

# STARboard:

## Children's voices for our children

Meet our  
STARboard  
members



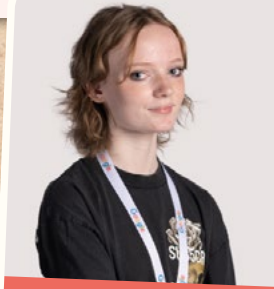
Abi



Aisling



Billy



Bríd



Carla



Danny



Ewen



Fionn



Gráinne

### Who understands a young person's wishes better than another young person?

**Our wish kids** have had to deal with a lot. In some ways, they're more grown up than other kids. So our goal is to be not only child-centred, but child-led.

That's why in 2024 we established a youth advisory board, called STARboard. These young people, currently 5 girls and 4 boys, come from across Ireland and are all former wish recipients. We depend on their experience to continually improve the wish process. They're at the heart of our work!

**Our STARboard members are quite active.** As the voice for wish children at Make-A-Wish Ireland, they steer our direction and help us overcome challenges.

**This experience** also helps our STARboard members develop useful leadership and organisational skills. And they rise to the challenge!

*"I would like other kids who are dealing with serious illnesses to see that there's hope and there can be fun times, even in the middle of the hard days."*

Aisling

Most of all, these amazing young people have a real voice in shaping Make-A-Wish Ireland's programs.

*Now your generosity not only grants wishes... but continues to help young people develop important skills they'll take with them into adulthood.*

# Wishes Come True

## thanks to you!

Make-A-Wish  
IRELAND



## Quinn's great adventure

*The train ride of a lifetime – thanks to you*

Imagine you're a little boy, in love with trains. Of course, many little boys love trains, or cars, or lorries. But Quinn is a little different to other little boys his age...

But through it all his mum, Orla, says he didn't complain, "he just got on with it. Always sunny side out the whole time."

*"Until you experience it, you don't realise how special it is."*

Orla, Quinns mum.

So when we learned about Quinn and his wish to be a train driver, our wish granting team got right to work.

Quinn and his family travelled to Dublin for two action packed days with Irish Rail.

Quinn is also living with Wilms tumour, a rare kidney cancer that mainly affects children. His treatment included chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and the removal of a kidney.

The first day Quinn operated a train simulator at the Irish Rail Training Centre. He navigated through various trains, weather conditions, and landscapes, feeling like a real train driver.

Continued on Page 2...



# Quinn's great adventure

Continued from page one

Quinn also visited Heuston Station, where he saw how the entire station operates, managing the departing and arriving trains. He even played the role of a VIP ticket inspector on an Inter-City Commuter, ensuring all passengers had their tickets in order.

The second day took Quinn to Connolly Station, where he got to see the yard full of old, classic trains. He met the people in charge of train maintenance, toured the control room for the station, and even boarded his favourite train, the Enterprise!

During his time in Dublin, Quinn indulged in another one of his passions at the Lego Store, where he purchased a new train set to add to his collection.

**Thank you for making wishes like Quinn's possible. Each life-changing wish provides joy and hope for wish children, their families and communities.**

Quinn and his brother Keegan get a look at a classic train. Throughout his wish, he wanted to be sure his brother and sister weren't left out!



## Children helping children: meet Holly

Holly sold nearly 100 handmade bracelets at her local fair and raised a total of €1,924 to support our wish children!

*"It makes me happy to think that the money I raised could help bring a smile to another child's face and make their dream come true."*

Holly

When Holly decided she wanted to help a charity, her mam, Amy, gave her a few suggestions. She learned about Make-A-Wish and knew she wanted to help.



Holly, holding her little brother, Arlo, at the fair

We're proud of Holly and her lovely gift. She put her heart into making her bracelets to help other children.

*Your support for Make-A-Wish brings children the joy of a wish. Thank you for everything you do to make our wish children's lives brighter!*



# For Mila, music heals

Your generosity made her wish possible!



*Mila is a lively, creative girl. Your gifts help grant wishes like Mila's. Thank you! ♥*

instrument. It'll be good for me." But she told her mum she didn't think guitar or drums were for her. Piano seemed right.

When she met with our wish granters, she told us of her love of music. And she wished for a piano to use with the band. We were happy to grant her wish!

*"It's really been a great distraction for us, something to focus on, something positive."*



*Mila's Piano!*

**Growing up, Mila was determined and creative.** She loved dressing up... and as her mum says, "She's really fun!"

When Mila was just a little girl, her mum noticed that she had swollen lymph nodes in her neck that didn't go away. They had a scan, and it showed nothing. Then she began to feel chest pains at night. Her GP told them to get to A&E and have Mila checked out right away.

**That's when Mila was diagnosed with Hodgkin Lymphoma. Stage four.**



*Mila and her mum ring the bell, signalling her cancer treatment is over*

No parent wants to hear that diagnosis. But you'll be happy to know that Mila has now finished her treatment. She and her mum were eager to ring the bell showing her cancer treatments had finished.

Mila and her friends decided to start a band. She thought, "Okay, maybe I need to learn an

Mila's mum, Sonya, says, "I think the value of the wish for children like Mila is that it's acknowledged that they've been on this really tough path. And that there's a little bit of something that's going to lift their spirits in the middle of it all. I think it's a way to mark their bravery and their courage."

**Your love for children like Mila is what makes wishes come true.** That's why we can never thank you enough for the caring that moves you to support Make-A-Wish Ireland.

*Thank you for the love that encourages young people like Mila!*

