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From Managing Trustee's Desk

Friends and supporters,

We are very happy to present to you our first E news-letter which shall give you an overview of magic created in the past few months. It will also give you glimpses of what lies ahead in the near future.

We are very excited to have a new Board of Trustees, which includes distinguished personalities like Mrs. Neerja Birla, Mrs. Sangita Jindal and Mrs. Ritu Chhabria, who are well known for their philanthropic inclinations. Their varied knowledge and experience will help create a new vision for Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India.

I am also equally excited to announce that after going through a long process of selection we have found a person for the position of chief executive officer.

Please join me to welcome Mr. Deepak S Bhatia, who has a 25 year distinguished career in the corporate and development field. Deepak brings with him a combination of youth and experience, which I am sure, will help us to take our wonderful foundation to the next level.

We are very thankful to our International Board and the CEO Mr. Jon Stettner who has reposed confidence and faith in our operations and growth in India.

I take this opportunity to thank our past Board members who stepped down voluntarily to implement the Board succession plan. I express my personal gratitude to our former distinguished Board members: Gita Joshi, Deepak Satwalekar, Noshir Dadrawala, Deval Patel, Archana Karulkar, Nasser Munjee, and Pankaj Baliga.

I am very happy to have our past Board member Mr. Maneck Davar back on the Board. He has been a great supporter and motivating force since the inception of our foundation.

We all at Make-A-Wish India value the contribution made by individuals, corporates, grant making agencies, celebrities and last but not the least, our wonderful staff and team of volunteers who play a very important role in bringing joy to these wish children.

We all look forward to your continued support which will enable us to meet the true and realistic potential of Wish Granting in India.

Thank you,
Regards,

Uday Joshi

From CEO's Desk

Dear Well-wishers,

We are pleased to share with you this activity update which is for April 2012- July 2013.

Going forward, we will share with you our update as an e-newsletter on a quarterly basis. This will help us stay connected and we can have regular feedback from you to help us improve our programs.

Coming up are few opportunities like the Joy of Giving week and the Mumbai marathon whereby you can participate along with your family and friends. So please share this e-newsletter with as many friends, colleagues at work, invite us to meet your CSR / HR manager etc. so we can work together to raise funds as well as enrol more volunteers and fulfil more children wishes.

Thank you in advance for your unstinting support.

Deepak S Bhatia
CEO, Make-A-Wish® India
Support from the Highest Order!

The President and CEO, Mr. Jon Stettner, Make-A-Wish® International visited India between 18th to 20th of September 2012. Mr. Uday Joshi, Founder member and managing trustee of Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India cordially welcomed him with a beautiful bunch of flowers. Mr. Jon had visited the National office to understand the operational functioning of our affiliates and also had meetings and formal conversations with trustees, staff and volunteers. He also had an interactive meeting with the Programme Directors in Mumbai.

Though we have had visits from the international office every year this was the first one where the President / CEO had visited. We are proud and happy with his encouragement.

A Royal Visit!

In January this year, Make-A-Wish Mumbai had a very special visitor – all the way from UAE! Prince His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, along with the Make-A-Wish® UAE delegation had visited the city, and even adopted 60 wishes!

The event was organized on the 13th of January in TAJ hotel as the prince was residing there and the expense was sponsored by TAJ. The Prince granted 6 wishes on that day. He was very kind and comfortable with all the children he interacted with, showing much interest in their likes and hobbies. Children were very happy getting their wish personally from the UAE Prince.

Prince spoke about Make-A-Wish® UAE and also appreciated the amount of wish fulfilment that happened in India. He interacted with the foundations trustees too. Then he expressed a desire to visit the national office, where he met the national staff and interacted with them.

Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India is thankful to the UAE Prince for visiting India and making our children’s wishes come true and putting a princely smile on their faces!
Make-A-Wish Foundation® celebrates World Wish Day globally on the 29th of April each year. The day commemorates the first wish granted of a child way back in 1980.

In India, the celebrations lasted throughout the week! The Foundation had organized week long events across our ten divisions. Apart from wish granting, different divisions had different activities for raising awareness of the foundation's work, raising funds by arranging events and arranging charity events for children.

The organization granted about 100 wishes in India to mark the occasion. The National office and the Mumbai Division came together and had arranged three different events on the occasion of the World Wish Day.

■ The Walt Disney Company Private Limited has been a long time supporter of Make-A-Wish across the world. Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India granted three wishes to felicitate them for their support. The wish gifts were hand over to the children by Mr. John Abraham, an eminent Actor and Producer from the Hindi Film Industry. This was followed by a press conference with John Abraham, Jon Stettner, CEO – Make-A-Wish International® and Uday Joshi – Founder and Managing Trustee of the Foundation's India factor, who spoke about the organization and the World Wish Day.

■ A fund raiser – Stories in a Song an enchanting musical play presented on the 27th of April. About 300 people attended this fund raiser.

■ Disney wish – To have a Princess Dress: Sulagna, a 13 year old teenager wished to have a princess dress and a tiara designed by the 'renowned and ace designer Manish Malhotra'. This wish was enhanced by hosting a small event with Mr. Manish Malhotra who came personally to make Sulagna's day extra special. This wish was hosted at the lobby of the Tata Theatre, NCPA. Sulagna's wish was sponsored by The Walt Disney Company Pvt. Ltd. This wish was fulfilled on the 28th of April.

■ Wish Granting: Wishes of eight children were fulfilled on 29th April 2013 by the sponsorship of Mattel Toys. These wishes included Barbie Dolls and the Barbie doll sets, Hot wheels cars, etc. which are highly revered by children in India.

Manish Malhotra with wish child Sulagna.
A Historic Moment in His Life!

Ramesh is a 15-year-old brave boy suffering from life-threatening medical condition referred to Bangalore division from Vani Vilas Children’s Hospital. He lives with his compassionate parents and younger sister at Averahalli village near Pavagada.

The day volunteers met him, he was pale and tired, due to the endless rounds of medical tests and treatments. A notebook and colouring set helped break the ice; and whilst they interacted with him, they found him sketching the Taj Mahal as he spoke!

Ramesh revealed that his hobby was collecting photos of various historical places, especially the Taj Mahal and Charminar. He also shared that since his school days, it has been his dream to visit the Taj Mahal, but realized that his medical conditions were not favourable to travel. His wished to have his own Taj Mahal, so he could watch the monument everyday at home!

The day Ramesh unwrapped his wish gift, was indeed a monumental one for him! Quickly joining the pieces, he then went around showing it to his fellow patients and doctors, with a big smile on his face!

“Today is a great day for me as my dream come true and I cherish it a lot.”

Sailing High On the Celebration!

The last three months have been pretty traumatic for Prerna and her family, ever since her illness has been detected. When the volunteers from Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India met the girl for the first time and asked her about her wish, Prerna’s eyes gleamed with hope and dreams. She promptly replied that she wished to celebrate her birthday on a ship in the middle of the sea! As her birthday was approaching and fortunately, an ‘angel’ and his aides were more than willing to sponsor Prerna’s wish.

On 14th March, Prerna accompanied her parents, siblings and family members to the Gateway of India to have her dream come true. Her mother told the team that Prerna had not slept with excitement. The children were excited to see the transit boat that took them to the yacht. Prerna could not believe her eyes when she saw the yacht. She later told the team that it was bigger and better than she could have ever imagined

Prerna was very happy to go around the vessel – the crew was kind enough to show her around.

Initially, she sat on the net watching the waters below her. She seemed to be enjoying the cool breeze. The crew had meanwhile created a beautiful decoration around the cake cutting area she cut the cake. She received several gifts as well. The family was given refreshments and we began our journey back to the harbor.

Prerna and her family expressed their gratitude in various ways and praised the work of the organization. This experience would go a long way not only for the child but also for her family who are yet coping with the impact of her life-threatening illness. And bring a bit of happiness into their lives.
A salute to a little Singham!

If there was one wish for 10 year old Aniket Parmar, it was to be like his role model, Singham (a character from a Hindi movie). And on 3rd April his wish came true in Ahmedabad division, and in grand style, too! It couldn't have happened without tremendous support and participation from the Commissioner of Police & Joint Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad, who were totally involved in the event. The officers themselves put 3 stars on both Aniket's shoulders as he stood atop a specially created stage. He received a Red Carpet welcome, and after the ceremony, the new Assistant Commissioner of Police was guided to a ground where 25 police officers saluted him. Then he was taken in a police car – a Gypsy – by the Police Commissioner and driven to the Shahibaug Police Station, where he was in charge for the next hour, listening to complaints and giving orders! Adding authenticity was a specially stitched police officer's costume, as per the guideline of the Joint Commissioner of Police... which the tailor happily sponsored! Heartfelt gratitude goes out also to the media, who gave great coverage to the event... all local channels, National channels and newspapers, too! Radio FM also interviewed the volunteer involved, and spoke about the event and the foundation's work the whole day. The term called 'Power of wish' where wish fulfilment gives strength, hope and joy to the child is so valid for Aniket that after a year of wish fulfilment he is doing well in studies and sports too.

The Little Master and Lots of Happiness!

He is the undisputed “God” of cricket...and to his fans, there can be no greater desire than to meet him in person! Sharan Kinvsara a 12 year old child from Pune is no different.

Initially, when our volunteers met him, he was hesitant to reveal his wish, as he felt he was asking for the impossible – “I don’t wish to have anything but I wish to meet my real hero Sachin Tendulkar.” The boy is a huge fan of the star and he has watched every single one of his matches!

So the day we informed the father that Sharan would be taken to meet Sachin in Mumbai, the father was almost as happy as the son! Sharan stepped in Sachin Tendulkar’s residence, thrilled to be in the house of his hero. And in true Master-Blaster style, his day was full of surprises! Meeting the Little Master meant a lot to this young lad, and he was very thankful to Make-A-Wish for making his dream come true.

Sachin Tendulkar with wish children.
Young Chef Oraya Lives her Dream

She expressed her long cherished dream of learning “how to bake a cake/ Cookies /brownie etc”. Her dream came true when Radisson BLU, a five star hotel, organised a daylong bakery session for her on 9th May 2012.

It was like living a dream for Oraya, when she was given Chef Coat, a chef Hat and Radisson hotel Chef Badge and everyone greeted as “Chef Oraya”. Her happiness was beyond expression when she saw her name on Coat.

Dressed up in the uniform she walked around the hotel accompanied by Executive Chef, Mr. Mohit Khanna. There was no limit to her joy as each and every hotel employee greeted her with respect. She greeted back with a huge smile on her face.

She said that she can’t thank “Make-A-Wish Foundation® of India” enough for making her dream come true.

Driving Away the Blues!

Fatima spoke to Hyderabad division about just going out. She wanted to go to the necklace road. She took one look at the Porsche Boxster and squealed with happiness.

It still reverberates in our ears! The very look of it made her ecstatic! And when we told her that she was going to Necklace road in the Porsche Boxster, her happiness knew no bounds.

Oh, how happy she was!!

Fatima was so expressive and loud. It was once in a life time experience for her!

A Royal Celebration!

Seven years and 1800 wishes. A figure that certainly calls for celebration. And the Make-A-Wish, Jaipur division did that in style!

The event was held at the sprawling lawns of The City Palace, Jaipur on Monday 8th October. The entire event was sponsored by Princess Diya Kumari Ji. On the day 8 more wishes were granted, including a TV, Computer, Cycles and Video Game. About seventy children and some volunteers, donors and supporters of Make-A-Wish were invited.

It was a delightful experience to watch the wonderful smiles on the faces of these children. For once, painful medications and hospital stays were forgotten and regal memories were created!
## Divisions and Representatives

We invite you to come forward and share the power of wish. You can reach us at the following locations across India:

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## MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION® OF INDIA

Visit: www.makeawishindia.org

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