**Adult former wish kids say** the wish experience made them feel better socially and emotionally, improved their health and strength, gave them more confidence and the will to pursue more challenging life goals, made them more compassionate and philanthropic, and *even helped to save their lives*.

**Parents say** the experience brought their families back together, gave their children new energy and resolve, and restored normalcy to their lives.

**Medical professionals say** the wish experience can improve their patients’ state of mind, their willingness to comply with treatment requirements, their response to treatment, and their physical health.

**Volunteers say** granting wishes gives them more faith in humanity, makes them more philanthropic, and instills in them greater optimism for the future.

**Overview**

A wish come true empowers children with life-threatening medical conditions to fight harder against their illnesses. When they are granted a wish, they get more than just a great experience for a day, two days, or a week. That experience improves the quality of life for them and their entire family.

Looking back years after their wish experiences, adult former wish kids tell us that the experience served as a turning point in their battle for health, a means of returning their focus on the future, shaping their lives as adults and *even helping to save their lives*. Their parents tell us that the wish experience pulled their families back together again, gave their sick kids renewed energy and a better state of mind to fight their illnesses or conditions, and brought a sense of normalcy back to their homes. And medical professionals treating our wish kids – physicians, nurses, social workers and child-life specialists – say the wish experience makes for better patients by easing kids’ fears and increasing their willingness to comply with tough treatment protocols, all of which can influence their physical health.

Below are specific outcomes that you can use if need be, presented in narrative, bulleted and percentage formats.

**Health Status**

Adult former wish kids, wish parents and attending health professionals agree that a wish experience has the following impact on wish kids’ health status:

* The wish experience can improve a wish kid’s physical health.
* A wish come true can mark a positive turning point in the child’s battle for health.
* A wish come true makes kids feel stronger and more energetic.
* The wish experience helps them comply with difficult, but vital, treatment regimens.
* In addition, a strong majority of adult former wish kids say that the wish experience helped to save their lives.

**Sample Narrative**

A wish come true helps children feel stronger, more energetic, more willing and able to battle their life-threatening medical conditions. For many of them, it marks a turning point in their fight against their illnesses. The wish experience works in concert with medicine to make their patients feel better, emotionally and even physically. And most adult former wish kids say their wish experiences helped to save their lives.

**By the Numbers**

* 83 percent of adult former wish kids say they experienced improved physical health and strength.
* A combined 89 percent of nurses, doctors, social workers and child life specialists surveyed say they believe that the wish experience can influence wish kids’ physical health, and 83 percent of adult former wish kids surveyed confirm they did experience improved physical health and strength.
* 71 percent of adult former wish kids believe the wish experience contributed to saving their lives.
* 97 percent of adult former wish kids say they experienced improved mental and emotional health.
* 74 percent of wish parents observed that the wish experience marked a turning point in their own children’s response to treatment. 79 percent of adult former wish kids confirm that their wish experienced marked a turning point in their treatment and recovery.
* 81 percent of parents observe an increased willingness by their wish kids to comply with treatment protocols, and 76 percent of adult former wish kids agree that their wish experience helped them with protocol compliance. 58 percent of medical professionals observed this behavior in the most recent wish child they treated.

**State of Mind**

* Wish kids and their parents alike experience more happiness and less fear in their lives.
* Wish kids are less isolated from friends, and feel a return of self-confidence that comes with feeling “normal” again.
* The wish experience gives them a “can-do” attitude, and inspires many of them to take up challenges they had thought were not possible.
* They are empowered to take back control of their lives, and to keep up the fight against their life-threatening medical conditions.
* Parents say their family units – often strained to the limit by stresses of the illnesses – are repaired and strengthened through the shared experience of the wish process.

**Sample Narrative**

Physicians and nurses see the vital role that a positive state of mind plays in a patient’s ability to fight illness, and they see the wish experience as a powerful force to improve the mental and emotional health of wish kids and their families alike. A wish improves children’s states of mind, replacing fear with happiness and helping them to feel like normal kids again. Through their wish experience, wish kids feel less isolated and more empowered to take back control of their lives. And while wishes help the kids who get them, they help their families, as well. Life-threatening medical conditions impact parents, siblings, and other family members on mental and emotional levels. Parents report, and health professionals observe, that wish experiences help repair and strengthen their families through a return to normalcy, and that feelings of hope and optimism replace fear and stress.

**By the Numbers**

* 99 percent of parents reported that the wish experience gave their children increased feelings of happiness.
* 97 percent of adult former wish kids report improved mental and emotional health because of their wish experiences.
* 91 percent of parents and 75 percent of health professionals observed that the wish experience decreased their child’s depression or sadness.
* 98 percent of parents felt the wish experience gave them the opportunity to be a “normal” family again.
* 96 percent of parents said the wish experience strengthened their families.
* 92 percent of parents saw their children experience re-empowerment to take back the ability to make decisions in their lives.
* 87 percent of adult former wish kids say their wish experience gave them the courage to pursue opportunities that were difficult or impossible before they received their wish.
* 77 percent of adult former wish kids say their wish experiences gave them direction on what they wanted to do with their lives, and another 77% were inspired to pursue careers helping others.
* 71 percent of wish kids credit their wish experience as inspiring them to further their own education.
* 85 percent of parents observed a decrease in their children’s anxieties or fears.
* 92 percent of parents observed a reduction in fear and anxiety among wish kids’ siblings.

**Strengthened Communities**

* Volunteers feel an increased sense of compassion and desire to help others in their community.
* They feel a renewed faith in humanity.
* They trust others more and feel more optimistic about the future.
* Volunteers and adult former wish kids alike feel a greater long-term commitment to philanthropy.
* Adult former wish kids, wanting to “pay forward” the positive experiences they received in their wishes, say they are choosing careers that empower them to help others.

**Sample Narrative**

The act of wish granting serves to strengthen communities. When volunteers and wish kids come together around the child’s wish, they both report feeling an increased sense of compassion and desire to help others, and a greater faith in humanity. They become more trusting in others and more optimistic in the future. These changes in volunteers ultimately lead them to make greater long-term commitments to philanthropy, creating a ripple effect of social value.

**By the Numbers**

* 97 percent of volunteers reported feeling more grateful and thankful as a result of helping to grant a wish.
* 95 percent of community volunteers reported an increased sense of compassion.
* 92 percent of volunteers felt an increased desire to give back and help someone else’s family.
* 92 percent of volunteers, 94 percent of wish parents, 84 percent of medical professionals and 86 percent of adult former wish kids expressed a deeper commitment to philanthropy and/or volunteering.
* 94 percent of adult former wish kids, 84 percent of volunteers and 92 percent of medical professionals feel an increased faith in humanity.
* 98 percent of adult former wish kids feel an increased sense of compassion toward others.
* 92 percent of wish parents, 64 percent of volunteers, and 77 percent of medical professionals felt increased trust in others.