerosis*)
- Severe Combined Immunodeficiency
- Spinal Muscular Atrophy (*Anterior Horn Cell Disease*)
- Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome

## Case-by-case situation:

Medical conditions not included in this list may also qualify a child based on the life-threatening condition as defined above.

[ocie.wish.org/refer](http://ocie.wish.org/refer)



Nominee, 5  
acute lymphoblastic leukemia  
I wish to be a veterinarian

MAKE-A-WISH®

Orange County and  
the Inland Empire





# WISH REFERRAL FORM

## A. WISH CHILD INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age/DOB \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 Qualifying Medical Condition: \_\_\_\_\_ Diagnosis Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 End of treatment or Definitive Procedure Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sex:  Male  Female Primary Language: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Complete Street Address City State Zip Code  
 Current Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Is the child aware of his or her medical condition?  Yes  No  
(Area Code)

## B. PARENT(S)/LEGAL GUARDIAN(S)

Parent/Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother  Father  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  Mother  Father  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cellular Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Primary Language(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Language(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Siblings/Ages: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Does child reside with both biological parents?  Yes  No If no, additional information/paperwork will be required.

## C. PHYSICIAN AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Physician Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital/Treatment Facility: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Office Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Complete Street Address City State Zip Code

## D. REFERRING PERSON

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation to child: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 How did you hear about Make-A-Wish? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is the family aware of the referral?  Yes  No Referral source e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

## E. WISH INFORMATION

Has the child ever received a wish from Make-A-Wish or another organization?  Yes  No  
 Is the child able to verbalize his or her wish?  Yes  No If no, how does the child communicate? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Does the child have developmental delays?  Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is this a RUSH wish?  Yes  No If yes, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**For Office Use Only:**

Person taking referral: _____	Referral Date: _____
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**\*Also available online at [ocie.wish.org/refer](http://ocie.wish.org/refer)**



# HELP GRANT THE WISHES OF LOCAL CHILDREN!

¡Ayude a conceder los deseos de niños locales hoy!

Half of our wish children come from Spanish-speaking households.

We are in need of bilingual volunteers to help us grant their wishes.

Abraham, 5  
charge syndrome

I wish to have a play structure

To learn more:  
[ocie.wish.org/volunteer](http://ocie.wish.org/volunteer)  
714-573-9474

MAKE-A-WISH<sup>®</sup>

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