



N E W S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Christine Reed, Director of Communications
creed@wishesandiego.org or 619-279-5218

Make-A-Wish® Launches Initiative to Grant More Wishes in San Diego

San Diego – (April 9, 2015) – Make-A-Wish San Diego launches a local initiative called The 100 Wish Challenge, to grant 100 more wishes for children with life-threatening medical conditions in San Diego.

Although the organization just celebrated the largest wish-granting year in their history—granting over 200 wishes in San Diego in 2014—current research reveals that as many as 311 children in the San Diego community will be diagnosed with a life-threatening illness this year. With this initiative, the organization sets out to narrow the gap between the number of medically-eligible children in San Diego, and the number of children receiving wishes each year.

A generous grant of \$250,000 from the Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation was announced to kick off the initiative for San Diego children, representing the largest single contribution from a foundation or an individual donor in Make-A-Wish San Diego’s history. “We are truly indebted to the Zable Foundation for their leadership, support and investment in the children of this community,” said President & CEO of Make-A-Wish San Diego Chris Sichel.

Building on a lifetime of community philanthropy, the Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation was established to carry on the founder’s wishes to support science, athletics and care for those

in need. Upon the passing of Walter J. Zable in 2012, the foundation is governed by the independent directors he appointed to carry on the mission of his philanthropy. “Walt did the community a great favor with his establishment of the foundation, we are proud to continue his legacy,” said President of the Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation Warren Magill. “We are happy we can support you [Make-A-Wish]... and we are excited to make a bigger impact for the children and families served by Make-A-Wish.”

“This extraordinary grant, and the hope, strength and joy it will inspire, will shape Make-A-Wish San Diego’s future in ways we cannot even foresee right now,” said Sichel.

The Zable Foundation’s lead gift marks the beginning of The 100 Wish Challenge, and additional support is needed to ensure the success of this effort. For more information on The 100 Wish Challenge initiative, benefiting children in San Diego, please contact Dana Vandersip with Make-A-Wish at dvandersip@wishesandiego.org or (619) 279-5202.

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ABOUT MAKE-A-WISH SAN DIEGO

Make-A-Wish San Diego grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions in San Diego and Imperial Counties to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Since its inception in 1983, the San Diego chapter has granted more than 3,400 wishes to children. At Make-A-Wish San Diego, the goal is simple: to come into a child’s life during a difficult time and provide hope and a much-needed break from the daily challenges they are forced to face. For more information please see www.sandiego.wish.org