

# Wishes & More<sup>®</sup>

# 2021

## Annual Report



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## A Word from our President

I am so proud of this organization! When we founded this charity, we felt we had a good grasp of the gaps in services for children (and their families) struggling with life-threatening conditions. We based our mission upon having the latitude and ability to fill those gaps; and this past year truly showed our resilience!

This past year, the world shut down. Businesses collapsed, people sheltered and worked at home, charities folded – but we didn’t. We continued to support our families to the best of our abilities, we never missed a day in being available and supportive. Oh yes, we made many adjustments, but our office was covered every day. Our remarkable, and small, staff carried on as safely and prudently as possible because we knew that children were still being diagnosed with catastrophic conditions and they needed us as much as ever. Travel was prohibited by other wish granting organizations, but we recognized that the children we serve may have their lives measured in memories and not years. We knew the memories that involved travel may not have time to wait. Consequently, we allowed the parents and the child’s physician to make the decision if the trip outweighed the risk and if they gave the green light – so did we.

I’m proud of our leadership and our volunteers for continuing their service; and our supporters who stepped to the plate and continued their financial support because they knew we needed the funds and that we would spend it wisely. We have proven time and time again that we are “essential” - 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



## What we do

Wishes & More® grants heart-felt wishes to children with life-threatening conditions & provides them with an educational Scholarship of Hope® gift. The third program provides Memorial funds to the parents of a child who does not survive to experience a wish.

## Why we exist

Wishes & More exists to fill in critical gaps in service that weren't being offered to kids battling life-threatening conditions. Our tri-fold mission goes above & beyond to ensure that the entire family is supported and that each wish is unique and personalized. Our second and third programs are unique to our organization and are incredibly important to the families we serve. Financial scholarships are given to wish kids who go on to higher education through our Scholarship of Hope program. And our Memorial program supports the families financially who lose a child before they can experience a wish.



## Who we serve

Wishes & More serves all children who apply prior to their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday and have a physician's qualifying statement attesting to the child's life-threatening condition requiring ongoing treatment. Wishes & More serves kids who live in Minnesota or who are treated in a Minnesota hospital.

# Programming

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 2021, 65 wishes were granted bringing enjoyment & happiness to each child, sibling, parents and loved-one who were touched by the experiences.



*Lauren's wish for a Special Needs Jogging Stroller!*

## 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. In 2021, Wishes & More happily supported 33 kids with their full or partial Scholarship of Hope funding.



*Tanner'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.



*Emari'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!



*Collin received a ride in a supporter's Lamborghini after he shared his love of sports cars!*

# 2021 Financials



See 2021 Audited Financial Statements for more information.

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Cash	648,582
Investments	1,276,516
Pledges and Prepaid Expenses	161,033
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>	5,099
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>2,091,230</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	82,527
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	2,008,703
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES/ASSETS</b>	<u>2,091,230</u>
<b>SUPPORT REVENUE</b>	1,037,325
	656,008
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT/REVENUE</b>	<u>1,693,333</u>
<b>PROGRAM SERVICES</b>	
Wishes	1,025,456
Memorials	78,000
Scholarship of Hope grants	34,587
<b>SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Management	85,043
Fundraising	49,873
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>1,272,959</u>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b><u>420,374</u></b>

## Board & Advisory Board

**Chris Ames** – Managing Partner, Landmark RE Group

**Ben Bina** – Insurance Advisor, Eagle Point Insurance Group

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

**Mike Deasey** – (*Executive Committee At-Large*) Senior Vice President, Client Advisor, Huntington National Bank

**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

**Tony Leung** – United States Magistrate Judge, District of MN

**Clay Matvick** – Broadcaster, ESPN

**Ann Mueeting, Ph.D.** – (*Board Chair*) President, Mueeting Raasch Group

**Nathan Mueeting** – (*Board Secretary*) Gift Officer, External Relations Department, College of Design, University of Minnesota

**Jason Muhlstein** – Principal – National Regions Leader, 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** – (*Vice Chair*) Vice President, Business Initiatives Consultant, Wells Fargo

**Cindy Sontag, CPA, Ret.** – (*Board Treasurer*)

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

**Mike Zitelman** – (*Executive Committee At-Large*) Senior Project Manager, 45 North Group

# Supporter Spotlight

The financial, in-kind and volunteer support we receive from our contributors is the only reason Wishes & More can exist to support local kids battling life-threatening conditions. We strive to acknowledge donors in significant ways that not only show our heartfelt appreciation, but also connects the donors to our mission. We have many examples of opportunities for donors to feel connected and these are just a few.

1. **Gary & Ruth McBride** dedicated a large financial gift to adopt a golf-related wish to help celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of a friend who was an avid golfer. The acknowledgement letter included the photos & description of the wish to the person the donation was made in honor of along with birthday wishes.
2. **LS Black** provided the in-kind labor and materials for two wishes in 2021 through their generous partnership with Wishes & More. When we have a project wish that needs construction support, they are our first call and we are honored to work with this great team!
3. **Ally Financial** has a corporate volunteer program dedicated to donating funds to organizations where their employees volunteer. We learned about this program from a Wish Mom who is an Ally employee. After dedicating many hours of volunteer support to WAM, she proudly ensured that we also received the max dollars through this generous company's program.
4. **Minnesota ESA** is a nonprofit service organization who chose Wishes & More as their featured charity in 2021. They raised funds through various events and activities, volunteered at our events and shared our wish stories with group members via social media.

## Staff

**Carol Bistodeau** – Director of Wish Services

**Laura Daily** – Wish Program Manager

**Joelle Gamble** – Sr. Director of Communications & Development

**Sarah Hanna** – Wish Support (FTE 25%)

**Kathleen Hollahan** – Fundraising Associate (Consultant)

**Chris Johnson** – Finance & Operations Manager

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

## Contact Us

**Mailing Address:** 961 Hillwind Road NE  
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**Phone:** 763-502-1500

**General Email:** [info@wishesandmore.org](mailto:info@wishesandmore.org)

### Social Media Links:



@wishesandmore

@Wishes\_and\_More



@wishesandmoremn

Wishes & More Children's Wish Foundation