

WISHING WELL

ISSUE 49 | 2024



"I wish to be a pilot!"

Jansen, 7
*megacystis microcolon
hypoperistalsis syndrome*

CONTENTS

- 02 Chairperson's Message
- 03 About Make-A-Wish Singapore
- 04 Meet Our WishMakers
- 05 2024 Events
- 08 Beyond the Wish
- 09 Our Partners
- 10 Our Wish Stories
- 14 Support Us





CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



At Make-A-Wish Singapore, we are dedicated to granting the wishes of children living with critical illnesses, so they find hope, strength and joy at a time most needed.

As a wish granter myself, I witnessed first-hand the transformative impact a wish has on the wish child as well as their families. I recall granting the wish of a 6-year-old girl who wanted to meet Minnie Mouse during the COVID-19 pandemic. We worked closely with partners to create a private tea-time with Minnie while adhering to all safety regulations.

From the anticipation activities up to the wish day itself, the twinkle in the wish child's eyes and her family's joy were priceless. I met her again at Santa Race for Wishes four years later and she has blossomed into a confident young lady.

It is therefore my honour to take on the role as Chairperson of Make-A-Wish Singapore. I hope to take Make-A-Wish Singapore to the next step as we continue with our vision to grant the wish of every eligible child in Singapore.

I thank my predecessor, Dr Jeremy Lin, for dedicating his time and making a meaningful difference in the lives of many wish children in Singapore. Dr Lin, a paediatrician specialising in neurology, continues to serve on Make-A-Wish International's Medical Advisory Committee. I would also like to express my appreciation for our outgoing Chief Executive Officer, Hazlina Abdul Halim, whose leadership helped Make-A-Wish Singapore reach new heights.

Just like Jeremy and Haz, I too am personally inspired by the resilience of our wish children and the incredible dedication of our volunteers, donors, and partners.

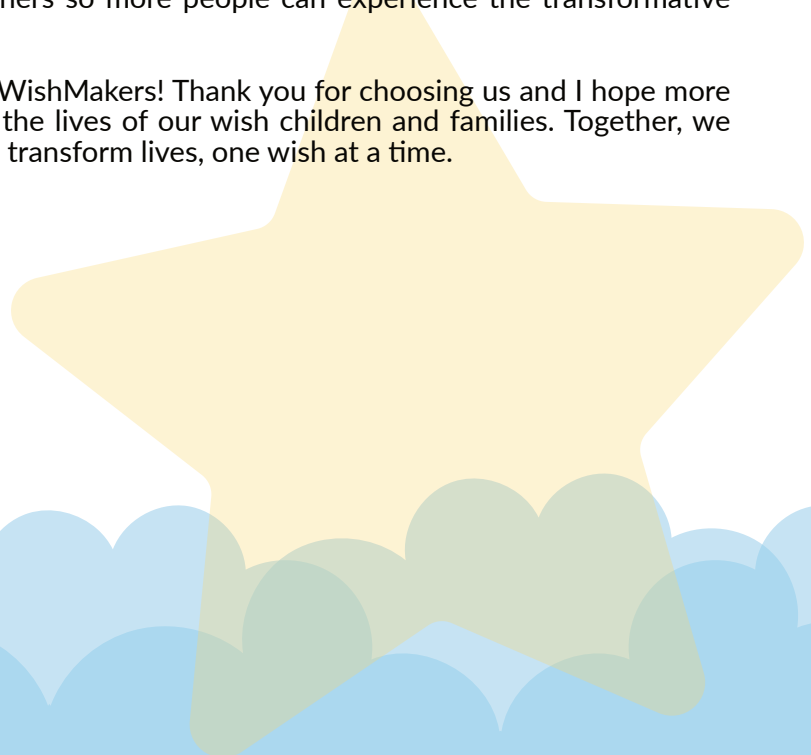
In 2024, Make-A-Wish Singapore recorded a new milestone — the highest ever number of wishes granted in our history! We granted 135 wishes and left a positive impact on more than 1,000 beneficiaries, including their families, caregivers, and loved ones.

We will continue to grant more wishes of children with critical illnesses in Singapore, and we endeavour to strengthen partnerships with our corporate partners so more people can experience the transformative power of a wish.

None of this would be possible without you, our WishMakers! Thank you for choosing us and I hope more WishMakers will join us to make a difference in the lives of our wish children and families. Together, we continue to grant life-changing wishes, so we can transform lives, one wish at a time.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Ling





ABOUT US

Make-A-Wish Singapore creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses, building their resilience and confidence to overcome challenges. The wish journey helps children look past their situations and limitations, assist families in overcoming anxieties, and galvanise entire communities to bring hope, strength, and joy at a time when they need it most.

Together with generous donors, supporters, staff, and volunteers, Make-A-Wish Singapore grants wishes that leave a positive impact on the social and emotional well-being of children and their families. Make-A-Wish Singapore is part of the world's leading wish-granting organisation, granting over 615,000 wishes for children with critical illness in nearly 50 countries worldwide.

Mission

Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

Vision

To grant the wish of every eligible child in Singapore.



WISH HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024

135

wishes granted

more than
1000

children and family members
impacted by a wish



Scan the QR code for a recap of our 2024 highlights!

we are wishmakers

A WishMaker is anyone who plays a part in making a child's wish come true. This could be a wish granter journeying with a child throughout the entire wish experience, a skills-based volunteer offering their time and expertise, a wish adopter, sponsor, referral partner, or anyone else who supports a wish in any form! Every bit makes a difference.



Brian Phua . Creative volunteer and wish alumni parent
Mathematics and Retail Operations Teacher at Northland Secondary School

As a wish parent, becoming a volunteer photographer for Make-A-Wish Singapore was a natural step for me after experiencing the positive impact my daughter's wish had on our lives. The joy it brought her, and the hope it gave our entire family, made me feel compelled to give back. Volunteering allows me to capture the strength, courage, and happiness I witnessed firsthand, paying forward the incredible support we received. What I appreciate most about volunteering with Make-A-Wish is the care taken to ensure volunteers are fully prepared. The briefings are thorough, and I always feel encouraged to ask questions, which makes me feel confident in delivering meaningful photos that share the power of a wish.



Emily Ho . Wish granter
Medical student, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine at Nanyang Technological University

I was inspired to become a wish granter after working closely with children living with critical illnesses, as well as those with special needs. Seeing their resilience in the face of challenges inspired me to do more, and fulfilling wishes became a way to help wish children experience something magical and truly their own. One core memory I've had as a wish granter was the heartwarming moment of seeing a child's joy unfold on her wish day. From our first conversation, I witnessed how a wish is more than just a special day – it's a process that builds anticipation, excitement, and joy. Granting wishes has allowed me to connect with children and families in ways that go beyond words.



Maryani Abdul Wahab . Referral partner
Nurse Clinician, Children's Complex Home Care Service at KK Women's and Children's Hospital

I've seen firsthand the profound impact of a wish on both wish children and their families. From the smiles on the children's faces to the heartfelt gratitude expressed by their parents, these experiences create memories that last a lifetime. One of the most impactful wishes I experienced was for a child who had a birthday celebration, with all of their relatives present as his mother wanted her son to feel surrounded by love. It's these moments of love and togetherness that make being a referral partner so meaningful.



Melody Por . Referral partner
Senior Physiotherapist, National University Hospital

The wish journey is an empowering experience for each child, from capturing their one true wish, wish anticipation, and of course their wish coming true. The wish journey signals to wish children that their voice matters and gives them something to look forward to during otherwise difficult times. Many of the children I know have wished for items like motorised wheelchairs and walkers, which provide freedom and independence in daily life. It has been a privilege to witness the confidence and joy that comes from gaining mobility, which lasts far beyond the initial wish journey. Seeing these benefits inspires me to refer more children to Make-A-Wish Singapore!

2024 EVENTS

WISH GRANTER ANNUAL MEETING 2024



The Wish Granters Annual Meeting (WGAM) on 20 January 2024 was a chance to reflect on the highlights of the previous year, share exciting plans for the year ahead, and recognise the immense commitment of those who help bring wishes to life.

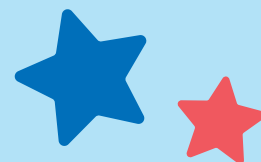
Among the many special moments of the day was the presence of five of our wish beneficiaries – Angela, Debbie, Ilhan, Lucas, and Shaqirah – who attended the event to personally thank the wish granters who made their dreams a reality.

Our wish children once faced daunting medical challenges, and seeing them thrive today shows the power of wishes and the amazing wish granters who made them come true. During the event, each wish child, along with their family members, recapped their unique wish journeys during a heartwarming show and tell.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all our wish granters, whose immense commitment and support continue to fuel our mission. We are also proud to celebrate the top wish granters of the year, whose dedication has made a remarkable difference in the lives of so many children and families.

A huge thank you to One Farrer Hotel for being the venue sponsor for this year's event, helping us make this gathering a success!

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT WITH NCSS



As part of a volunteer management initiative led by the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) and supported by Empact, a social enterprise supporting capacity-building in the non-profit sector, Make-A-Wish Singapore joined eight other Social Service Agencies (SSAs) on a learning journey. This initiative aimed to strengthen our internal volunteer systems.

Our project focused on three key areas: reviewing and improving our volunteer policies, enhancing how we engage corporate volunteers and partners, and refining our feedback processes with volunteers.



Through this journey, we developed a refreshed set of volunteer management related documents, created a decision-making matrix to guide partnership opportunities, and shifted our internal workflow to incorporate volunteer feedback more systematically.

Beyond the internal improvements, this was also an enriching opportunity to learn from fellow Social Service Agencies through open sharing and discussions. We were humbled and honoured to be recognised as the "Most Inspiring SSA" in this cohort.

NURSES' DAY



Make-A-Wish Singapore celebrated Nurses' Day on 1 August 2024 with wish alumni Andrew and Nasywah at the National University Hospital and KK Women's and Children's Hospital. Together, we thanked the incredible paediatric nurses who care for children with critical illnesses, as our wish alumni handed out Swissbake cookies generously donated by Commonwealth Concepts.

CHILDREN'S DAY



On Children's Day, we celebrated with Donald Duck and Daisy Duck at the National University Hospital and KK Women's and Children's Hospital, surprising our young patients with a day filled with fun and excitement! The children's faces lit up with smiles and laughter as they met these iconic characters.

As part of the celebrations, Make-A-Wish Singapore distributed over 600 goodie bags, with each child receiving treats such as a Disney plush and LEGO set. A heartfelt thank you to The Walt Disney Company Southeast Asia and the LEGO Group for helping make this Children's Day in 2024 an exceptional experience for all our young heroes!



ANNUAL FAMILY DAY



Make-A-Wish Singapore's annual Family Day was held on 15 December 2024 at Harry Potter: Visions of Magic with our wish alumni and their families. With 70 families and 290 attendees, it was a day of wonder, filled with smiles, waving wands, and magical moments! From the young to the young at heart, everyone shared in the excitement!

Thank you to Commonwealth Concepts, the LEGO Group, Neon, Heychips, and Hitcheed for your in-kind sponsorship. Your support brought joy and excitement to our Family Day, making it a truly memorable experience for everyone!

TRAILBLAZE CHALLENGE



On 5 October 2024, the inaugural Trailblaze Challenge united over 40 Bank of America employees for a remarkable 36-kilometer coast-to-coast journey, stretching from Coney Island to Jurong Lakeside Garden. Their mission? To support children fighting critical illnesses and to prove that no challenge is too great when fuelled by hope.

With every kilometer, these incredible participants not only tested their endurance but also embodied the essence of hope. Each step they took was a reminder that, just like them, children battling serious health challenges can overcome the toughest of hurdles with courage, determination, and a little bit of help from our community.

Thanks to the generosity of their supporters, the team raised over \$100,000 – funds that will go directly toward granting life-changing wishes for children living with critical illnesses.

We extend our sincere thanks to Phil, Melinda, and their dedicated colleagues for being true champions of our cause. Their commitment continues to light the way for many more meaningful wishes.

A warm shout-out as well to Commonwealth Concepts for your sponsorship of the lovely snack boxes that brightened the day.

SANTA RACE FOR WISHES 2024

On 8 December 2024, Make-A-Wish Singapore launched the 11th Annual Santa Race at Gardens by the Bay, kicking off with a thrilling Eco Puzzle Hunt! This year's race was extra special, with participants joining in both physically and virtually, racing toward a common goal throughout the month of December.

The virtual race, which continued until 31 December, received tremendous enthusiasm and support from participants across Singapore. Adding a special touch to this year's event was its inspiration – Jayce, a courageous wish child who was diagnosed with retinoblastoma. His heartfelt wish to become a green ambassador and champion sustainability shaped the theme of the race, reminding us all of the power of hope, purpose, and action.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of all who took part – participants, sponsors, supporters and volunteers – we raised over \$350,000. This remarkable sum will go toward granting life-changing wishes for children facing critical illnesses.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made Santa Race for Wishes 2024 a resounding success.





BEYOND THE WISH

Beyond The Wish brings you the inspiring stories of our past wish beneficiaries who have celebrated their 21st birthdays. Read about their journey as they share how their wish continues to shape their lives, offering hope, inspiration, and direction as they step into adulthood.

Elina Toh, 33

Wish Granted: 2008
"I wish to have 10 sets of clothing for polytechnic!"



"Having my wish come true was a life-changing moment. It built my self-confidence, which took a hit as I often had to miss school for medical treatments," recalled Elina, 33.

Elina's wish was granted when she was 16, just before her polytechnic term started. She wished for 10 outfits for school, as she would no longer be wearing a uniform. Finding suitable clothes was a challenge due to her petite stature, so her wish granters went the extra mile – tailoring office wear for her, including a business outfit for presentations.



"I was deeply inspired by my wish granters and decided that I too would one day become one." True to her word, Elina has been a dedicated wish granter since 2016. "A wish journey builds self-confidence and helps a child living with a critical illness find the courage to step out of their comfort zone and foster friendships," she shared.

Elina was diagnosed with end-stage renal disease at 12 and received a kidney transplant in 2010. In 2023, Elina and Ryan celebrated their wedding surrounded by loved ones, including fellow wish children who became dear friends. Today, she is a project manager in her family's aquarium business and recently earned a Bachelor in Marketing from the Singapore University of Social Sciences.



"Wishes show children who are living with critical illnesses that someone out there cares for them and understands their struggles. The spirit of my wish journey left such a lasting impact on me," recalled Firdaus, who was so inspired by his wish granters that he went on to volunteer with Make-A-Wish Singapore.

Firdaus battled acute lymphoblastic leukaemia almost twenty years ago, when he was 13. He reminisced about his wish to have a top-grade business phone of that time, the Nokia 6630, so he could stay connected with his primary schoolmates. "It was important to me to keep those friendships alive," he added.



Currently, Firdaus is the Executive Director of the Muslim Kidney Action Association (MKAC) and also holds a Diploma in Early Childhood Education. His role in the social service sector allows him to give back to the community, embodying the compassion he experienced as a wish child.

"The joy I felt on my wish day remains vivid in my heart," said the cheerful father of one, who is grateful for all the support and the chance he had been given to thrive. Onwards and upwards Firdaus, you are an inspiration!

Firdaus Mohd Abdullah, 32

Wish Granted: 2005
"I wish for a Nokia 6630 phone!"





PARTNERS

KRISFLYER

SINGAPORE AIRLINES GROUP

Our eight-year partnership with KrisFlyer, the lifestyle rewards programme of the Singapore Airlines Group, has been a cornerstone of our wish-granting efforts. The generous donation of miles by KrisFlyer members globally has enabled us to fulfil both flight and non-flight wishes every year in collaboration with the Singapore Airlines Group entities, namely, Singapore Airlines, Scoot, Kris+, KrisShop and Pelago.

In 2024, these donated miles helped fulfil the dreams of 48 wish children. Over 200 individuals, including wish children and their families, embarked on meaningful journeys to more than 25 destinations, such as Hong Kong SAR, London, New York, Manchester, Tokyo, Seoul, Paris, and Dubai. Others created cherished memories at Singapore's top attractions, including Adventure Cove Waterpark, S.E.A. Aquarium, Universal Studios Singapore, and the Singapore Zoo.



The Walt Disney Company Southeast Asia continues its unwavering support of Make-A-Wish Singapore, consistently bringing joy to our wish children. Their generosity has helped create moments filled with smiles, laughter, and wonder, making a profound positive impact during their difficult times.

Highlights include organising a special outing for our wish alumni to the Children's Festival at Gardens by the Bay that featured Inside Out 2 installations, hosting our beneficiaries at Disneyland, and supporting our hospital outreach on Children's Day. Their contributions continue to bring incredible joy to the lives of the children we serve!

Commonwealth CONCEPTS

Commonwealth Concepts has shown incredible generosity in supporting key events, including Swing for Wishes Charity Golf and our Annual Family Day. Their ongoing support has played a crucial role in creating memorable moments during our fundraising and wish alumni activities.



WISH STORY

"I wish to be a pilot!"

Jansen, 7
megacystis microcolon hypoperistalsis syndrome

Jansen was born with a severe disorder affecting the muscles that line his bladder and intestines, making it difficult for him to process food. As a result, he faces frequent hospital stays and medical treatments. Despite these challenges, his fascination with aviation has always soared, and his greatest wish was to become a pilot and take to the skies.

His wish anticipation started when he received a Lego aircraft set during a hospital stay. As his health improved, Jansen finally embarked on his aviation adventure. He trained at the Airbus Asia Training Centre, earning his First Flight certificate through immersive simulation sessions. To make his dream even more special, he was fitted for a custom pilot uniform carefully tailored to accommodate his medical tubes while helping him feel confident and proud.



Ahead of his big day, Jansen attended the Singapore Airshow, where he watched planes perform gravity-defying stunts. His eyes absolutely lit up with wonder!

When his big day finally arrived, he dressed in his pilot uniform and wheeling his carry-on luggage, he arrived at Seletar Airport. There, he was welcomed by Captain Jason and the team at Seletar Flying Club for his first real flight. With his hands on the cockpit controls and his eyes fixed on the stunning view below, Jansen was experiencing the thrill of his wish come true, soaring high above the ground.

"The wish experience allowed my child to feel empowered and take part in something he had only dreamed of," shared Jansen's parents. "It made a meaningful difference in his confidence and happiness."

A big thank you to Casey Kwan and Seletar Flying Club for helping Jansen's wish take off!



WISH STORY

"I wish to have a customised stroller!"

Zora, 5
cerebral palsy

Zora is a bright and curious 5-year-old with a love for reading, but living with cerebral palsy means she requires extra support in her day-to-day life. Her wish was simple but life-changing: a durable, custom-built stroller that could make daily activities more accessible and help her explore the world more freely.

Make-A-Wish Singapore worked closely with Zora's physiotherapist and a mobility specialist to create the custom-built stroller just for her. It was designed not just for comfort, but to adapt to her medical needs while offering Zora the opportunity to be part of more family experiences.

To celebrate her fulfilled wish, Zora and her family spent a joyful day at the zoo, an outing they had long dreamed of. The day began with a "Breakfast in the Wild" experience, where animals came up close for a special interaction with Zora and her twin brother, Zoravar. There were even surprise cupcakes – Zora's favourite treat!

A private tour and giraffe feeding followed, where Zora got to meet the gentle giants she had only seen in books. Reaching out with excitement, she fed the giraffes as they lowered their long necks toward her, an unforgettable moment that had her grinning from ear to ear! Before heading home, Zora chose a zebra-themed shirt from the gift shop to remember the day.



Her new stroller has become a meaningful part of her daily life, giving Zora the comfort and mobility to join in family outings and everyday adventures with ease.

A huge thank you to Boston Consulting Group employees for helping make Zora's wish come true, so she can explore the world with joy and confidence.



WISH STORY

"I wish to go skydiving!"

Chin Yee, 17
systemic lupus erythematosus



Chin Yee, a vibrant 17-year-old, had always been drawn to the outdoors. However, a diagnosis of systemic lupus erythematosus during primary school forced her to limit her sun exposure, grounding her passion for adventure. But as her health improved, so did her desire for excitement, and her wish was simple yet daring, she wanted to go skydiving!

Initially, Chin Yee thought her only option was a tandem jump. But her wish granters, who were experienced skydivers, encouraged her to aim higher. They introduced her to the Skydiving Accelerated Freefall (AFF) course, an opportunity to skydive solo. With newfound inspiration, Chin Yee convinced her parents to go on this incredible adventure with her.

Chin Yee took charge of the planning, including arranging accommodations and car rentals. After practising her freefall skills at iFLY Sentosa and completing her Accelerated Free Fall theory lessons in Singapore, she travelled to Thailand, eager for her first solo jump.

On the day of her jump, Chin Yee, guided by two instructors and equipped with a radio in her helmet, completed her first freefall. The experience was beyond exhilarating, soaring through the air, controlling her parachute, and landing safely on the grass below. Over the next week, she completed eight jumps and earned her skydiving certification, leaving Thailand as a certified skydiver. Beyond the certification, this experience gave Chin Yee a newfound confidence!

Thank you to KrisFlyer members for donating your miles and helping Chin Yee soar to new heights!

WISH STORY

"I wish to meet PRX!"

Jovan, 18
heart failure



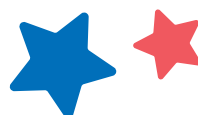
Gaming has always been Jovan's passion, and Valorant was his gateway to connecting with friends. His wish was to meet eSports team PRX, along with his friends, to learn advanced gaming techniques from the team and meet his favourite player in real life.

In the lead-up to the big day, Jovan's gaming setup received several upgrades. One standout moment was a surprise visit to Secretlab, where Jovan handpicked his very own gaming chair and table to complete his ultimate gaming station.

When his wish day arrived, Jovan and his friends were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the PRX headquarters. They learned all about how to start streaming, something Jovan had always wanted to explore. Jovan also had the chance to show off his gaming skills, receiving expert tips from the PRX team before playing a few rounds with them.

As the grand finale, Jovan was gifted a brand-new gaming monitor, along with a one-on-one session with a personal computer (PC) builder to design a custom gaming PC just for him. Jovan's wish wasn't just fulfilled; it was brought to life in a way that made him feel like a true gaming champion!

A huge thank you to PRX for making Jovan's wish so unforgettable, and to Secretlab for providing him with a gaming chair that fits him perfectly!





"I wish to have a new buggy!"

Garren, 15
cerebral palsy

How you can help

Refer a child

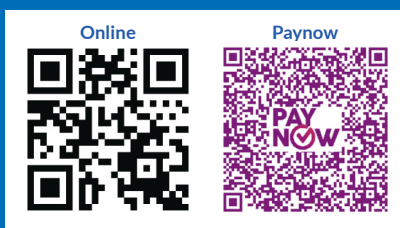
Every wish begins with a referral. Help us help a child diagnosed with critical illness through the healing power of a wish!



Scan the QR code or email us at wish@makeawish.org.sg to refer a child.

Donate

A wish brings hope to children with critical illness at a time when they need it most. Wish impact studies have shown that wishes complement a child's medical treatment, giving them renewed strength to battle their illnesses. A wish journey also brings families together and unites communities.



Scan to donate online or via Paynow:

For PayNow, enter the following details into the reference field:
W49<space>Name<space>NRIC/FIN/UEN
Example: W49 BOB S1876543D

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, COMMIT TO A REGULAR DONATION

Making a regular donation goes a long way to inspire hope and deliver strength to children with critical illness. Your gift brings wishes to life and helps us to constantly grant impactful wish journeys which becomes a source of motivation for the wish children and their families.



Make-A-Wish[®]

SINGAPORE

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