FOR SOME CHILDREN THE ONLY NORMAL THING ABOUT A BIRTHDAY PARTY IS **NOT** HAVING ONE.

We make sure that doesn't happen.

4,532
Birthdays Celebrated

Who We Serve

- **26%** Early Childhood Ages 1-3
- **49%** School Age Ages 4-12
- **25%** Teens Ages 13+

200+ Shelter Partners throughout New England, NY & CA

27,186 Family and Friends Joined in on the Celebration

1000+ Volunteers Helped Make It Happen

Birthday Gifts Delivered **22,655**

Fiscal Year July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025



Our Mission

The mission of Birthday Wishes is to improve and empower the lives of homeless children and their families by providing **joy, play and hope** through the magic of a birthday party. Our goal is to ensure that children experiencing the trauma of homelessness have the opportunity to celebrate their birthday joyfully, surrounded by family, friends and others who care.

Our Program

Our birthday parties have the power to make children feel both special and like a "regular kid". We provide much more than just cake, presents and goody bags. Birthday Wishes parties bring joy, hope and positive lasting memories.



Every month we deliver a Birthday-in-a-Box to children throughout New England, Long Island & New York City. Each brightly wrapped box is filled with party supplies, decorations, cake mix, frosting, goody bags, birthday gifts and of course candles for the all-important birthday wish. Our older teens receive a Teen-Birthday-in-a-Box with smaller gifts, a custom cookie and a gift card.

MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN



Thank you for continuing to support our families through your Birthday Wishes program, it truly makes a lasting impact. One mother recently shared that her son had never had a birthday party before, and when he saw the decorations and cake, he asked, "Is this really all for me?" She was moved to tears, saying it was the first time in a long while she had seen him smile so big. Moments like these remind us that your kindness doesn't just celebrate the day, it creates lasting memories and reminds families they are supported and celebrated.

-Cicely Jordan, Associate Director, Father Bill's & MainSpring

The Birthday Wishes program continues to make a profound impact on the families we serve. For many of our residents, resources are so limited that birthdays would otherwise pass without recognition. Through this program, children experience joy, celebration, and a sense of being valued that they might not otherwise know during such a difficult chapter of their lives. One mother recently shared how meaningful it was to see her child open gifts that were chosen specifically with her interests in mind. Despite all the uncertainty in their lives, her daughter felt "like every other kid" on her special day. Parents often express deep gratitude that their children can experience a moment of normalcy and happiness, without the burden of financial stress overshadowing it.

-Hannah Smith, Director of Programs, Beth-El Center



BIRTHDAY WISHES HISTORY

In 2002, Birthday Wishes became the first nonprofit in the nation dedicated solely to bringing the joy of a birthday party to children experiencing homelessness. Our innovative model inspired others to follow and create similar organizations. Today, we continue to lead with the same passion and purpose that started a movement—because every child deserves to feel celebrated.

Nov 2002
Birthday Wishes is founded in Newton, MA and we throw our first birthday party for 5 year old Muhammad at the Second Step Shelter.

Jan 2004
Birthday Wishes incorporates and receives 501c3 status.

Apr 2009
Birthday Wishes expands into Long Island New York.

Mar 2019
Birthday Wishes moves to a new space in Natick, MA to accommodate our growing operations with a larger warehouse and office space.

Feb 2020
Founder and Executive Director Lisa Vasiloff announces her retirement and Denell Nuese is named as the new Executive Director.

April 2020
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic Birthday Wishes discontinues on-site parties and starts providing a Birthday-in-a-Box to each individual child.

July 2022
Birthday Wishes introduces the Teen Birthday-in-a-Box, a new type of Birthday-in-a-Box for older teens with items and gifts more appropriate for this age group.

Aug 2023
Birthday Wishes expands further into Connecticut and begins serving a shelter in Los Angeles, CA

New England: @birthdaywishes
Long Island: @birthdaywishesli

New England: @birthdaysmatters
Long Island: @birthdaywishesli

@birthdaywishes

Birthday Wishes | Main Office: 144 North Road, Suite 1100 | Sudbury, MA 01776 | 866-388-9474 | www.birthdaywishes.org
hello@birthdaywishes.org | Long Island Office: 15 Cantiague Rock Road | Hicksville, NY 11801 | 516-390-3505