

Wishes & More[®]

2020

Annual Report



Wishes



Scholarships



Memorials

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A Word from our President

2020 was an inconceivable time for the entire world, but the one thing that rang true over and over was that Wishes & More is an “essential” business.

Cancer didn’t pay attention to quarantine instructions; and other life-threatening conditions (that have nothing to do with the insidious COVID-19) continued to be diagnosed in children and teens.

We continued to grant wishes throughout the entire pandemic, because we knew that kids, and their families, living in our community need to have something to look forward to in the anticipation of a wish coming true.

Wishes & More continued to do more than grant wishes; we also wrote checks to grief-stricken parents who lost their child, and to higher education institutions when wish kids headed off to college.

2020 was a tough year and brought with it difficult financial times for many. Regardless of the challenges, we needed to be stronger for our families. After all, when the going gets tough, the tough get going... and we are tough. We are committed to taking care of our families because they need us. Our families have heard the words, and felt the shock, of an unimaginable diagnosis; impacting them by plunging them into a darkness that needs a light. We are that light - and we need our entire community to be alongside us. Our wish families need us, and we need you! 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 2020, Wishes & More served kids who live in Minnesota or who are treated in a Minnesota hospital.

Programming

The programming of Wishes & More is tri-fold; however, each program provides emotional and financial support to families who have a child battling a critical medical condition. Our goal is to bring each family an uplift & joy-filled wish and scholarship opportunity to allow our kids to focus on positive outcomes; and to provide comfort along with financial support to grieving families whose child didn't survive to experience a wish.

Wishes (for kids from infancy – teenage years)

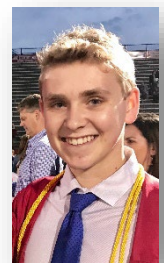
Every child is unique and so is their wish. We strive to make each experience extraordinary and uniquely their own! From the anticipation to the fulfillment to the memory, Wishes & More creates a one-of-a-kind experience for each individual child. In 2020, 52 wishes were granted bringing enjoyment & happiness to each child, sibling, parents and loved-one who were touched by the experiences.



Julian's wish for a recumbent bike!

Scholarship of Hope®

Our unique and incredibly impactful Scholarship of Hope® program is focused on supporting our extraordinary wish kids who have overcome or who may still be battling their condition - but kept their focus on the future! Any previous wish child who attends an accredited higher education institution will receive support from Wishes & More through our Scholarship of Hope® program. 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.



Sam's Scholarship of Hope®

Memorial Grants

Our third program is also unique to Wishes & More. 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.



Halle's Memorial

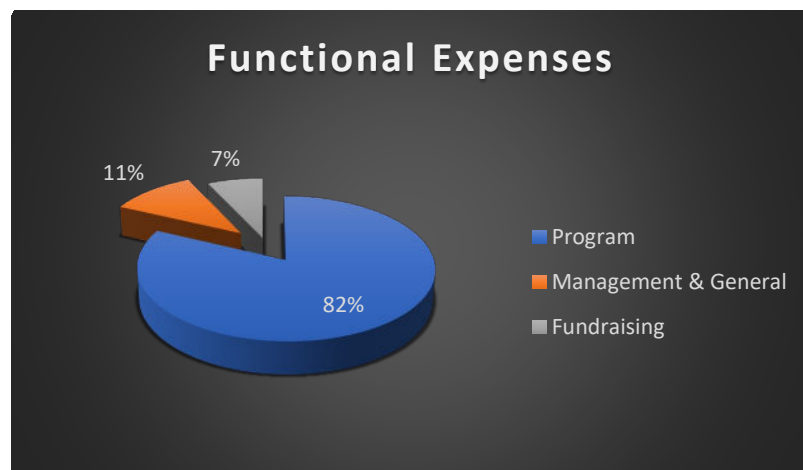
Our "More" Opportunities

The families we serve are part of our WAM Community and we continue to stay in their lives even after the wish or memorial is granted. Supporters are encouraged to donate tickets to concerts, plays or sporting events that allow us to stay in touch with our families and let them know that we still care!



Isaac was able to attend Dinosaur Adventure!

2020 Financials



See 2020 Audited Financial Statements for more information.

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash	349,329
Investments	1,175,146
Pledges and Prepaid Expenses	106,519
OTHER ASSETS	9,644
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,640,638</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	30,859
NET ASSETS	1,609,779
TOTAL LIABILITIES/ASSETS	<u>1,640,638</u>
SUPPORT REVENUE	791,833
TOTAL SUPPORT/REVENUE	<u>1,366,640</u>
PROGRAM SERVICES	
Wishes	712,172
Memorials	79,000
Scholarship of Hope grants	29,856
SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	
Management	113,672
Fundraising	67,717
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,002,417</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>364,223</u>

Board & Advisory Board

Chris Ames – Managing Partner, Landmark RE Group
Ben Bina – Insurance Advisor, Eagle Point Insurance Group
Karla Blomberg – (*Board President*) Realtor, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Sundial Realty
Mike Deasey – Regional Managing Director, Midwest Region, Cresset
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 – (*Executive Committee At-Large*) 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*) Retired
Governor Jesse and Terry Ventura – Former Minnesota Governor & First Lady, Actor, Businessman
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

Carol Bistodeau – Director of Wish Services

Laura Daily – Wish-Granting Coordinator

Joelle Gamble – Sr. Director of Communications & Development

Sarah Hanna – Office Manager *(FTE 25%)*

Kathleen Hollahan – Fundraising & Volunteer Manager

Chris Johnson – Finance & Operations Manager

Julie Woodward – Wish-Granting Coordinator *(FTE 60%)*

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