



Flavio Jimenez
Friday Radio
Program

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Flavio Jimenez, host of a Real Estate advice show on ESPN Radio 1460 AM, interviews Edgar Velasquez, who is a board member and volunteer of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

INTRO (VOICE OVER): Flavio Jimenez on the radio. Welcome to the most informative Real Estate program in Las Vegas. Flavio Jimenez Will tell you how to buy or sell, how to invest, how to make money in real estate, and how to pay your house off faster. This is a program filled with analysis, guidance, and help for all. Let's begin.

FLAVIO: I am Flavio Jimenez, it's a pleasure to greet you today, today is Friday and you can feel it! We are completely live, today we get it! Today is Friday and we get it! I can see in your face that you are going to get it! You are going to get a lot! Don't go giving it away, daddy! Don't give it away! We are here, completely live on ESPN Radio 1460, greetings to all of you from the city of sin! Las Vegas for all the people who are listening on the air waves, thank you! For the people that are just now logging on, the ones that are listening on social media now and then, thank you for joining Flavio Jimenez on Facebook. Today we will touch upon a topic that we have never discussed here before, we have a guest today, and this is something that I want us to learn about together because it is about helping, and, I didn't know, I had never heard of what this organization does. I heard about the organization before, but we've never, I mean I have never, paid it any attention. And let me tell you that it is, a movement, an organization that is beautiful and above all, it really makes people feel sensitive, so we have here a guest from Make-A-Wish. How are you? Good Morning!

EDGAR: Good Morning, thank you for having me here today!

FLAVIO: Thank you for coming! What is your name, so I can introduce you to our audience here?

EDGAR: Of course, my name is Edgar Velasquez. I work for Bank of America and I am part of the Board of Directors for Bank of America and I am part of the Board of Directors for Make-A-Wish, but I have been volunteering with Make-A-Wish for 7 years.

FLAVIO: From Make-A-Wish. You work at Bank of America doing what?

EDGAR: I am the director of operations here in our Las Vegas call center.

FLAVIO: All right, Ok, ok. Where are you from Edgar?

EDGAR: Look, I was born here in Las Vegas, both of my parents are from Durango, Mexico, so I am very proud that I am Mexican as well.

FLAVIO: You were born here in Las Vegas, here in the desert?

EDGAR: Here in the desert, yes.

FLAVIO: Its very rare, finding someone that was born here in Las Vegas



isn't it? Generally, everyone only ends up in Las Vegas.

EDGAR: There is like, two of us, but we are here!

FLAVIO: Born here in Las Vegas, Hey, um, I want you to talk to me about Make-A-Wish because, I first heard about you at a meeting, so, it was, a meeting like three weeks ago, and I thought it was very interesting, I had a meeting with a person that works for a mortgage company, a company that makes mortgage loans, and he told me, um, he asked me a lot of questions about the Radio program and all of that, and he said, you know what? There is an organization that you should consider bringing on the air, or think about helping, and he said, this is really sensitive for me because my daughter passed away. And my daughter, thanks to this organization, had such a, very, very, very good time, this organization is called Make-A-Wish, or create a wish, Make-A-Wish, and the point of it is, for all those listening, that you, as a foundation, you help kids that are terminally ill, that are sick, that know that the end may be near, and you give them, you make their wish come true.

EDGAR: Yes, of course. We focus on children that, we grant wishes that really transform the lives of those children that have afflictions, medical afflictions that are life threatening, so yes, you are right, some of our children, they become our stars in the sky, but other children, through technology, live a long life here with us, but the important thing is that these wishes completely change their lives. All the kids that we serve have illnesses that threaten their lives and really, through Make-A-Wish, we give them hope so that they can dream big and we give them strength so that they can withstand their illnesses. Even doctors tell us that a wish from Make-A-Wish is the best medicine that they can get.

FLAVIO: Really, I bet you have a ton of anecdotes, right, or stories to tell us, and for me in particular, I really like to hear stories, especially when they are medical stories, because I learn a lot and I like to learn about the good that other people do. I mean, it's bad too, so in order to avoid making the same mistake, but I really like to learn about the good that you do and when this man, Chris, told me when I spoke to him, Chris said, "my daughter had a phenomenal time. They paid for everything, she had a wish to go to Orlando, to Disneyworld and they paid for absolutely everything. They paid for the trip, for the hotel, they paid for our food, the tickets, you see, the whole family went, and my daughter, for a few days, forgot she was sick with cancer. For a few days she was smiling all the time and taking pictures", he said, "it was a phenomenal time, thanks to that company, that organization, Make-A-Wish." He said, "unfortunately, my daughter lost her fight against cancer and from that moment it was personal for me, I help this company, this foundation." I can imagine that just like this, there are many similar stories that you have lived through, Edgar.

EDGAR: Sure, there are so many stories, and the important thing here is that the whole family also suffers because of what is happening, right? Because the families have to be there in the hospital, it has an impact on their jobs, it affects them, obviously. So, this opportunity that we give is really an opportunity to help the whole family, regardless of whether the child lives a long life or, like some of our children, passes away. We help the whole family anyway, so that they can have a better life. One of the stories that really touched me, a lot, is about a boy that I worked with, his name was Ephraim. This was also an Hispanic family, and they were very happy, he loved to play soccer. Well, so, with his illness he lost his hair, he could no longer, well because he needed chemotherapy, no longer play. He had a type of cancer, well the good thing is that they found the cancer at an early stage and they were able to give him the treatments that he needed and all of that. His favorite team was Real Madrid, so



he loved the team and he wanted to meet one of the players one day. So, the wish that we granted was to send him and his whole family to Spain, well to Madrid so that he could enjoy a game, see the stadium, and enjoy with his family. The great thing about this family is that the boy only has to go every three months to get a check up and make sure the cancer hasn't returned. But even recently, we hear about that experience and we know that he is stronger because of the experience he was given from Make-A-Wish. And the good thing is that even his doctors say that his condition has improved because he is happy, he is stronger because of the experience he had through Make-A-Wish.

FLAVIO: Hey, what should we do to learn more about you guys? What should we do or what type, well, what can we do to help you? Do you accept donations, or, do you have events that we can participate in, because there is nothing worse, I, well, I know that everything has a purpose, I really believe that life is not a coincidence, I believe that you meet people because they were already a puzzle piece in your universe, right? Meeting people that are there in those moments. But sometimes there are things that I don't understand. I understand, or better yet, I accept that an adult can get cancer. You know, but I don't understand why children get cancer or why children find out they have terminal illnesses and their lives are just beginning. I know that they are people that will teach us a lot, through their illnesses, but also, as an organization you focus solely on children and on granting their wishes, granting the wish of a child and I think it is so great, especially when the whole family has been suffering, right? They suffer because this is happening. But what is it that you do? In reality, what can we do so that our radio listeners call you, or call them and say, "you know what? I would like to support you or how can I help you?" You are saying that you are a volunteer there. I imagine that, status notwithstanding, I am referring to immigration status in the United States, I imagine that they can help anyway, and I imagine that whether they are African-American, Hispanic, or Asian kids, they are all kids, right? You help everyone the same.

EDGAR: Of course, we don't discriminate in any way in any of those situations. So, our purpose is to find all the children that we can help, and we are looking for kids that are 2 and a half years old to 18 years old that can get a referral, because we want to help all of them. The nurses don't discriminate and neither do we. So, a lot of them are members of the Hispanic community, Latinos, and the reason that I became involved with Make-A-Wish is because I found out that the organization had many Spanish-speaking children and that their parents prefer to speak in Spanish but there isn't enough volunteers that speak Spanish so a lot of kids, many times, have to wait awhile so that they can do their wish simply because their wasn't enough Spanish volunteers. So, on behalf of Bank of America, we were able to get various volunteers involved with Make-A-Wish and we were able to accomplish our goal of granting all the Spanish-speaking wishes. Even today, we have more children waiting and we need more volunteers, we also need money because we, we need money because we don't get any government assistance, so we depend on the community. Sometimes through funds or sometimes there may be an Hispanic business that has a business that will be able to help us with something in particular, or simply with their time. For example, right now we have a girl named Alivia and she is ill, at nine years old they told her that she has Crohn's disease, which causes inflammation inside of her digestive system, so she just turned 15 years old and she hadn't been able to get her wish for a quinceañera and when they brought her to Make-A-Wish, she told us her wish was to have the quinceañera. So, we want to do her quinceañera party here in Las Vegas and obviously we need all the things that one would need for a quinceañera. We need the dress, the DJ, the place, cake, the drinks, to give her a makeover with makeup, photographer, so everything that you would need. I know that we have a generous community in Las Vegas that can help us accomplish this.

In regard to assisting and how to help, there are various ways. Simply call us. Our phone number is 702-212-9474, that's the Make-A-Wish office number, and also on our internet website you can find all types of opportunities, you can get in touch with us at snv.wish.org and there you will find those opportunities.

FLAVIO: Ok, well, once again, for people who want more information about Make-A-Wish and maybe want to give their time, to help these children who are right now going through a difficult time. And to fulfill one of the dreams, you can call there, and you can also call to donate, the phone number is 702-212-9474, we will be putting it here on social networks as well. Also. Tell me Edgar, this girl Alivia, is obviously Hispanic, here I am seeing her in the picture you brought us here. And she is going through a difficult time because of the illness she is suffering from. But how many children are there right now on your list to help and what are the needs or what are the wishes of these children and how far behind are you in fulfilling these wishes?

EDGAR: Yes, of course, yes, we have many children, at any time we have more than one hundred children who are waiting. The good thing is that we do have about three hundred volunteers who help us with, to help with these wishes, the part where we are lacking is help within the Hispanic community. Because, through the doctors we have the referrals for the children, but we lack the volunteers. So, they are typically the ones that wait more to enjoy their wishes, but the good thing is that through so much help we get here in Southern Nevada we create a wish every three days. So, every three days here in southern Nevada ...

FLAVIO: Really?!

EDGAR: We fulfill a wish here in southern Nevada, but we want to do more. Because we know that there are more needy children who have diseases and our desire is to touch each one of those children.

FLAVIO: But when you say that, and what a shame again, what a pity that Hispanics are waiting, again very sick children, they are waiting more because there is no help from Hispanics. There are no volunteers. But what does a volunteer do? For all the people who listen to us, especially because the program is in Spanish, that everyone is, or at least speaks Spanish. Not everyone is Hispanic but speaks Spanish, what are the requirements for a volunteer? Because if there are sick children and they are Hispanic, if they are the ones who wait the most for their wish to be fulfilled and they are sick and maybe some of them, I hope they, really hope and I knock on wood that this does not happen, but maybe the illness is going to win, and they will die before fulfilling their wish. Due to the lack of Hispanic volunteers, that is a grave sin.

EDGAR: Yes, of course, and there are many opportunities for a volunteer, so many of those who are listening may say "no, because I do not have time," and I assure you that there are many opportunities where you can have the time, and sometimes it's as simple as, we need someone to call a Hispanic family to ask them a question we have. Or translate some document that we have. Or work inside the office. Where we have to do different things. So sometimes volunteer opportunities are as simple as that. Sometimes it is to go to the airport to do a welcome or a farewell for a family. Those who really want to work with children are volunteers who have special training, and with that training they have the opportunity to go with a family in pairs, then two volunteers go, and with those volunteers they go with the families, and the purpose of those volunteers is to try to see what the true desire of that boy or girl is. And then that is a very special service because it is the area where we connect more with families and everything. There are also other volunteers who say, "no, it is very emotional for me to talk to a family that has a child who has a condition like that, so those volunteers also do not connect with the family but help design the wish and see, where we do it? We



do it here. And how do we do it, yes, all that, to really make the wish very special for the children.

FLAVIO: Is there a special requirement that a volunteer has to have? Is there a specific age for a volunteer? Any qualifications to be a volunteer?

EDGAR: Basically, it is whatever people are willing to do, to get connected with a family we ask them to take some training and we do that training ourselves, but in reality, the requirement we ask is that they have the will to help. Because we will find some way that they can help our organization.

FLAVIO: Ok, hey Edgar, give me another example - tell me about another child. I like this a lot, this, but give me another example like that, you gave me one of your favorites, right? You fulfilled Israel's wish to go to Spain, go to Real Madrid, give me an example of a girl, for example.

EDGAR: Yes, of course, we have many examples of children. So, actually one that we just did two weeks ago, was a girl who suffers from a condition that prevents her from travel, so that girl wanted to have a party with all her friends and friend's parents, and it's a girl of 3 years, three years, yes.

FLAVIO: And because she cannot travel, if you can tell us, what is the reason she cannot travel?

EDGAR: Yes of course, of course, because she has a disease that requires her to be close to her doctor here, locally, so sometimes, being around a lot of people, she gets sick, her immune system is very special where, maybe it cannot withstand, and the doctor preferred that she not travel.

FLAVIO: Ah, ok.

EDGAR: So her wish was to have a party with all her friends and their families and thanks to the Aria hotel and casino here in Las Vegas, they dis donate a space, we had a DJ, we did, and we brought her favorite princesses, and she had a great party in the Aria, and I loved to participate and see her and her family so happy dancing and she was dancing for four hours inside the room with the DJ, and she loved that wish.

FLAVIO: Three years old, the girl?

EDGAR: Mmhmm.

FLAVIO: Well, this is the thing. I do not know if you, those of you listening, have any specific questions to ask today, the telephone number you need is 702-876-1087, if you want to ask a specific question or here I invite you all on social media to let us know your question on Facebook or in a comment. I, on a personal level, there are two things that move me a lot, one, the children, the children, the children. They move me a lot, and I believe that to me, to all of us who have the privilege, the fortune, the blessing of being parents, like, that we get more sensitive, do we not? When you have children, yes. And the other thing that particularly moves me, that sweeps the rug from under me is, knowing that there are single mothers, who are working hard to raise their families. Those two things move me a lot. Then, when I found out that there is this organization "Make-A-Wish" and that it was specifically to help, and focus on, fulfilling a wish for a sick child, truthfully, I didn't even have to think about it, they have to come with me on the radio, and the reason that Edgar is here with me, who is representing

Make-A-Wish, is because, literally, I want you and the Hispanic community to know that there is an organization that helps the children, who also needs help from us, so that we are volunteers, we



give our time helping them, obviously the money wouldn't be a bad idea, to fulfill the wishes, and I just found out, along with many of you, that the children that wait the longest, here at Make-A-Wish, children who wait more for a wish to be fulfilled are the Hispanic children and it is because of a lack of Hispanic help for these children, so it's like, it makes you really angry, right? To know that our sick Hispanic children are the ones who are waiting more, precisely because of the lack of help. Are you, do you have a physical office here in Las Vegas, where are you located?

EDGAR: Yes, of course, we have an office in Summerlin and the good thing is that we have, here in Las Vegas, we have a very giving community and that has helped us a lot. At the offices of Allegiant Airlines, they donated a space to us, so we have a great space there. So, the office that they donated, that's where the offices of Make-A-Wish are. Everyone is welcome to come by if they want to visit us there in the office and be able to see the place and to ask any questions they have, or to say "I want to volunteer" as well. I really believe that our Hispanic community, and as a Latino, and I am very proud to be Latino, I know that we have a community with a very tender heart and sometimes the reason for the lack of help is simply because we do not know about the help needed or you don't know about the organization, or how you can help. So, our purpose is to try to reach the Hispanic community so that they realize, and we know that we will have the necessary response to achieve our success.

FLAVIO: Ok, hey, you told me, I think, that right now you had, that you are fulfilling the wish of a child every 3 days. A different child every three days, and you told me that at one point you can have up to 100 or 200 kids right there. How many Hispanic children are there now in your organization who are waiting to be given, to fulfill a wish? And what is one of the children's wishes?

EDGAR: Yes, well, we normally we have between three and forty percent of the children who are on the waiting list and those children, many of them are waiting on the list to figure out what their wish is.

FLAVIO: Oh, they still do not know what they want?

EDGAR: Right. Then the volunteers who go to the homes go with the purpose of looking for and asking the questions, and doing, or working with the children to see what their wish is, so many of them are waiting just for someone to communicate with them.

FLAVIO: Right now, do you remember an Hispanic child, boy or girl, Hispanic who already knows what his wish is, do you remember that wish right now? Can you remember one?

EDGAR: Yes, of course yes, so I have this, 2 that come to mind, one that, a girl who wants to be a princess and wants to go to the castle at Disneyland, so we are working with her and her family to grant that wish ...

FLAVIO: What illness does that girl have?

EDGAR: She also has cancer, well, the good thing is that this girl is at a level where she is improving then she has falls and is getting better, and right now she is at a level where the doctor feels confident that she can travel so we are trying to take that opportunity, so she can travel. And the good thing is that many people think that children have to be terminal, and the reality is that no, many children with new technology and with science, get to live long lives and many of them are now volunteers for Make-A-Wish. So, that's what makes us so happy, that so many children can live that long life, and have that success too.



FLAVIO: Question. Do you know Gisel Alfonso? Gisel? You dont? He works for Bank of America, no, yes. Right now, he just told us that he works for the Bank of America. Hello, he says “Good morning, very good program today, my question is, the people who decide to volunteer, do they have to be residents, or they do not care about their status and do they have to travel to places or only in Las Vegas?”

EDGAR: Good questions. Nice to meet you, so, it depends on our volunteers, there are many volunteer opportunities, right, so, the only one that has requirements a little higher are those who are going to talk with the family members and they do a background check for those people, for obvious reasons, because they will be with families alone with one other partner, so, they do not necessarily have to be residents or citizens necessarily, many of our employees at Bank of America are part of the DACA program, so they aren’t residents or citizens and they are volunteers at Make-A-Wish. And some who may have problems with their background check or whatever, and maybe they cannot pass it, there are still opportunities that they can take inside the office that can help as well.

FLAVIO: And the volunteers have to travel along with the families?

EDGAR: They do not have to travel, what we do, we have 62 chapters of the organization throughout the United States and we also have chapters outside of the United States as well. So, wherever we go we have Make-a-Wish organization that helps us. So, we help the children who come to Las Vegas and they help those who go there.

FLAVIO: There are not any children who say, “My wish is to go to Las Vegas.” At 3? No one will want to come to Las Vegas at 3 or 4. 4 years even, 5 years

EDGAR: Ha ha, yes, yes, of course, those who come to Las Vegas are not here to enjoy Las Vegas, but sometimes they are here for a concert or to see a game for the Golden Knights, some children came to see those games. When the Mexican national team came to play, they also had children who were here to see that. So, more than anything, its for different activities like that.

FLAVIO: Well there you have it, once again for all the people who listening, if you want to know more information about Make-A-Wish you can call directly at 702-212-9474, 702-212-9474 you can also go to your offices that are at 9950 Covington Street cross drive, and you can also go there to ask for more information. We have a caller on the air, good morning, how are you?

RADIO CALLER: Good morning Flavio, I congratulate you for what you are doing. hey, a quick question for the person, the, the people, the volunteers are they subject to a schedule or certain time every day or are there people who say, “well, I do not work on Saturdays and Sundays and I would like to help those hours.” Is it flexible or does it have to be something that has to be at a certain time and on a certain day?

EDGAR: Of course, yes, good question, we are completely flexible. So, each volunteer decides when and how much time they can dedicate to the organization. There are retired people who dedicate 10 hours a week to Make-A-Wish and there are people who work and say they can dedicate 2 hours per month. So, we are completely flexible. Concerning the wishes, we have for the volunteers, we give them a list and if you have the time to dedicate for that wish you write down that wish, and we give you the information and the volunteer agrees with the family when you can meet with the family and all that. We are completely flexible for all of that.



RADIO CALLER: Perfect, and just another question. Do you only help children who want to travel or want to see something, or also, say, a child who wants to see their bedroom very beautiful and painted with Characters from, I don't know, Disneyland or something similar? Do they also help with that? Because there can be more volunteers of that type of people who are painters or, someone that repairs houses or something? I do not know if you handle those also or just another kind of help?

EDGAR: Of course, we do all kinds of wishes. And so there are people who tell us I want something, there are certain children who tell us, I want to go to a place, I want to meet someone and sometimes they want to meet a celebrity, for example, or they want to transform their rooms, or we have a child that we are doing their yard right now because he wants to play in his yard and he cannot go out much, but then we are doing his yard, and because of the generosity of the people to, you are right, there are many who also donate their talents to be able to carry out those wishes. So, there are children who tell us, I want to be a Spiderman, so we also manage to make those wishes possible as well.

RADIO CALLER: Perfect! Then there will be some opportunities for anyone who wants to support, as you say, with their gardening work, with painting, with trades, in whatever way can help. Perfect, thank you very much.

FLAVIO: Thanks for your call. We are out of time, I thank you very much for joining us today Edgar, hopefully not for the last time and hopefully this program will help you receive a lot of calls from people who want to volunteer to support these children as well, and also help them with money.

EDGAR: Thank you very much for being here with us

FLAVIO: I am Flavio Jimenez, thank you for listening to us today, see you here tomorrow, tomorrow is Saturday and we also have radio on Saturdays at half past eight in the morning. Thank you very much take care and may God be with you! Until tomorrow!