

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, *World Wish Day is the worldwide celebration of the day the Make-a-Wish Foundation's creation was inspired through the granted wish of a young boy named Chris; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Chris, age 7, was diagnosed with leukemia but had a dream to become a police officer in order "to catch bad guys;" U.S. Customs Agent Tommy Austin and his wife were friends with Chris' mother, and along with Arizona Department of Public Safety Office Ron Cox, worked to fulfill Chris' dream; and*

**WHEREAS**, *the endeavor to make Chris an honorary police officer became a much larger effort than originally intended, and the wish soon had many elements, including: a police car and motorcycle, helicopter, a "Smokey Bear" hat, a badge, uniform, and a motorcycle officer's wings; and*

**WHEREAS**, *locally, Make-a-Wish has served nearly 15,000 children in 57 Pennsylvania counties and West Virginia in its 30 year history; the life-changing impact of a granted wish has enriched the families' experiences with hope, strength, and joy; approximately 98% of wish parents have felt that the wish experience gave them an opportunity to be a "normal" family again; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Allegheny County is thankful for the unmatched service that Make-a-Wish has provided to our residents; since its local founding in May 1983, Make-a-Wish has been a staple in our community, has been the first chapter in the world to fulfill more than 700 wishes in one year, and has strengthened families. We are grateful for the foundation's work and presence in our region.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim April 29, 2014 as "World Wish Day" in Allegheny County.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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