

Wishes & More[®]

2018

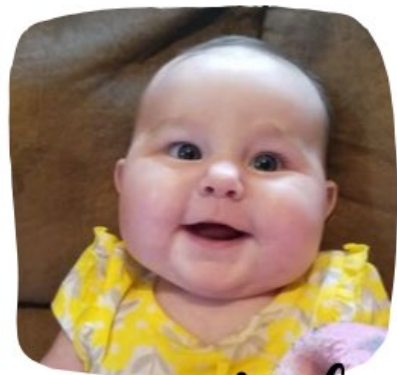
Annual Report



Wishes



scholarships



memorials

Table of Contents

Organization Overview	3
Programming	4
Wishes.....	4
Scholarship of Hope.....	4
Memorials.....	4
Above & Beyond	4
2018 Finances	5
Functional Expenses	5
Financial Position.....	5
Board of Directors.....	5
Staff & Contact Information.....	6

A Word from our President

Dear Friends,

Every child we serve has a story. The truth is that some stories punch you right in the gut. Stories of heartbreak, physical and emotional pain, along with descriptions of an unimaginable experience. But the stories also show families who don't need to get to a Wizard to find a Heart, a Brain or Courage – they have it all and these stories are incredibly inspirational.



Just this week I was asked how I can handle hearing the stories of the families we serve. My answer wasn't deep, it was easy to describe. It's because our role is to provide a chapter in their book that will dry tears and sprout smiles. To offer a pleasant distraction from their fear, pain and anxiety and provide a respite from treatments, procedures and medical appointments. Our focus is uplifting, and knowing that we are making happy memories and important contributions makes this organization better than good – it makes it exceptional.

This wonderful, local charity needs every donor & every volunteer to bring our Wishes & More story to life. Who's your charity?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karla".

Karla Blomberg, Volunteer President

Organization Overview

Mission Statement



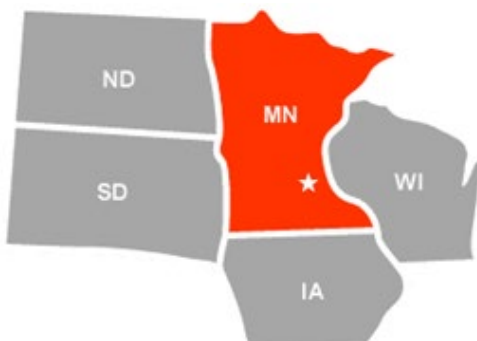
Wishes & More enhances the life of a child fighting a terminal or life-threatening condition by providing extraordinary experiences... and more.

Purpose



The purpose of Wishes & More is to grant the heartfelt wish of a child between birth and nineteen who has a terminal or life-threatening condition and to provide a Scholarship of Hope[®] to be used for higher education; or to give a memorial financial gift to the family in the event the child does not survive to experience the joy of a wish.

Population Served



Wishes & More serves all children who apply prior to their 19th birthday and have a physician's qualifying statement attesting to the child's life-threatening condition requiring ongoing treatment. Services are provided to children living in Minnesota; or who live in the border states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin; or are receiving ongoing treatment in a Minnesota medical facility.

Programming

Our Tri-fold mission encompasses the emotional and financial impact having a child with a serious medical condition has on our families. We strive to provide uplifting and forward-thinking opportunities to keep kids focusing on the positive; and we also provide our humble comfort along with financial support to grieving families. The significance of our programming is felt in the smiles, the hugs, the notes, and the involvement from families whom we've served since 2005.

Wishes (for kids from infancy – teenage years)

Wishes & More grants wishes to children, ages birth-19, fighting a terminal or life-threatening condition. Our goal is to provide each individual child with their special individual wish. These wishes provide a hopeful anticipation, an extraordinary experience and a beautiful memory for an entire family to enjoy!



Kendra's wish to go to Jamaica!

Scholarship of Hope®

Upon being granted their wish, each wish child will be presented with a scholarship certificate that will be redeemable as a \$2,000 financial grant to apply to any higher institution of learning beyond high school. These scholarships provide a positive push for kids to think about their future and not just the “here and now” of their condition. They allow kids to receive accolades and financial support, when academic & athletic scholarships have been put out of reach due to illness, and treatments took them out of school. The only qualification for our kids to receive their Scholarship is to enroll in higher education – we not only want them to survive...we want them to thrive!



Brooke's Scholarship

Memorial Grants

Sadly, not all of the eligible children are able to experience a wish. In this heartbreaking situation, Wishes & More will give a monetary gift to the family to use at their discretion. Our memorial funds are often given directly to funeral homes in order to pay for final arrangements. These funds are meant to be used at the family's discretion in order to use it in whatever way they choose; however, the most heartbreaking is when the funeral home receives the check directly from us.



LeRae's Memorial

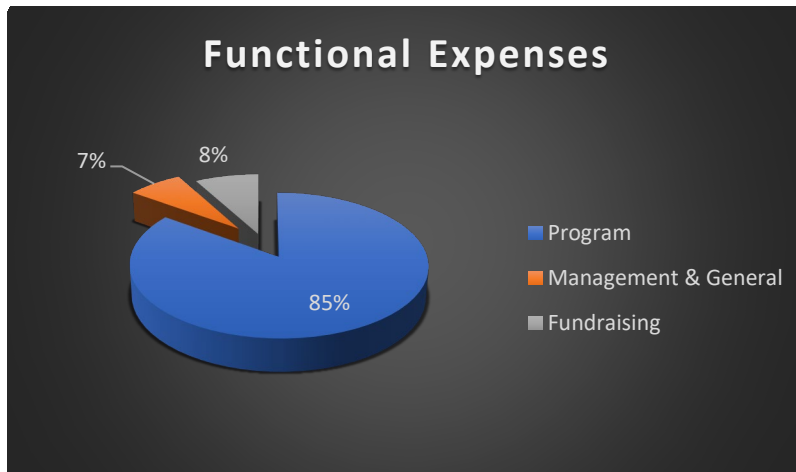
Above & Beyond

The families we serve are truly “our family” and we continue to stay in their lives - even after the wish or memorial is granted and for as long as they desire to stay in touch & receive opportunities to celebrate family. Supporters who have resources and opportunities that we pass on to our wish families allow us to provide “more!” We often receive calls with last minute tickets or opportunities that we offer to wish families so that they can experience a night out or a fun activity.



Hunter & his parents at a Wild Game!

2018 Finances



See Appendix A – 2018 Audited Financial Statements for more information.

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash	205,521
Certificates of Deposit	991,706
Pledges and Prepaid Expenses	133,440
OTHER ASSETS	18,110
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,348,777</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	32,365
NET ASSETS	1,316,412
TOTAL LIABILITIES/ASSETS	<u>1,348,777</u>
SUPPORT	470,944
REVENUE	597,443
TOTAL SUPPORT/REVENUE	<u>1,068,387</u>
PROGRAM SERVICES	
Wishes	637,976
Memorials	74,000
Scholarship of Hope grants	14,500
SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	
Management	60,883
Fundraising	69,444
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>856,803</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>211,584</u>

Board & Advisory Board

Chris Ames – Managing Partner, Landmark RE Group

Karla Blomberg – (*Board President*) Realtor, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Sundial Realty

Randy Ehleringer – Private Wealth Advisor, Echelon Wealth Partners

Amy Gunter – Director, Academic Advising, College of Science & Engineering, University of Minnesota

Sharyl Hansen – Executive Director, Hansen Family Foundation

Chris Harristhal, J.D. – Larkin Hoffman

John Hines – Radio Personality

Brian Kostick – Managing Director, Business Consulting Services, Charles Schwab

Carol LeDoux – Anoka County Commissioner, Rtd.

Tony Leung – United States Magistrate Judge, District of MN

Clay Matvick – Broadcaster, ESPN

Ann Mueiting, Ph.D. – (*Board Secretary*) President, Mueiting, Raasch & Gebhardt, P.A.

Nathan Mueiting – Gift Officer, External Relations Department, College of Design, University of Minnesota

Jason Muhlstein – MN Region Technology Consultant Managing Partner, Wipfli CPAs and Consultants

Tom Reid - MN Wild Broadcaster, Tom Reid’s Hockey City Pub

Mark Robbins, J.D., Ph.D. – President, Kodiak Strategic Consultants, LLC

Jim Roehl – (*Board Vice President*) Vice President, Business Initiatives Consultant, Wells Fargo

Cindy Sontag, CPA – (*Board Treasurer*) Spring Lake Engineering

Governor Jesse and Terry Ventura - Former Minnesota Governor & First Lady, Actor, Businessman

Greg Wolf – Vice President, Wells Fargo Corporate Credit

Mike Zitelman – Minnesota Executive, The Weitz Company

More Is...

In addition to granting wishes, Minnesota's own Wishes & More provides Scholarship of Hope grants and Memorial funds with very limited staff and MANY volunteers.

We are a wish-granting organization that considers every wish, including popular Midwest wishes such as fishing, hunting, and recreational vehicles.

We are the only Minnesota organization that provides a \$2,000 Scholarship of Hope to each wish recipient, providing hope for their future.

We are the only Minnesota organization that gives memorial financial grants to families when a child does not survive to experience their wish.

Staff

Elizabeth Arnold – Volunteer Coordinator
Carol Bistodeau – Director of Wish Services
Laura Daily – Wish-Granting Coordinator (part-time)
Joelle Gamble – Sr. Director of Communications & Development
Sarah Hanna – Office Manager

Contact Us

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