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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Make-A-Wish® Celebrates Those That Make Wishes Possible on *World Wish Day*®

Join the global celebration of thanks by sharing your #WorldWishDay message on social media

PHOENIX (April 26, 2016) – Make-A-Wish® – the global wish-granting organization that has granted more than 350,000 wishes worldwide since its inception in 1980 – will celebrate its annual *World Wish Day*® on April 29. This year, Make-A-Wish is asking individuals around the globe to join them in honoring and thanking the doctors, social workers, donors, child-life specialists, volunteers, sponsors, wish kids and families who believe in the powerful, life-changing nature of a wish.

The worldwide “Thank You” day will take place on April 29, in honor of the organization’s 36th anniversary. Individuals can show their support for those who make wishes come true in two ways: (1) by sharing a *World Wish Day* message with the hashtag #worldwishday on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and (2) by adding a World Wish Day profile picture frame to their profile photo on Facebook. Messages of thanks will help honor those who make life-changing experiences possible for children around the world.

“We know that Make-A-Wish would not exist without the support of people in communities throughout the world,” said Jon Stettner, president and CEO of Make-A-Wish International. “*World Wish Day* is a chance for us to say thank you to the hundreds of thousands of people who have played a part in wish granting since the beginning.” Make-A-Wish America president and CEO, David Williams, agrees saying: “*World Wish Day* isn’t a day for us to ask for help. It’s simply a day to say thank you and recognize the importance that each person plays in our mission.”

Make-A-Wish is showcasing the types of supporters behind each life-changing wish:

- Doctors like [Kusum Viswanathan, MD](#), who has referred more than 100 children to Make-A-Wish since she became involved with the organization in 1986, or **Dr. Sanjay Gupta**, practicing neurosurgeon and CNN Chief Medical Correspondent, who recognizes a wish as a vital part of a child’s treatment.
- Volunteers like [Asia Breland](#), who has dedicated herself in supporting Make-A-Wish since 2014, because she sees the positive and wide-ranging impact of a wish-come-true – both for the wish kid and everyone involved.
- Donors like [Pete Meyers and Kevin McCarthy](#), who have hosted their Polar Bear Plunge Challenge for nearly 20 years and have raised vital funds to grant more wishes.
- Celebrities like [Nigel Barker and Mazdack Rassi](#) who have experienced the joy of granting a child’s heartfelt wish.
- Sponsors like **Lokai**, who is donating \$1 from the purchase of every Neon Lokai to Make-A-Wish; or **Maggiano’s**, who supports Make-A-Wish through the annual Eat-A-Dish for Make-A-Wish specialty-menu campaign; or **Toys “R” Us**, who is celebrating World Wish Day with awesome birthday celebrations in stores across the country. These sponsors and many more make wishes possible.

In addition to sharing messages of thanks, Make-A-Wish chapters, affiliates and supporters worldwide will be celebrating *World Wish Day* through a series of wishes and events in their local communities and online at wish.org/worldwishday.

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Note to editors and reporters: Want to find out unique and interesting ways people across the country help Make-A-Wish? Contact Josh deBerge at jdeberge@wish.org.

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ABOUT MAKE-A-WISH®

Make-A-Wish® grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Based in Phoenix, Arizona, Make-A-Wish is the world's largest wish-granting organization, serving children in nearly 50 countries on five continents. With the help of generous donors and more than 32,000 volunteers worldwide, Make-A-Wish grants a wish somewhere in the world every 21 minutes on average. Since 1980, it has granted more than 350,000 wishes to children around the world. For more information about Make-A-Wish America, visit wish.org and for more information about Make-A-Wish International, visit worldwish.org.