

Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation

1) How has the current economy affected the need of services that you give to the community?

The economy has significantly affected the people we serve by adding enormous financial pressure during a time when our families need to be focused on creating and establishing a safe, secure environment for a child to deal with a severe medical condition. Adding financial stress on top of caring for a child with a life-threatening medical condition is a major burden to bear. The added stress only increases the importance of having something positive – like a wish – to focus on.

2) How has the current economy affected the donations of goods and services that your organization receives?

While we have not seen the dramatic decrease in donations that others have seen, we are fighting hard to keep the dollars coming in. Donors have responded to our 4-star Charity Navigator rating and their closeness to our mission and continued to support our wish children. At the same time we are trying to break even versus last year's fundraising, we have a record number of wish children in our system. Last fiscal year (ended August 31, 2009) we granted a chapter-record 336 wishes.

3) How have the services that your organization provides to the community affected our local economy?

While a wish is specific to a child, it involves an entire network and often captures the spirit of an entire community. Beyond providing an amazing experience for a wish child, wishes touch the entire immediate family, the extended family, doctors, social workers, friends, relatives, classmates etc. We spend nearly \$2 million a year directly on wishes and spur an entire network of support.