



**GRANT A WISH
2026
ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT
PROGRAM**

**AGENCY GUIDELINES
& APPLICATION
FOR OUR CHILDREN'S
2026 HOLIDAY PROGRAM**



GRANT A WISH

2026

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM AGENCY GUIDELINES & APPLICATION



**In Memory of
Ms. Anne Blair
Founder of
Grant A Wish, Inc
One of the Oldest Wish
Organizations
in the
United States**

Grant A Wish, Inc “ Gifts That Make A Difference “

Grant A Wish, Inc, is a not for profit, tax exempt, 501 (c) (3) organization, that grants wishes to needy, disabled and abused children, since 1981. **Grant A Wish, Inc** was founded by **Ms. Anne Blair**, to help make a difference in the lives of children in and around the Chicago-land area. In the early days of **Grant A Wish**, **Ms. Blair** with her legion of **sponsors and supporters** would help provided thousands upon thousands of gifts for the Christmas holiday to children in the **80's & 90's**. Over the years much has changed with our holiday program from the days of adopting **10 elementary schools** each year through the **Chicago Public School System** to provide gifts to all of the school children. **Grant A Wish** would provide **4,000 to 5,000 gifts** to their children. Our holiday program provides gifts to infants up to the age of 16 years of age. We work to provide gifts to community based organizations through our **Grant A Wish 2026 Annual Holiday Gift Program** that apply and to those who are selected. Children ask for basic items, like a pair of new shoes, a coat, a system game or toy, musical instrument and any advertised products for the **Christmas Holiday**.

Our sponsorship and supporter based has changed over the years. We have instituted cutbacks, but we are still continuing in her memory the hard work of **Ms. Blair** who always worked to make things better for the children. We are working to make improvement to our holiday program as time moves forward into the future. We welcome your agency to apply for our **Grant A Wish 2026 Annual Holiday Gift Program**. Many of you are on the front lines of dealing with special needs children that sometimes can be challenging. To you **Grant A Wish** applauds you for all of your hard work to help these children.

Agencies applying for this year's **2026 Annual Holiday Gift Program**, must first fill out an application attached to this agency guideline packet and mail it into us. Fill out the information requested on the application, then before deadline of **Wednesday, October 14, 2026 by 5:00 pm** submit the application. We will make a determination whether your agency is selected to participate in this year's holiday program. If you are **approved or denied**, we will inform you of our decision by email or a phone call. If you are approved, then we will give you our finalized decision as to the number of children we will be granting **Christmas gifts**. There is a **\$3.00 surcharge** per gift to help our organization with a donation to our program.

There are several things that your organization should be aware of, if you are selected to participate in this year's holiday program. Our guidelines are explained on the next page, so there is a thorough understanding of what is expected from you and what you can expect from us.

Grant A Wish 2026 Annual Holiday Gift Program

How the GAW 2026 Annual Holiday Gift Program works?

Below is the information you will need to know as to the process of how our **Annual Holiday Gift Program** works?

1. You submit the application for the holiday program filled out completely. If your agency is selected, then you will receive a welcome package. If you are not selected you will receive an email or a phone call that you have not been selected for this year's program.
2. Your welcome package will be emailed out by **Wednesday, October 28, 2026 by 5:00 pm** & will include a welcome letter, a copy of your application, a receipt for your surcharge donation, a blank set of our color coded custom holiday wish sheets(explained further below), an event contract for your agency holiday party and a holiday program flier.
3. Your agency is given a **color code** and all of your custom holiday wish sheets will be sent to you in that one color. The custom holiday wish sheets are preassigned with the numbers for the number of children we have agreed to sponsor. The wish sheets always start with the year, example **2026-1001** through to **2026-1050**, if for example you had **50 children**. There is 20 names to a wish sheet sent in a PDF format and in this example you would receive 3 sheets, 2 with 20 names each and one with 10 names only. The custom wish sheets must be submitted back to us by **Friday, November 6, 2026 by 5:00 pm**.
4. The wish sheets in a PDF format require you to add on each line next to the number the child's, first & last name, next their age, sex and a first & second request. The reason for the first & second request is to give the sponsor a choice as to what to provide if in the event the item is unavailable. The gift cost is not to exceed **\$75**, so if you list 2 items list and based on the cost the sponsor could buy both, but are only required to buy one. Example, first request might be a pair of gym shoes and the second request may be a gift card. The sponsor could buy both but not required to buy both. Of course if you have any questions give us a call.
5. Agencies applying for this year's program must agree to sponsor a holiday party to distribute the gifts to your agencies children. You must fill out an agency contract to notify us in advance as to when and where you will be sponsoring this events. It must be submitted to us no later than **Friday, November 13, 2026 by 5:00 pm**. So arrangements can be made as to when your gifts should be made available either for a pickup or a delivery.
6. On our website listed on our **Grant A Wish Annual Holiday Gift Program** page, is detailed information for the sponsors and for the agencies receiving gifts as to what is expected from their participation. On our website is information on our **do not purchase list**, which briefly explains items that are told to our sponsors & supporters not to purchase. **1. Items over \$75.00 (Sponsorship discretion) 2. No Bicycles 3. No Cellphones 4. No Play guns, knives or weapons or items that may deemed inappropriate for a child in their age group 5. Video game systems over \$75, video games over \$75.00 or that may be too violent in their content.**
7. Gifts are to be delivered or picked up from a window earlier than **Monday, December 14, 2026** up to the cutoff date of **Friday, December 18, 2026 by 8:00 pm**. Agency parties should also be held closer to the **Christmas Holiday of Friday, December 25, 2026**.
8. Finally, we produce a thank you video that is posted on **YouTube** every year & our website to thank our sponsors and our agencies for their participation in this years **Grant A Wish 2026 Annual Holiday Gift Program**. So we need you to send in any pictures or video that has been taken of children receiving gifts, so our sponsors can perhaps see the gifts that they may have provided to your group. You can provide a release for the parents to sign to authorize photos of children to be provided to us if there is any real concern.

Merry Christmas to all
and have a blessed Happy 2027 New Year...



GRANT A WISH 2026 ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM AGENCY HOLIDAY 2026 APPLICATION

In order to apply for this year's **Grant A Wish 2026 Annual Holiday Gift Program**, you must have at least 75% needy, disabled & abused children at your facility in order to qualify for our holiday program. **Grant A Wish, Inc** is in its 45th year of providing holiday gifts to children through selected agency in advance of **Christmas** of each year. Agencies that have participated & received gifts for 2 consecutive years will be unable to apply for this years program, unless 2 years have passed before reapplying again. We will make the final determination whether your agency is selected and how many gifts or wishes we will provide for your agency. We ask in advance that you estimate the price of each requested gifts to not exceed the cost of **\$75.00 per child/gift**. This application is available on-line on our website from **Friday, October 5, 2026** to **Wednesday, October 14, 2026**. This application should be submitted as soon as possible and the application must be received no later than **Friday, October 14, 2026 by 5:00 pm by mail or email**. If your application has not been received by the due date or before, you will be disqualified from participation in this year's **Grant A Wish 2026 Annual Holiday Gift Program**. Only a limited number of agencies will be selected into this years holiday program. You will receive a phone call or an email that your agency has been approved or denied to participate on or before **Wednesday, October 28, 2026 by 5:00 pm**.

Your agency must pay a **\$3.00 surcharge fee** for each gift received in advance. Total amount to be paid \$_____

(Funds can be paid through Apple Pay, Zelle, Cash App, or Venmo)

Or paid on-line through our website through **PayPal** on our home page of our website:

Call us to tell which option is best...

Website: www.grantawishincchicago.org

Direct Email Address: vitalthomas@grantawishincchicago.org

Preferred Mailing Address:

GRANT A WISH, INC

Grant A Wish 2026 Annual Holiday Gift Program

P.O. Box 17698

Chicago, Illinois 60617-0698

Grant A Wish, Inc is a not for profit, tax exempt, 501 (c) (3) organization that grants wishes to needy, disabled and abused children, since 1981.

NAME OF AGENCY _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
TYPE OF AGENCY _____

(Example: Daycare, Church, School, Community Organization, Hospital, or Other)

Person Representing Agency For 2026 AHGP: _____

Date of Application: ____/____/____ Date Application was received: ____/____/____

CONTACT NO: (____) ____ - ____ FAX (____) ____ - ____ CELL: (____) ____ - ____

ADDITIONAL CONTACT STAFF: _____

CONTACT NO: (____) ____ - ____ HOW MANY CHILDREN TOTAL IN YOUR AGENCY IS REQUESTING GIFTS? _____ YOUR AGENCY WEBSITE: _____

AGENCY CONTACT EMAIL: _____ IN YOUR AGENCY HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE NEEDY _____ DISABLED _____ ABUSED _____ AGENCY LOCATION:

SOUTH _____ NORTH _____ WEST _____ EAST _____

YOUR AGENCY AGREES TO SIGN A CONTRACT TO HOST A HOLIDAY PARTY FOR YOUR AGENCY CHILDREN? YES _____ NO _____

For Official Use Only: How many children Total? _____ Has the agency been approved? Yes _____ No _____ Is the agency agreeing to host a holiday party, pick up the gifts & take photographs? Yes _____ No _____ Date of the Party ____/____/____ Location of Holiday Party _____ Time of Event: _____ Who is handling this agency? _____ Who is the sponsors? _____ When will the gifts be available for pick up? ____/____/____ Agency Color Code: _____ Is the order 100% complete? Yes _____ No _____ Status _____ What date was the application received? ____/____/____ Was the surcharge donation received? Yes _____ No _____ If yes date: ____/____/____