

Wishes & More[®]

2019

Annual Report



1350 Families and Counting! These are just a few of our Wishes & More[®] superheroes!



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A Word from our President

2019 was a year of surprises for Wishes & More. In mid-2019 we had a major influx in wish applications, and before we knew it, we had increased our overall programming by 48% and our primary, and most costly, program of granting wishes by 90%. Our organization has never experienced an annual increase of this magnitude and we determined that families were "spreading the word" within support groups & networks which was increasing our exposure to families that need us most. In order to support each family, we had a deficit and went into our reserves. This was an unanticipated increase in our trend of budgeting and caught us by surprise but, just like our kids who fight for their lives every day, we are fighters too. We determined that we would fight for every dollar and ensure that we never had to turn a family away for lack of funding.

Our families deserve to know that we are here to support them at a time when they need to be uplifted and feel the encouragement through the fulfillment of a wish; or know that others care as they receive our Memorial funding. Kids who have experienced the trauma of a life-threatening condition and come out the other side also deserve to feel the positive energy that our Scholarship of Hope® provides. Our programming isn't just a vacation or something nice to do for someone. It's magical, medicinal and full of hope for the recipient and the entire family who loves them.

This wonderful, local charity needs every donor & every volunteer to serve our wish and memorial kids. Who's your charity?

Karla Blomberg, Volunteer President

Organization Overview

Mission Statement



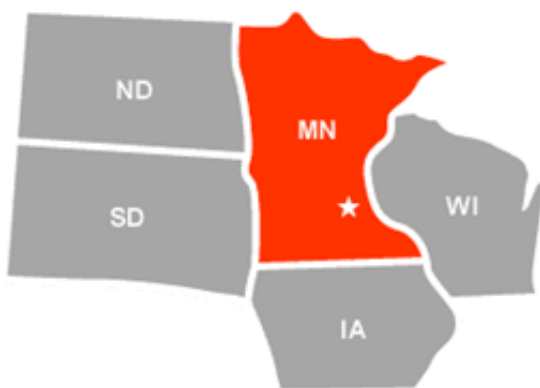
Wishes & More enhances the life of a child fighting a terminal or life-threatening condition by providing extraordinary experiences... and more.

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. In 2019, our services were 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

Wishes & More has three major programs, each of which provide support with the emotional and financial impact families endure when they have a child with a serious medical condition. Our primary goals are to provide uplifting and forward-thinking opportunities to allow kids to focus on positive outcomes; and to provide comfort along with financial support to grieving families.

Wishes (for kids from infancy – teenage years)

Our wishes provide kids with something to look forward to when they're weakened by treatment or disease. A wish is something positive to remember when they want to block out a terrible time in their life. A wish is making something attainable that a child never expected to own...or a "super sized" vacation... or an opportunity to meet an idol. From the anticipation to the fulfillment to the memory, Wishes & More creates a one-of-a-kind experience for each individual child.



Jeremy's wish for a tracked wheelchair!

Scholarship of Hope®

Our Scholarship of Hope® program is focused on supporting our extraordinary kids who may be overlooked by other educational grant or scholarship opportunities, due to challenges & setbacks resulting from their medical condition and/or treatments. We set aside a \$2,000 Scholarship of Hope for each of our wish kids, which may be redeemed at enrollment to any accredited educational program. This program is unique in that funding is not based on academic or athletic prowess; but simply based on surviving a serious, life-threatening diagnosis. Our kids have surpassed many odds, fought numerous battles, & through it all, they elect to look to the future through education. 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!



Nikhil's Scholarship of Hope®

Memorial Grants

We provide a monetary gift to the parents of a child who does not survive to have their wish fulfilled. For some, these quick and easily attainable funds are desperately needed to proceed with final arrangements; for others, these funds allow for a purchase of a monument that would not be otherwise attainable; and for some, these funds are representative of a community that cares and that, in itself, is meaningful. We encourage the recipients to use funds at their discretion.



Keisha's Memorial

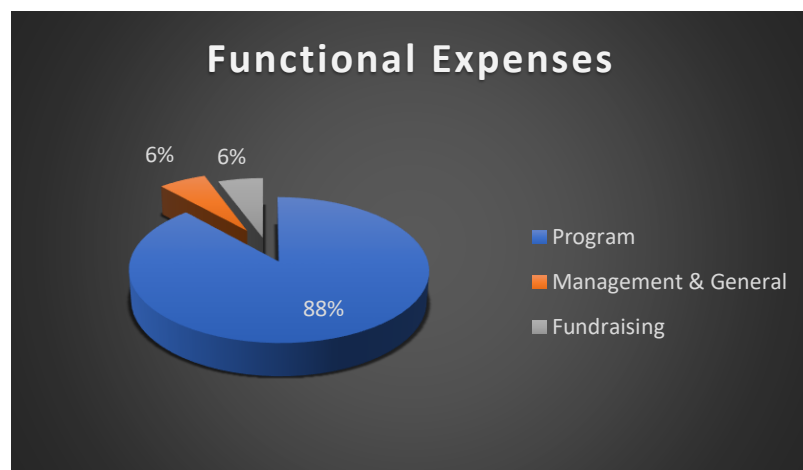
Above & Beyond

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. 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 family fun activity.



Jake & twin brother, Josh at a Wild Game!

2019 Financials



See Appendix A – 2019 Audited Financial Statements for more information.

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash	202,035
Investments	963,629
Pledges and Prepaid Expenses	98,575
OTHER ASSETS	12,834
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,277,073</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	31,517
NET ASSETS	1,245,556
TOTAL LIABILITIES/ASSETS	<u>1,277,073</u>
SUPPORT REVENUE	732,460
TOTAL SUPPORT/REVENUE	<u>1,294,545</u>
PROGRAM SERVICES	
Wishes	1,078,836
Memorials	90,000
Scholarship of Hope grants	29,699
SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	
Management	89,760
Fundraising	77,106
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,365,401</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>(70,856)</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. – Kristoff the Magician

John Hines – Radio & Advertising Personality

Carol LeDoux – Anoka County Commissioner, Rtd.

Tony Leung – United States Magistrate Judge, District of MN

Clay Matvick – Broadcaster, ESPN

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

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

Jason Muhlstein – Twin Cities Market Leader, Partner, Technology Consulting, 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 – Senior Project Manager, 45 North Group

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 & Events Coordinator

Carol Bistodeau – Director of Wish Services

Laura Daily – Wish-Granting Coordinator

Joelle Gamble – Sr. Director of Communications & Development

Sarah Hanna – Office Manager

Chris Johnson – Finance & Operations Manager

Julie Woodward – Wish-Granting Coordinator

Contact Us

Mailing Address: 961 Hillwind Road NE
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

Website: www.wishesandmore.org

Phone: 763-502-1500

General Email: info@wishesandmore.org

Social Media Links:



@wishesandmore



@Wishes_and_More



@wishesandmoremn



Wishes & More Children's Wish Foundation