

# Wish VOICES

YOUR MAKE-A-WISH® UK  
NEWSLETTER

SPRING / SUMMER 2025

p.6

Get gaming to  
grant wishes with  
Wish 200 Week!

p.8

Meet the team -  
*Allie's skydive*

MSA  
The Safety Company  
BRISTOL

SAFETY

tailt

p.5

Firefighter Monty sounds  
the alarm and saves the day!

MONTY'S DAY AT WHITECHAPEL FIRE STATION

Make-A-Wish®  
UNITED KINGDOM

# Wish VOICES

## In this issue

- 3 Welcome to Wish Voices
- 4 Poundland Foundation bringing in the pounds!
- 5 **Wish stories:** Monty
- 6 **Get involved:** Wish 200 Week
- 8 **Spotlight on...**  
*Challenge Events Manager Allie*
- 9 Leaving a legacy
- 10 **Wish stories:** Jack

.....

## Get social

Follow us at [@makeawishuk](https://twitter.com/makeawishuk) for regular updates and announcements.

f X @ d y in

.....

## In case you missed it...

Catch up on previous editions at [make-a-wish.org.uk/WishVoices](https://make-a-wish.org.uk/WishVoices)

If you would like a digital copy of this booklet, please email [fundraising@makeawish.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@makeawish.org.uk)

*All information is correct at time of print.*

**Make-A-Wish**  
UNITED KINGDOM

## MAKE-A-WISH IN NUMBERS



# 1

person is all it takes to make a difference!



# 18,882

wishes granted since 1986 when Make-A-Wish UK started

(as of 31st December 2024)



# 1,205

wishes granted in 2024!



# £1,800

is the current average cost to grant a wish

# £30

could buy a costume for a child whose wish is to be a superhero



# £80

could buy a sensory toy as part of a bedroom makeover wish



# £300

could buy a games console for a wish child who can only connect with their friends online whilst undergoing treatment



# 98%

of wish families said they would be likely to talk positively about Make-A-Wish to others (in 2024)

You can make more magical wishes come true by donating at [make-a-wish.org.uk/give-now](https://make-a-wish.org.uk/give-now)

## Welcome to Wish Voices!

I'm delighted to welcome you to our first edition of 2025. Every day, we witness the incredible power of a wish—the joy it brings, the strength it nurtures, and the profound impact it has on children facing life-threatening conditions. Thanks to your unwavering support, we are able to continue making wishes come true, giving children and their families a moment of respite, wonder, and happiness in the face of unimaginable challenges.

In this edition of our newsletter, we're excited to share some of the remarkable stories from 2024, highlight the difference you've made, and update you on our efforts to reach even more children who need us. Your generosity allows us to spread joy and positivity across the UK, and for that, we are deeply thankful.

Each page is a testament to the spirit of our wish children, their families, and the dedicated supporters and volunteers, who make wishes come true. A personal highlight for me was to see the impact our legacy pledgers have which you can read about on page 9 and request a free information pack on page 12.

Our goal is to grant more wishes every year, but we couldn't do that without our supporters like you. Whether it's fundraising through gaming (page 6), or taking part in a challenge event (page 8), you are what makes everything we do possible. Together, we are making wishes come true. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey with us.

With warmth and gratitude,

*Jason*

Jason Suckley  
CEO





# Poundland Foundation to fund 200 wishes for Make-A-Wish this year!

We are so excited to announce that the Poundland Foundation has committed to supporting Make-A-Wish this year by donating £360,000 to fund 200 wishes in waiting, wishes that would have otherwise had to wait due to lack of funding.

One of these wishes is for **Alexander**, aged 11, who wishes to take an overnight sleeper train to London with his family. After undergoing treatment for aggressive bone and tissue cancer, his wish will mean that the family can create cherished memories together when this opportunity was scarce during treatment. Thanks to the Poundland Foundation and their supporters, more wishes just like Alexander’s will be granted.

We’re incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from Poundland and The Poundland Foundation. This year marks **eight** years of collaboration, and in that time, they’ve donated over £2.6 million to help fulfil the wishes of children facing critical illnesses.



**Do you have any connections to businesses that could support Make-A-Wish?** We'd love to hear from you if you know any organisations that align well with Make-A-Wish especially if they

have charity partnerships and/or make corporate donations to charity. If so, please do reach out to us at [corporate@makeawish.org.uk](mailto:corporate@makeawish.org.uk)



*I wish to be  
a firefighter*

**Monty, 5**  
leukaemia

Living with leukaemia at just five years old, Monty has had to be brave just like his favourite TV character, Firefighter Sam! It was then no surprise what his wish would be...

After spotting a lump on the side of their then two-year-old's neck in the summer of 2021, Monty's parent's Jodie and Giles spent four months trying to figure out what was wrong. As Mum explained: "Eventually in December we got a leukaemia diagnosis. It took a long time for it to be traceable in his blood. Waiting was long and tough and because he was only two he couldn't tell us how he was feeling."

Having been diagnosed at such a young age, leukaemia has dominated Monty's early childhood. "He's in clear discomfort a lot of the time but he's learnt to just get on with it. He's never known any different, he's always felt like this," said Mum.

Although currently undergoing treatment, Monty is doing well and attends school regularly. The world of his favourite TV show Firefighter Sam has inspired Monty to be brave, just like the title character!

"Before treatment, he wasn't into watching TV. He was active and never sat down. But after having to stay still for long periods in hospital with IVs in his arms he started to watch Firefighter Sam all the time!"

During his wish discovery call the question of Monty's perfect wish had one clear answer: "When we had the call, being a firefighter was all he considered!" said Mum.

The wish experience started as soon as Mum, Dad, Monty, and his sisters arrived at Whitechapel Fire Station in London, with Monty getting his own firefighting suit. As Mum told us, "He got to put out a fire with a hose and they acted out the scenario for him - he was over the moon!"

But the action didn't stop there. After the family sat down for lunch, firefighter Monty had to attend an urgent 'rescue mission' set up just for him.

For Mum, the best part of the experience was that Monty really was a firefighter: "My highlight was watching them fully involve him, making him genuinely feel like a firefighter. It was like 'Monty this is your role - you **are** a firefighter.' He was fully immersed!"

After a long day of being a hero, Monty said goodbye to his fellow firefighters, ending a day that will truly stay with him and his family forever. As Mum said, "he'll be talking about it forever as one of the best days of his life!"



# WISH 200 WEEK

14TH-20TH JULY

## Get ready for an incredible week of gaming, fundraising, and granting life-changing wishes!

From 14–20 July, Wish 200 Week is your chance to make a real difference by doing what you love—playing games. Whether you're a casual gamer or a serious competitor, there's a place for everyone to help grant wishes for children with critical illnesses.

Gaming has become such an important part of many wish families' lives. For some children, gaming offers a sense of normality when life feels uncertain, while for others, it's a way to connect with friends and escape to worlds where anything is possible. That's why games and gaming are at the heart of Wish 200 Week.

In the past, gaming legends like Jelly, Slogo, and DanTDM have rallied their fans to support Make-A-Wish campaigns and helped grant magical wishes. Their videos have not only inspired donations but also shown just how impactful the gaming community can be. Now it's your turn!

Why not host your own gaming day with friends and family, stream or play

your favourite games, or create friendly competitions? It could be as simple as organising a Minecraft build-off, an epic FIFA tournament, or a family Monopoly night. Whatever your game, every pound you raise brings a child closer to their wish.

Signing up is easy, and we'll provide all the tools you need to make your fundraising a success—from donation trackers to fun incentives for your supporters.

So, let's make this Wish 200 Week unforgettable. Together, we can harness the power of gaming to bring hope, joy, and smiles to children who need them most.

Ready to play? **Let's make every game count!**

Find out more at [make-a-wish.org.uk/gaming](https://make-a-wish.org.uk/gaming)



For **Sevi** and his family, a limited prognosis following a brain cancer diagnosis means that every memory-making moment is vital. His wish to have a Nintendo Switch has provided bonding moments as he plays with his mum and dad whilst cuddled up in bed. As Sevi told us in his own words, “I love my Switch! Super Mario is my favourite game!”



*I wish to have a  
Nintendo Switch*

**Sevi, 5**  
neuroblastoma

When five-year-old Sevi was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer, his parents were given a short prognosis: “They said he wouldn’t live for long, maybe six months.”

The shocking diagnosis sent the family into a monotonous routine shaped by childhood illness. As Sevi’s mum told us, “He can’t enjoy physical activity with other kids and he’s always in hospital getting treatment. It’s home and hospital. There’s not much social life.”

But his wish of having a Nintendo Switch would offer Sevi exciting worlds to explore.

As Dad told us “In Oxford, he saw a kid playing on a Switch whilst an inpatient. He saw it and he asked what it was. I showed him on YouTube, and he said he really liked it. I said it’s expensive and we may not be able to afford it.” However, when a nurse came to the family and told them about Make-A-Wish, there was an obvious answer as to what Sevi’s wish would be.

“He was so excited when it arrived,” added Mum. “He loves gaming. When he isn’t playing on his Switch, he watches things about games and plays on his tablet.”

Surrounded by confusing medical terminology, Sevi’s Switch allows him to escape into expansive worlds where he is in control - not his condition. Not only does it help him pass long hours spent at home or in hospital, but it also serves as a way for him to bond with his family:

“He doesn’t get bored now, it really helps. It helps us bond as well - we’ll sit on the bed and just play all together!”

“Sevi has gone through so many procedures that even some adults haven’t gone through. Just a simple wish to be granted means a lot. Me and his father had to give up work to be with him, and we often can’t give him what he wants which makes us all quite sad.”

But for Sevi and his family, his wish has remedied that sadness as the five-year-old adventures around worlds and fights baddies whilst playing his favourite games.

As his parents told us:

**“It means so much to us -  
thank you so much!”**



Your gaming can grant wishes like Sevi’s - get involved at [make-a-wish.org.uk/gaming](https://make-a-wish.org.uk/gaming)

SPOTLIGHT ON...

# Challenge Events Manager *Allie*



As the Challenge Events Manager at Make-A-Wish UK, I spend most of my time supporting our inspirational fundraisers as they take on epic challenges to grant wishes. So last year I felt it was only fair to practice what I preach and take on a skydive.



**There's no feeling quite like sitting at the edge of an open doorway above the clouds. So why not take to the skies in 2025 by signing up for a skydive?**

Choose from one of 20 airfields across the UK and experience the ultimate adrenaline rush whilst granting wishes. You can find more information on our website and sign up today!

**[make-a-wish.org.uk/skydive](https://make-a-wish.org.uk/skydive)**

As we went up in the plane, the clouds grew closer and the altitude on my instructor's watch ticked higher and higher. Ironically, I felt an overwhelming feeling of calm up there, peaceful above the clouds. Before I knew it, the aircraft door was open and the light turned from red to green, giving me hardly any time to question my life choices. My biggest fear was fear of the unknown - not knowing whether panic would set in at the pivotal moment. But as I kneeled at the edge of the doorway and began to freefall, I realised it was the best decision I had made.

60 seconds of freefall sounds petrifying, but in reality, it is over in a blink, especially when you're having to smile for the cameraman falling next to you! There really is no feeling like it and as soon as that parachute opened, it started to sink in what I had achieved. We drifted over the Devon countryside towards our landing spot, having a natter and taking in the beautiful view.

Putting myself out of my comfort zone is nothing compared to what our wish children have to go through, so I did it for them and raised over £1,000 in the process. So, if you're looking for a bucket list challenge this year, why not prove to yourself that you CAN do it?

P.S. Mum you can open your eyes now, I'm safe!

*Allie*



## LEAVING A LEGACY

**Making a Will is important for your family, and it's also an opportunity to make a huge difference to a cause that you care about.**

What greater gift could you give to a seriously ill child than the belief that wishes really can come true? That's the magical power of leaving a gift in your Will to Make-A-Wish.

**Our free guide to leaving a gift in your Will contains all the information you need to know about how to write a Will and how you could leave a little magic that could last long into the future.**

You can request your free guide by scanning the QR code below.

You don't have to include a gift in your Will to Make-A-Wish UK if you request a guide, but we hope once your loved ones are provided for, you might consider leaving a little magic for critically ill children. What greater gift could you leave them than to believe wishes really can come true?

Whether it's a percentage of your estate, a set cash amount, or a gift such as jewellery or property, a gift in your Will is an incredible way to leave a legacy for critically ill children.

Get your free information pack today at [make-a-wish.org.uk/leave-a-gift-in-your-will](https://make-a-wish.org.uk/leave-a-gift-in-your-will)

### **Your legacy can grant wishes for children like Avia:**

For seven-year-old Avia and her family, a seemingly normal day ended in a shocking kidney tumour diagnosis.

"It came out of the blue, she had always been a healthy child," said mum Nina. Avia's life quickly turned upside down, with the hospital becoming her new home as she started months of intensive treatment. Now in remission, Avia's wish to be a princess for a day gave her the chance to celebrate and commemorate the end of her cancer experience.

"The last two years were a nightmare for her so it was amazing to see her face light up."

"These wishes remind children like Avia that despite what they have gone through there are people that care for them and want them to be happy. We couldn't thank you all enough!"

**Around 1 in 10  
wishes granted  
are funded by  
gifts in Wills**



*I wish to be  
a princess*

**Avia, 7**  
kidney cancer





When choosing his wish, caring Jack said “I’m going to use my wish so we can spend time together as a family!” Jack decided to go to Lapland so that he could give his family “the best Christmas ever!”



When ten-year-old Jack was just a toddler, his parents received life-changing news: their son had MPS, a rare genetic disorder that impacts the body’s organs and skeletal structure. “The doctors told me that he had an incurable condition which would end his life before the age of ten,” said Mum. Impacting his mobility, Jack’s childhood has been shaped by his condition: “At school they have ball games. He knows he can’t play because he can’t bend down to pick up a ball.” Unable to join in, Jack is often isolated from his peers, watching from the sidelines instead.

But while living with the consequences of his condition and making frequent trips to hospital, Jack has always had Christmas to look forward to. When choosing his wish, caring Jack said “I’m going to use my wish so we can spend time together as a family!” So Jack decided to go to Lapland so that he could give his family “the best Christmas ever!”

The winter before his wish was tainted by hospital visits and respiratory issues But last year, Jack’s December started off on a different note: instead, his family was immersed in a land full of magic and Christmastime cheer.

Surrounded by glistening snow and herds of huskies, Jack was in his element. “His favourite moment was when he was with the huskies,” said Mum.

The wish allowed the family to do something that many take for granted: they were able to make

happy memories that they could share as a family.

As Mum told us “Getting time together as a family is a massive positive for us. Jack deals with pain every day, but he was buzzing on his wish. What made it so special wasn’t just the time we spent there; it was the memories that we created as a family.”

“For children like Jack, their lives are filled with hospital appointments and scary things that they learn to live with,” explained Mum, “but Make-A-Wish has made it so that families like ours can have a magical experience with no financial burden, where they can fully relax and enjoy time as a family. Thank you so much, these selfless acts mean so much to families like ours.”

**THANKS TO YOU,  
WE’RE ABLE TO  
MAKE WISHES FOR  
YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE  
JACK COME TRUE.**



You can make more magical wishes come true by donating at [make-a-wish.org.uk/give-now](https://make-a-wish.org.uk/give-now)

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Give a regular monthly gift

With your regular monthly gift, you'll be helping to make hundreds of wishes come true every single month. Together we can reach our goal to grant a life changing wish for every eligible child. Even a small donation every month can make a big difference!

[make-a-wish.org.uk/donate/make-a-donation](https://make-a-wish.org.uk/donate/make-a-donation)

Wish + Win Lottery

What would you do with £20,000? Enter the Wish + Win Lottery for just £1 per entry per week for your chance to win the jackpot and other exciting prizes! All whilst helping to make the wishes of critically ill children come true.

[make-a-wish.org.uk/lottery](https://make-a-wish.org.uk/lottery)

“I feel like a winner every day of my life, but this was a wonderful surprise!”

- 2024 winner



Fundraise

From cake sales to sponsored swims, organise your own fundraising event and help us grant wishes to critically ill children. We will be on hand every step of the way to support you with anything you might need, to take a look at ideas or register your event please visit:

[make-a-wish.org.uk/fundraise](https://make-a-wish.org.uk/fundraise)



Volunteer

Do you want to have a direct impact on local wishes in your area? By becoming a Wish Maker, you can help us raise vital funds and secure gifts in kind to make wishes a reality in your community! For more information please visit:

[make-a-wish.org.uk/volunteer-roles](https://make-a-wish.org.uk/volunteer-roles)

Donate

Being diagnosed with a critical illness can bring a child's joy to an abrupt end, but Make-A-Wish UK is part of a global movement that grants life-changing wishes that have the power to turn tears into cheers, rescuing the magic of childhood even in their toughest times and providing a lifeline for families to spend precious time together. The only wish we can't guarantee is more time. But with your support, we can grant more wishes sooner, before it's too late.

Donate today at [make-a-wish.org.uk/give-now](https://make-a-wish.org.uk/give-now) or scan the QR code.







Around **1 in 10** wishes granted are funded by gifts in Wills!

Leave a little  
★ **magic** ★ in your  
Will for critically  
ill children like  
**Zachariah**

Get your **free** information pack today via our website or by scanning the QR code!



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**

Get your **free** information pack today at [make-a-wish.org.uk/leave-a-gift-in-your-will](https://www.make-a-wish.org.uk/leave-a-gift-in-your-will)

Make-A-Wish Foundation® UK. Charity Reg Nos. 295672/SC037479  
Seventh Floor, Thames Tower, Station Road, Reading, RG1 1LX  
[www.make-a-wish.org.uk](https://www.make-a-wish.org.uk) | 01276 40 50 60

Follow us on social media @makeawishuk



**Make-A-Wish®**  
UNITED KINGDOM