

# Conversation Questions

Everyone has a story to tell. With Wish of a Lifetime, you can discover amazing stories about the seniors in your community, and help fulfill a lifelong dream. Here are some tips and helpful questions to get you started on your way to discovering a Wish:

## Family

1. How old are you?
2. Where did you grow up?
3. Tell me about your family. Did you have any brothers or sisters, and how many?
4. What were some of the things your family did for fun? Were there any favorite activities that you remember doing with your brothers and sisters? *If so, why were they your favorite?*
5. What were your happiest memories of childhood?
6. What did your parents do for a living?
7. Were you close with your grandparents? Where did they live? How often did you visit them?

## Childhood

1. What was your favorite subject when you were in school and why? Did you like going to school? Did you have a favorite teacher?
2. What sorts of things did you like to do with your friends? Do you still stay in touch with them today?
3. Was there anyone in particular that you looked up to or admired as a child? Why?
4. What were your hobbies, passions, and interests as a child? Do you still pursue any of those today?
5. When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

## Adulthood

1. What was your first job after school? What did you like/dislike about it?
2. What did you do as a career? What did you learn from it? When did you retire?
3. Did you start a family of your own? If so, how old were you when you met your spouse and got married? Do you remember your first date with your spouse?

4. Your generation is known for sacrifice and service. Tell me about how you've helped others? Did you ever serve in the Armed Forces? If so, can you tell me more about that service - where you served, for how long, and what rank you reached before leaving the service?
5. Do you have any children? If yes, what are their names and where do they live now? How long has it been since you've last seen them? What are your fondest memories of your childhood?

## Present day

1. What sorts of things do you do for fun?
2. Do you have any favorite sports teams? Why are they your favorite?
3. Do you like music? Who is your favorite artist or group and why?
4. What would you say was the biggest challenge you faced in life and how did you handle it?
5. If you could do one thing in the world, what would it be? Or: If you could do anything for one day, what would it be?
6. What is one thing that you always wanted to try, but never got around to? What was standing in your way?
7. Tell me one thing about yourself that you'd like people to know?
8. Tell me something about you that would surprise people. Do you have any hidden talents?
9. Tell me about something you've accomplished in life that you are particularly proud of and would like others to know about.

**Now that you have received answers to your questions, it's time to learn about the areas of their lives they seemed most happy or reminiscent about. Here are some thought starters to further engage the senior:**

- I'm here because in addition to learning about you and your past, I wanted to see if there was a Wish we could grant for you.
  
- You mentioned your son/daughter had a family of their own, when was the last time you saw them?  
Would you like to see them again?
  
- It sounds like (insert name) was a great friend/sister/brother/ colleague, when was the last time you spoke with them? Would you like to visit them again?
  
- It sounds like you and (insert name) had a great time doing\_\_\_\_. Can you tell me more about this time?  
Would this be something you'd like to do again?

Please Note: If you are still struggling to discover a Wish, but think this senior would be an ideal candidate, simply ask “is there anything you Wish you could do?”

## Submitting the Wish Application

Explain what Wish of a Lifetime does as an organization and tell them that you’d like to nominate them for a Wish.

- If they ask that you not submit an application, let them know that if they do decide to pursue their Wish in the future, they should contact you to continue with the process.
- Ask if they have a friend who might have a Wish - the generation we serve is a humble one, and they may be more likely to nominate someone else than to ask for something themselves.
- You can sit down with the senior and fill out an application together, they can fill it out alone or you can fill it out for them - whatever you and the senior are comfortable with!

The application can be filled out at our website, [www.wishofalifetime.org/what-we-do/submit-a-wish/](http://www.wishofalifetime.org/what-we-do/submit-a-wish/)

Review the Wish Fulfillment Guidelines first, then click “Submit a Wish Application”

***Please remember:*** *You are not acting as an official representative of Wish of a Lifetime as you are searching for seniors’ Wishes, so please do not make promises on its behalf. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Wish of a Lifetime, we want to do everything we can to ensure you have a positive experience.*