

It's natural that a few misconceptions have come up over the years.

Here are three of the top myths – and the real story behind your life-changing impact:

Myth #1:

A wish is just something 'nice to have.' It makes a child happy for a day but doesn't impact a child's medical journey.

FALSE. Wishes are an essential part of a child's treatment journey. Wishes not only provide hope, but they can lead to improved physical health outcomes. One study found that children who received wishes were 2 times more likely to have fewer unplanned hospital admissions and emergency department visits. Nearly all medical providers report that a wish boosts a child's physical well-being and gives them the strength they need to face their illness. And 100% of doctors said the wish experience improves the child's overall quality of life and is a turning point in a child's treatment.

Myth #2:

Every child with a critical illness receives a wish.

FALSE. Our goal is to make this come true – but we're not there yet. Right now, more than 4,000 children are waiting for a wish, and some wishes can't wait. And another child in Canada is diagnosed with a critical illness every two hours. We urgently need more support so every eligible child can have their *Best Day Ever*.

Myth #3:

All wish kids have a terminal illness.

FALSE. Many wish kids go on to beat their illness and live happy, healthy lives. By granting wishes, you give them the hope and strength to keep fighting. According to Dr. Jeremy Friedman, Associate Pediatrician-in-Chief at SickKids and Make-A-Wish Medical Advisory Board member, "Wishes are incredibly powerful. It's a very different type of therapy from what people traditionally think of in terms of how you treat serious disease. To be able to grant wishes is probably one of the best prescriptions that I could ever write."

It's a FACT: wishes improve health outcomes for sick children.