

# Wish VOICES

AUTUMN / WINTER 2025

YOUR MAKE-A-WISH® UK NEWSLETTER

*Ready,  
steady,  
bake...*  
Get involved  
this Autumn

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Finding Tiwalade's **happily  
ever after** at A Disney Wish

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Make-A-Wish®  
UNITED KINGDOM

# Wish VOICES

## Welcome to Wish Voices!

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### Get social

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



### In case you missed it...

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

Every day, we're reminded of the incredible power of a wish. Wishes allow children to dream big, no matter what they're facing. Thanks to your continued support, we're able to make impossible dreams a reality, offering critically ill children a respite from treatment and allowing their family to create treasured memories, no matter what the future holds.

In this edition, we're thrilled to share some of the most inspiring stories from our year so far, celebrate the difference you've made, and update you on our mission to reach even more children across the UK. Your generosity fuels everything we do, and we're deeply grateful for the joy you help spread.

A personal highlight for me recently was being able to attend A Disney Wish - an immersive multi-day experience featuring Disney characters and shows right here in the UK. I was able to speak directly to wish families, hearing their experiences first-hand. You can read Tiwalade's story for yourself on page 6.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey. Together, we're making wishes come true.

*Jason*

Jason Suckley  
CEO



*All information is correct at time of print.*

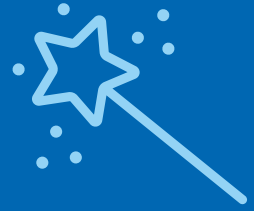
## Micah's wish makes the record books!

Whilst undergoing treatment for leukaemia, puzzle cubes have always been by 13-year-old Micah's side, offering a much-needed distraction. "When Micah has an idea of something he likes he just goes for it," explained mum Christy. So, when Micah learned of a girl who had a **GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™** title for the most rotating puzzle cubes solves whilst hula-hooping, he was determined to hold his very own record: most rotating puzzle cubes solved on stilts in one hour! With the help of Make-A-Wish UK, Micah can now say that he is a **GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS** holder!

After his wish, his mum told us: "To me, healing is so much more than the medical side of things. The treatment and physical side are vital, but I think a big part of healing is the emotional well-being side. **A wish is as vital as the chemo.** If you start to lose hope or feel desperate it physically makes you ill as well. To experience that joy and hope through a wish gives you the strength to get better."



You can make more magical wishes come true at [make-a-wish.org.uk/donatewishvoices](https://www.make-a-wish.org.uk/donatewishvoices)



We've granted  
**19,685**  
wishes since 1986  
when Make-A-Wish  
began in the UK  
*(as of 31st July 2025)*

**Over 1,000**  
of those wishes have  
been granted in the  
last year alone  
*(Financial year beginning 1st  
September 2024)*



**1** person is  
all it takes  
to make a  
difference...

Our goal is to grant more wishes every year, and we couldn't do it without you. Whether you're holding a bake sale (page 4), taking on a challenge event (page 6), or simply cheering us on, **you're at the heart of everything we achieve.**



# Whisk it Bake it (or fake it!)

We won't tell anyone...

On **15th October** we are asking bakers across the country to fire up their ovens and don their favourite apron (or nip to your favourite supermarket) to help raise some dough for Make-A-Wish UK.

It's the perfect opportunity to come together at your workplace, school or even making a night of it at home with friends and family to raise vital funds so we can help make more wishes come true – all whilst enjoying tasty treats! Sweet treats not your thing? You could swap out the cakes for a savoury theme instead.

If you can't join us and our army of bakers on the 15th that's no problem! You can hold your event on any day that works for you – our team will still be here to support you along the way with all your fundraising needs.

To find out more and to order your free fundraising pack visit

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



Since 15-year-old **Jacob** was diagnosed with a degenerative neurological condition in 2020, his loyal pooch has been by his side. Knowing just how helpful dogs can be, Jacob wished to go to the Guide Dogs centre to meet the puppies destined to help humans just as his dog Izzy has helped him.



*I wish to go to the Guide Dogs centre*

**Jacob, 15**  
neurological condition

Watch this wish here!



In 2020 a sudden diagnosis of a degenerative neurological condition, meant that Jacob's mobility deteriorated quickly. As his dad Mike recalled: "Within months his ability to walk and stand disappeared."

But the family dog Izzy was there to make it all better: "She was such a support to Jacob. She is so intelligent and would do things to help him. When he had difficulty walking down the stairs, she would stand on each step below him so that he didn't fall - with no training!"

Jacob's lifelong love for dogs meant a dog-themed wish was his go-to choice. But Jacob wanted to have something he couldn't do by himself. As Dad explained "We wanted his wish to be something that Make-A-Wish could help us with. Something that we could create that wasn't about expenses. Something bespoke."

With his wish to go to a Guide Dogs centre chosen, Jacob's Wishgranter worked with the team at the Redbridge Guide Dogs centre to create the perfect day for Jacob!

The day kicked off with Jacob taking part in a puppy training class - teaching all the adorable puppies the necessary skills they'd need to be successful guide dogs.

The favourite part of the day for Jacob came when he got to spend one-on-one time with the dogs:

"There was a moment when we took Jacob out of his chair and each of the dogs came over to us for a cuddle."

The family were then taken for a tour of the kennels before Jacob and his parents got to experience being guided around a set of obstacle courses to see what it was like being led.

Navigating life with a disability can make things tricky for Jacob, but his wish allowed him to feel special amidst a busy time in his life. As Dad explained, "For Jacob particularly it's difficult. He's trying to fit into a system that was never designed for him. A wish is one of those moments that make them feel special, something done for them individually and that's precious really."



GET INVOLVED

# New year, new challenge?

Spring 2026 brings a whole host of races, both up and down the UK and across the channel.

On the 1st March, you could be enjoying the sea breeze during the Brighton Half Marathon as part of Team #WishHero.

Fancy taking on a half marathon while seeing the sights of the nation's capital? Be one of our London Landmarks Half Marathon #WishHeroes on the 12th April!

Or if you want an even greater challenge, why not sign up for the Paris Marathon on the 12th April, or the Manchester Marathon on the 19th April? We'll be there to support you every step of the way!



For more information, visit [make-a-wish.org.uk/events](https://www.make-a-wish.org.uk/events) or email [runs@makeawish.org.uk](mailto:runs@makeawish.org.uk)

Both **Tiwalade** and her twin sister Tinuade, aged eight, live with a blood disorder. Frequent hospital trips for the girls are made brighter by watching Disney films. After being immersed in the world of her favourite characters at A Disney Wish, Tiwalade and her family were able to make memories that will last a lifetime.

A few weeks after being born, bubbly and bright Tiwalade and her twin sister Tinuade were diagnosed with sickle cell disease, a genetically inherited blood disorder. The condition causes a host of medical complications, including anaemia, higher susceptibility to infections, and intense episodes of pain, to name a few. Life was filled with frequent hospital visits for the twins until medication improved their condition. Still, the twins undergo check-ups to manage their medication and ensure the blood disorder is kept under control.

Despite living with sickle cell, the twins remain incredibly strong. As dad Temi said, "In the past, before I had them, I thought people with their conditions would not be so strong. But that's incorrect. I know that with their conditions, it can cause them pain, but they still do everything other children do!"

When the parents of the Minnie and Mickey Mouse-loving Tiwalade were told about the potential of a Disney-themed wish by a nurse at St Mary's Hospital, they knew it would be the perfect wish for Tiwalade. As Dad said:

"They love Disney! I worked in the film industry in film production and had worked with Disney. So they love it! It's something they watch at home and always talk about. They always say they want to go to Disney. So this will be a wish come true for them!"



*I wish to have  
A Disney Wish*

**Tiwalade, 8**  
blood disorder

On the 13th of May, the three-day magic-filled experience began, with the family heading from their home to the secret location of A Disney Wish - a UK-based event featuring exclusive shows, Disney characters and more!

Tiwalade said: "I had the greatest time at A Disney Wish UK. On the first day, we went to the Enchanted Forest, which was bright, magical, and colourful. Next, we went to a show - Mickey, Minnie, Goofy, and Pluto were there. At the end of the show, we got to take pictures with Mickey and friends. Also, we met some elves. I loved their costumes. Then my favourite bit happened - the Frozen show. Confetti fell from the ceiling - it was so cool!

On day two, we first went to see Belle. We also saw some other princesses like Cinderella, Tiana, and more. We went on a carousel, did crafts, and played. We also went shopping with our elf pounds and met Marvel superheroes. Afterwards we had the Elf Extravaganza show and silent disco. I think this place is the best place I have gone to so far!"

When we asked Dad why he thinks wishes are vital for children like Tiwalade and Tinueade, he said: "Every day they are faced with challenges due to their condition - the family goes through it as well. But they get to have this wish, something that makes their life better as they have something to look forward to."

The three day experience brought the family together - an opportunity they often don't have outside of hospital visits.

Dad and the whole family are grateful for the three-day experience: "Thank you is an understatement. The kids are super happy, and we as a family are as well because it was a holiday for all of us. It allows the parents to be there, and their siblings as well."



*I wish to go to  
Aardman studios*

**Mert, 12**  
Eisenmenger syndrome



## A Grand Day Out for Mert at Aardman studios!

12-year-old Mert lives with Eisenmenger syndrome, a condition caused by several heart defects. As mum Carol shared: "We were asked if we would consider fostering him at three weeks old, He wasn't expected to live long - up to a few months. But he's gone on and on. He hasn't gotten better, nor worse!"

One of the many impacts of his condition is chronic tiredness which means that Mert relies on a wheelchair to get around; the physical activities he can do, like playing football or going to soft play, are limited; he experiences

several painful migraines each week.

Mert's future remains unknown. As Mum told us "He may deteriorate slowly or his heart might just stop. There's nothing they've found that they can do to help him."

Despite the limitations his condition places on him, Mert excels at all the things he can do: "he's so intelligent and engaging. He's very mature."

After one of Mert's play therapists referred him for a wish, he didn't hesitate when picking his wish. As Mum told us: "He likes what I like and I like Wallace & Gromit."

“We’re always really keen when new films come out. When we spoke about what he might want to do that’s immediately what he wanted. Visiting Aardman studios isn’t something you could just do!”

On the day of the wish, Mert and his mum entered the famous Aardman Studios building to be met by none other than co-founder Peter Lord, who took Mert on a personal tour of the building and the studio’s history.

They were then treated to a tour of the model shop where some of the studio’s latest creations were being sculpted – even getting the chance to add some clay onto a character! As the model makers told him: “The more thumb-y the better!” After cleaning up, Mert was led onto set to see some of the animators live at work on a brand-new project (but Mert is sworn to secrecy so we can say no more!)

The highlight of the morning was when Mert met animator and Aardman Studios director Will Becher, who helped Mert have a go at animating for himself with three of his favourite characters: Wallace, Gromit, and Shaun the Sheep (a trio not reunited on screen since A Close Shave!)

Under the expert tutelage of Becher, Mert was soon capturing frame after frame to create his own piece of film to take away. Over 50 frames (and yet only a few seconds of footage) later, Mert was in his element - he’s now one of only around 30 people in the world who have had the privilege of animating Wallace & Gromit!



Whilst stopping for lunch, Mert and his mum were rejoined by Peter Lord: “They had a ball of clay each and he was showing Mert how to make Morph and they made one each! That was delightful and it made him feel really important and special!”

Mum was astounded at the attention and interest Mert was given by the animators at the studio: “They treated him with such dignity like he was a very important person, they were sharing such complicated things with him. It wasn’t ‘ah he’s a poorly person he can’t learn anything’ it was ‘he’s an important person and we’re going to show him how things are made!’”

Before his wish, Mert was hesitant to talk about his future, but the life-changing experience changed that: “When he spoke about what he wanted to do when he grows up, he was hesitant because there’s a chance he won’t grow up and he knows that. But now he says that he thinks he would want to do animation in the future. Children like Mert can think that there isn’t a future, so just to be taken out of that and to see a future is so important to Mert.”

Now the family is eternally grateful for the wish, and all those who helped make Mert’s day so special: “I want to thank everyone because it made a magical memory for him and me. For me to be part of it and to see the delight on his face was amazing!”

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

You can make more magical wishes come true at [make-a-wish.org.uk/donatewishvoices](https://www.make-a-wish.org.uk/donatewishvoices)



*“The volunteers were amazing! They helped direct parents, involved themselves, and really helped the wish happen.”*

- wish parent

## Volunteer as a Wish Maker!

Whether you have 30 minutes a week or more to volunteer, your time can create life-changing moments for children living with critical conditions.

### Ready to get started?

Browse local opportunities at [volunteer.make-a-wish.org.uk](http://volunteer.make-a-wish.org.uk)

Or reach out to us directly at [volunteering@makeawish.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@makeawish.org.uk)

Volunteers can get involved in anything from helping at events, joining virtual meet-and-greets or attending wishes directly. If you're interested in fundraising you could take on the challenge of organising your own event - from bake sales to quiz nights. Every bit counts, and it's all flexible and fully supported.

No experience is needed - just passion, kindness, and a desire to make a difference. Whether you get involved on your own or with friends, you'll be helping to bring hope and happiness to children who need it most.

### Why volunteer?

- You can make a meaningful difference in your community.
- Flexible opportunities that fit around your schedule.
- Become part of a supportive, inspiring volunteer community.
- You'll make wishes come true that bring lasting joy.

## OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

### *Give a regular monthly gift*

With more children turning to us for a wish than ever before, a monthly donation can ensure that we can keep granting life-changing wishes. Even a small donation every month can make a big difference! Together we can reach our goal to grant a wish for every critically ill child.

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

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### *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



The image shows a woman with short, curly brown hair, smiling and holding a large blue sign. The sign reads 'WISH+WIN LOTTERY' in white capital letters. Below the text are five colored circles containing numbers: 29 (red), 56 (orange), 03 (yellow), 74 (light blue), and 79 (dark blue). The woman is wearing a patterned top.

### *Fundraise*

From cake sales to sponsored swims, organise your own fundraising event and help us grant wishes for 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)



### *Payroll giving*

Payroll giving is an easy and convenient way for you to make a donation directly from your salary to grant life-changing wishes. Through payroll giving, donations are taken from your salary before tax, so each pound you donate will cost you less. To find out more, visit:

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

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### *Donate*

**Every hour**, a child in the UK is diagnosed with a critical illness, putting them in line for a wish. When a child is diagnosed with a critical illness, their world comes crashing down. The playground is replaced with a hospital bed. Playing with friends is replaced with relentless medical treatments. Childhood can be replaced with fear.

But a wish has the power to change this. A wish allows a child to dream big, no matter what they are going through.

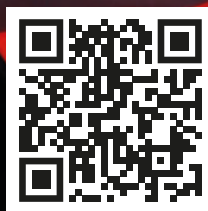
Donate today at [make-a-wish.org.uk/donatewishvoices](https://make-a-wish.org.uk/donatewishvoices) or scan the QR code.



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

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

Write your Will for free\* at  
[farewill.com/makeawish-voices](http://farewill.com/makeawish-voices)  
or by scanning the QR code.



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**

*\*Offer available for a limited time only.*

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

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