

## **17,307** children, aged **3-17** years,

currently suffer from a critical illness in Greece.\*

Every year in our country, 856 children are diagnosed with critical illnesses.

In a daily life filled with uncertainty, marked by medical exams, hospital stays, and treatments, **Make-A-Wish Greece stands beside these children**, offering hope and emotional support. Its mission is to uplift their spirits, help them keep dreaming, and inspire belief in the Power of a Wish, so they can live out their greatest dream.

From the very first wish granted to this day, the Power of the Wish has been transforming children's lives. According to the doctors who walk this journey with us, it means:

"Empowerment, Love, Strength", V. Papadakis MD PhD, Pediatric Hematologist Oncologist, Head - Director of the Department of Pediatric Hematology - Oncology (TAO), Marianna V. Vardinogiannis Children's Oncology Unit. - ELPIDA, Agia Sofia Children's Hospital "The Right to Dream", I. Loukou, Pediatrician, Director and Head of the Cystic Fibrosis Department, Agia Sofia Children's Hospital

"Joy, Hope, Rejoice", A. Kattamis, Professor of Pediatric Hematology – Oncology, Head of University Oncology Hematology Unit, (POAiM/KETH) Oncology Unit "Marianna V. Vardinogiannis - FI PIDA"

M. Baka-Kagia, Pediatric Hematologist - Oncologist PhD, former Head of the Oncology Department of A. Kyriakou Children's Hospital, Marianna V. Vardinogiannis Children's Oncology Unit.

- ELPIDA, has stated that from the moment of diagnosis through to the end of treatments, what most children remember most vividly is the Wish Journey. "They feel they experienced a beautiful moment of normality in the midst of their difficulties." she said.

## Iliana, 15-year-old wish child, shared:

I had a truly magical experience. You made me feel good; after 3 years, I was finally able to open up about my diabetes. You were amazing. I'll always remember you with love and gratitude! You gave me the strength to overcome my fears and anxiety about the future.

<sup>\*</sup> Make-A-Wish International. (2024) Prevalence & Incidence Research, https://worldwish.org/prevalence-and-incidence-research/

## When Aris met the Make-A-Wish fairies, he shared his dream: to co-pilot the biggest airplane!

His Wish Journey began with a visit to an aviation event, where he experienced the thrill of airplane flights. From there, preparations took off; complete with a custom-made pilot uniform, hat fittings, and rehearsals. In the days leading up to the Wish Granting, the fairies and elves were in constant contact, as Aris eagerly counted down to the moment he would become a pilot.

On the big day, Aris proudly put on his uniform and hat, received his personalized pilot ID badge crafted by the fairies, and accompanied by his family arrived at Athens International Airport.

His fellow pilots were waiting to welcome and train him. Wide-eyed with excitement, Aris absorbed every detail, asking endless questions about the buttons and controls in the cockpit. When he entered the control tower, something magical

happened: every pilot arriving or departing from Athens greeted Aris over the radio, sending him heartfelt messages and encouragement for his future in aviation.

Days after his wish, Aris continued speaking about all that he saw and learned.

Get your own WishStar again this year with a symbolic donation of 2€!

Aris believed in the Power of the Wish and became a pilot.

Your support can bring the Power of the Wish to life for 250 children who are still waiting!

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