



GUIDE FOR SPEAKING – VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for agreeing to speak on behalf of Make-A-Wish Illinois in your community. Below is some information to help you craft your prepared remarks.

Tell Your Story

We find that people are more interested in personal stories of involvement rather than the statistics. If you have a personal anecdote to share about an interaction with a wish child or parent, that would be a great way to show the mission in action in your community.

Also, consider how you might answer these questions and work them into your remarks.

- Why did you become involved with Make-A-Wish? Why *now*, at this stage in your life?
- What did you learn (about yourself) through this experience?
- What surprised you? What has not surprised you?
- How do you see the world differently since becoming a Make-A-Wish volunteer?

Why Are Wishes Important?

- Research shows that children who have wishes granted build the physical and emotional strength they need to cope with a critical illness. The experience improves their quality of life and produces better health outcomes.
- A wish not only gives children renewed energy and strength, it brings families closer together and unites communities.
- Review illinois.wish.org/impact to see doctors talk about the importance of wishes and to find the most recent medical research available about wish impact.

How Can Your Audience Help

- Encourage your audience to join a caring community of people who improve the lives of children battling critical illnesses by attending an event, becoming a volunteer, donating or recommending a child with a critical illness who may qualify.
- Events and other Ways to Help are posted frequently on illinois.wish.org and the Make-A-Wish Illinois Facebook page.
- Share your involvement with your friends and family to help Make-A-Wish reach all eligible children with a life-changing wish experience.

Facts & Figures

- You can always find the most recent information about the number of wishes granted and our program service expense ratio in the News & Events / Media & Blogger Center at illinois.wish.org (<https://illinois.wish.org/news-and-events/media-blogger-center/media-kit>) and in the Public Information section on WishNet (<http://www.wishnet-mawfi.org>, password required)