

# MAX'S MAGIC

Please visit my website for more information:  
<https://maxsaperstein.wixsite.com/maxsmagic>

Since I was 8 years old, I spent long hours receiving treatments for Crohn's Disease. While getting my medication, I wished to be any place other than in the hospital. In high school, I discovered a passion for photography. During a project in which I combined photographs of myself at different ages, I discovered that photography has the potential to transform people's images – both their literal image of themselves as well as their mental image of where they are or who they can be. I realized I could help other children “escape” the hospital, or any difficult place, through creative photography and Max's Magic was born!

During my sophomore year of high school, I created a program called Max's Magic in which I take photos of children and superimpose their faces on fun characters such as athletes, cheerleaders, or superheroes. Seeing themselves in fun places doing fun activities brings a smile to their faces and gives them a break from their challenges.

Since starting Max's Magic, I have partnered with over a dozen nonprofit organizations to provide “magic” photos for children facing a range of challenges from homelessness, to medical issues to having parents who are incarcerated. These fun images give them a break from their stress.

I also made “magic” photos for 50 children in the Elite Dignity Elementary School in Tanzania. Instead of fantasy characters, for this project, I featured the faces of the children in their dream careers. This showed the students that while they may come from difficult backgrounds in Tanzania, it is possible for them to become doctors, lawyers, police officers, pilots or any other profession they choose to pursue.

Finally, I also do “magic” photos of children in fun places such as on the moon or on the beach in Hawaii. These images remind the children that while they may be facing challenges here and now, it is possible for them to change their situation and that there is no limit to where they can go in the future.



