



More than 74% of our wishes granted last year involved air travel. That translates to over 2,300 airline tickets! Every 50,000 miles donated is turned into a free ticket used for a destination wish and saves the Foundation thousands of dollars each year.

Holding a "Wings for Wishes" mileage drive is a great way to get your organization involved in community service, serves as a great team building exercise and is a unique donation option to help a local child's wish come true.

To hold a Wings for Wishes mileage drive, contact the Make-A-Wish office nearest you.

**PARTICIPATING AIRLINE PARTNERS INCLUDE:**

- AirTran • American Airlines
- British Airways • Continental Airlines
- Delta Air Lines • Northwest Airlines
- United Airlines • US Airways

**POLICY REMINDER**

No Wish-granting volunteer shall conduct a Wish visit alone or be sequestered or secluded with a Wish child or any minor member of the Wish family. If it appears that a volunteer may have to conduct the Wish family visit alone, the Program Services Director or Wish Program Manager must be informed in advance so that alternate arrangements can be made. In potentially high-risk situations, the Wish visit shall be scheduled during the day at a public location, deemed mutually acceptable by the volunteer and the Wish family.

**THINKING OF YOU**

While your wish child waits for their wish experience, remember to make regular monthly contact with them. And once every three months, let your wish child know they are in our thoughts with a "thinking of you" gift that is somehow related to their chosen wish experience or their hobbies and interests.

**VOLUNTEER TIP**

Please remember we are a 501 (c)3 organization and we are exempt from local sales taxes. If you wish to make a purchase for the Foundation, please contact your local regional office to obtain a copy of our tax exempt form.

For more volunteer information and opportunities, please check out your regional Make-A-Wish newsletters or e-newsletters.

**MAKE-A-WISH**  
GREATER OHIO, KENTUCKY  
& INDIANA CHAPTER  
2545 Farmers Drive, Suite 300  
Columbus, Ohio 43235

Enjoy our new volunteer bulletin! It is for all our helpful friends that donate their time to help make wishes come true. You will find useful information about upcoming events, as well as facts and suggestions of what to do as a volunteer. Thank you for all you do!



# The Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Greater Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana



## Volunteer Bulletin Spring 2007



There are many opportunities to become involved with your region's Walk For Wishes:

- ➔ **Create a walk team.** Help the Foundation to raise funds and participate in the walk with your friends and family.
- ➔ **Volunteer.** If you want to be a part of the day but not partake in the actual walk, participate as a volunteer. "Day of" walk help is always needed and greatly appreciated.
- ➔ **Donate.** If you cannot attend your area's Walk For Wishes, donate to someone's walk team, or to your region's general donations.
- ➔ **Sponsor.** If you know of a corporation or organization that is interested in becoming a sponsor, contact your local Make-A-Wish office to get them involved.
- ➔ **Spread the word.** Tell your neighbors, friends, and family about the Walk For Wishes. Word of mouth is one of the easiest ways to help promote the walk.
- ➔ **Visit.** Go to [www.makeawishohio.org](http://www.makeawishohio.org), [www.makeawishky.org](http://www.makeawishky.org), or [www.makeawishindiana.org](http://www.makeawishindiana.org) for more information on ways that you can get involved. There are more details and ideas for helping out!

### UPCOMING WALKS IN YOUR REGION:

Indianapolis, Indiana

**June 16th, 2007 @ Fishers Town Hall**

Lexington, Kentucky

**June 23rd, 2007 @ Keenland Race Course**

Medical Mutual of Ohio® Walk for Wishes Cleveland, Ohio

**July 21st, 2007 @ The Cleveland Zoo**

Medical Mutual of Ohio® Walk for Wishes Columbus, Ohio

**August 19th, 2007 @ Easton Town Center**

### What if I am assigned to a non-speaking wish child?

Some tips for communicating with the wish child and their family

- ✦ **Be observant.** Look at family photos, the family environment, and how the siblings are interacting with the child.
- ✦ **Remember the parents.** They know more about the child than anyone else. Let the parents know they are the experts and that is why you are asking so many questions. Assure the parents you want the best possible wish for their child.
- ✦ **Actively listen.** If you are unclear about something, pause and say "let me make sure I understand this□"
- ✦ **Engage the siblings.** Make them a part of your interactions. This will tell you a lot about the Wish Child and how they communicate.
- ✦ **Don't be afraid to ask.** If you notice something like heavy breathing or distressed movement, it is appropriate to ask the parents if the child is OK or what the change in behavior means.
- ✦ **Remember.** Just because the child doesn't respond to a noise, touch, or smell doesn't mean they did not notice it.
- ✦ **Learn.** The more you learn about the Wish Child and their family, the more comfortable you will feel when meeting with them in the future.

### Running out of ways to stay in touch with your wish

#### child while they wait for their wish to be granted?

Here are a couple of ideas for our "Thinking of You" program:

- ➔ Make a paper chain by cutting strips of construction paper, stapling each individual strip so it becomes a circle, and connecting each circle together. Make a link for each day until your Wish Child's wish is granted. This way, the child can take off a link and count down the days until their wish!
- ➔ Once the date for the child's wish has been set, create a countdown calendar. Keep in mind the child's wish and use the same theme (ex: Disney) to create the calendar. This way, the Wish Child can count down the days until their wish is granted. This is a fun activity you both can do together!

