

# *Wishes & More*<sup>®</sup>

# 2024

## Annual Report

*2,000+ Families served ... and counting!*



*Wishes*



*Scholarships*



*Memorials*

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## Contact Us

**Mailing Address:** 961 Hillwind Road NE  
Fridley, Minnesota 55432

**Website:** [www.wishesandmore.org](http://www.wishesandmore.org)

**Phone:** 763-502-1500

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

### Social Media:

 @wishesandmore

 @wishesandmorem

 @wishesandmore

# Organization Overview



The services provided by Wishes & More® include granting heart-felt wishes to children with life-threatening conditions, providing each wish child who goes on to an accredited post-secondary education institution a monetary educational Scholarship of Hope®, and giving memorial funding to the family of a child who passes away before experiencing a wish.

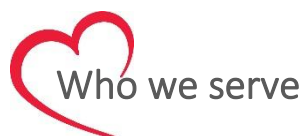


Wishes & More was founded to be a support network with seasoned wish-granting experts who recognized serious gaps in service from existing organizations that work with kids battling serious medical conditions and their families. In 2004, they set out to alleviate those gaps and expand the age range of children eligible for a wish and the types of wishes provided by incorporating these unique opportunities:

**Expanded Wish Eligibility:** By widening the age range and types of wishes, we ensure fewer kids "fall through the cracks" and are granted an impactful wish.

**The Scholarship Program:** This is a powerful psychological tool. By providing a scholarship, Wishes & More shifts the narrative from "battling an illness" to "planning for a future," which is an incredible vote of confidence in a child's recovery.

**The Memorial Program:** This is perhaps our most poignant service. Being the only organization in Minnesota to support families who lose a child before a wish can be granted addresses a profound and often overlooked type of support as a family grieves.



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 Minnesota.



# Tri-fold Mission (and more!)

## Wishes (extraordinarily created for each individual child)

Wishes & More believes that every child is unique and so is their wish. Our priority is to create an individualized experience for each child – no matter the wish! To do this, we leverage all resources possible to bring each extraordinary wish to life! In 2024, 56 wishes were granted bringing joy and happy memories to each child, sibling, parents and loved-one who were touched by the experiences. The average cost of a wish is \$10,000.

## Scholarship of Hope® (unique to Wishes & More)

Our Scholarship of Hope program supports our extraordinary wish kids by encouraging them to focus on the future! All wish children who attend an accredited higher education institution prior to their 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday receive \$2,000 from Wishes & More through our Scholarship of Hope 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 2024, Wishes & More provided 17 Scholarship of Hope grants to wish kids!



## Memorial Grants (unique to Wishes & More)

Our third program also provides a monetary gift; however, this gift is given to the surviving parents of a child who does not experience a wish. For some, these quick and easily attainable funds are desperately needed to proceed with final arrangements. For others, these funds allow for the purchase of a keepsake or a memorable opportunity that helps the family as they grieve their loss. Throughout 2024, 113 families received these funds after the loss of their child. We know we can't take away their hurt, but we hope that they know these funds represent a supporting community who care for those who are suffering.



## What is "More?"

Wishes & More is proud to stay in the lives of all wish and memorial families even after they are granted a wish, scholarship or memorial. Our supporters and local entertainment companies often 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! These opportunities provide a respite for our families who may not otherwise have the resources to get out and enjoy a date night or family adventure. The communication also allows us to reconnect with families and keep in touch to hear more about their journey after the wish or memorial is granted.



♥ Sam



♥ Aubrey



♥ Jack



♥ Josiah

**Wishes & More**  
*Wishes granted in*  
**2024**



♥ Maryanna



♥ Broten

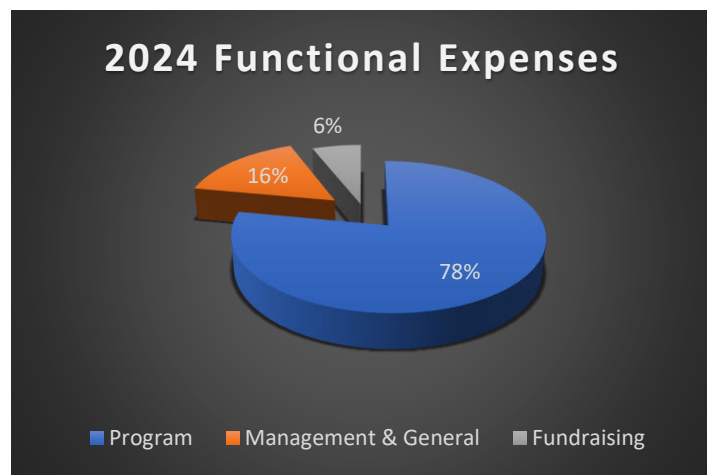


♥ Ace



♥ Orlan

## 2024 Financials



See 2024 Audited Financial Statements for more information.

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Cash	\$389,443
Investments	\$2,425,098
Pledges and Prepaid Expenses	\$222,464
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>	\$246,351
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$3,283,356</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	\$330,684
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	\$2,952,672
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES/ASSETS</b>	<u>\$3,283,356</u>
<b>SUPPORT REVENUE</b>	\$987,113
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT/REVENUE</b>	<u>\$2,188,449</u>
<b>PROGRAM SERVICES</b>	<b>\$1,215,529</b>
<b>SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Management	\$234,940
Fundraising	\$121,285
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$1,571,754</u>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<u><b>\$616,695</b></u>

# Board & Advisory Board

**Chris Ames** – Managing Partner, Landmark Real Estate Group

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

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

**Russ Bridges** – Vice President, Finance, UnitedHealth Group

**Mike Deasey** – (*Vice Chair*) Senior Vice President, Client Advisor, Huntington National Bank

**Randy Ehleringer** – Private Wealth Advisor, Echelon Wealth Partners

**Chris Harristhal, J.D.** – Kristoff the Magician

**Nancy Lambert** – Sr. Vice President and General Counsel, Americas dormaKaba

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

**Clay Matvick** – Broadcaster, ESPN

**Ann Mueting, Ph.D.** – (*Past Chair*) President, Mueting Raasch Group

**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** – (*Board Secretary*) 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** – (*Board Chair*) Senior Project Manager, 45 North Group

## Staff

**Ashlee Beauchamp** – Administrative Project Manager

**Carol Bistodeau** – Director of Wish Services

**Cat Daly** – Wish Program Administrator

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

**Laura Gillespie** – Wish Program Manager

**Nathan Mueting** – Director of Operations

**Pat Westad** – Bookkeeper (*FTE 62.5%*)

**Julie Woodward** – Sr. Wish-Granting Coordinator (*FTE 75%*)

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