

Thank You for Granting Our Wishes



The Dayton business community, through A Special Wish,
can change the world for an ill child from pain,
needles and hospitals to joy, dreams
and beautiful family memories



HISTORY

The Dayton Chapter of ASW was founded by Dave Lantz in 1983. A young Dayton police detective and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Dave frequently responded to emergency calls involving seriously ill children. The pain, suffering and brevity of life of these children saddened him. In 1983, he read a newspaper article about Amber, a six-year-old leukemia patient and her wish to go to Disney World. The article explained how ASW in Columbus, Ohio, founded by Ramona Fickle, raised the funds to fulfill Amber's 'special wish.' Excited by the idea of fulfilling wishes for these special children, Dave contacted Mrs. Fickle and asked how he could help. The answer – "open a Dayton Chapter."

Dave began work and in late 1983, the Dayton Chapter granted its first Special Wish to six year old Bryan who wanted to meet Mickey Mouse in Disney World. Since then, the Dayton Chapter has granted the Special Wish of over 1,400 local children. From the very beginning, the Dayton community has stepped forward to help. From school children to corporate support, hundreds of organizations and Dayton area Corporations hold fund-raisers for ASW. From the Special Wish penny jar projects in elementary schools to college projects and FOP Softball Tournaments to Firefighters golf outings, the Foundation has never lacked for volunteers or Dayton area supporters willing to share their time, talent and resources. Year after year, these groups continue to assure local children will always receive their 'Special Wish.'

MISSION

Our mission and our goal focus of our organization. Our mission is to grant the Special Wish of a child/adolescent, birth through 20 years of age, who has been diagnosed by a physician as having a life-threatening disorder. Our mission area is the six counties of Montgomery, Miami, Mercer, Greene, Darke, and Shelby. Wish granting, employment, and involvement in all ASW programs are accomplished without regard to race, creed, sex, religion, national origin or economic status.

Our goal is threefold. First, to make each individual wish 'special.' Second, to enhance the quality of life for our wish children and their families. And, third, to lend both emotional and social support to these families, by providing the opportunity for them to share in the wish activity and to enable them to gather lasting memories to cherish.

To satisfy our mission and achieve our goal, ASW takes care to develop partnerships with local hospitals and support groups to assure eligible children are referred as quickly as possible. We have an almost three-decade-old history of support through the Dayton's Children Medical Center.

Our commitment to our mission, dedication to our goal, and the generosity and support of the Daytona area have made the Dayton Chapter of ASW the largest chapter in the nation. Most importantly, from our inception, we have never denied an eligible wish.

FACT SHEET

- The Dayton Chapter of A Special Wish Foundation Inc. grants wishes to children between the ages of birth through age 20 who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening disorder.
- The Dayton Chapter began in Dayton in 1983, and is now the largest Special Wish Chapter.
- The Dayton Chapter has granted over 1,400 Wishes to children living in our six-county area: Montgomery, Miami, Darke, Greene, Mercer, and Shelby.
- Over 90 cents of every dollar donated goes to grant the Wish of our local children.
- We are operated by an all-volunteer local Board of Directors, local volunteers, only two full-time and one part-time employee.
- ASW is funded only through the generosity of Miami Valley residents and organizations. We are a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization and a member of the Better Business Bureau.
- We encourage in-kind donations such as lodging, merchandise, office equipment, paper products, and even flight miles.
- A Special Wish Foundation never uses phone solicitation or professional fundraising organizations.
- The Wish request is completely up to the imagination of the Wish Child. Although 60% of our Special Wishes are for Walt Disney World trips, we also fulfill wishes that include meeting a favorite celebrity, bedroom makeovers, shopping sprees, and laptop Wishes.
- The cost of an average wish is \$4,000.
- To refer a child, please phone 937.641-4265; to volunteer, host an event or fundraiser, phone 937.641.4263;

BOARD LIST

Dayton Chapter

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