



*I wish to be a  
figure skater*

Nicole, 7  
brain tumor

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Make-A-Wish®  
SOUTHERN FLORIDA







*I wish to be  
a mermaid*

Beatrix, 6  
rare disease

# THANK YOU

Because of ***you,***  
wishes come true.


Please visit [makeawishdonors.org](https://makeawishdonors.org) for a complete listing of our donors.



# INTRODUCTION

At Make-A-Wish Southern Florida, we believe that wishes are powerful experiences that can change a child's life. In fact, wishes have proven physical and emotional benefits that can give children with critical illnesses a higher chance of survival. When a wish is granted, a child replaces fear with confidence, sadness with joy and anxiety with hope.

In the 2019 fiscal year, we touched more lives than we ever have before. One of those wishes, 4-year-old Wyatt's request to have an interactive playground, marks a huge milestone for our chapter. Wyatt's wish is the 12,000th wish in our history.



We share this snapshot of the life-changing wishes that we grant, and the incredible impact these experiences have on everyone touched by a wish - our wish kids and their families, our donors, our volunteers, our sponsors, our staff, and our caring communities. We are grateful for your support.

Richard Weissman  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Make-A-Wish® Southern Florida

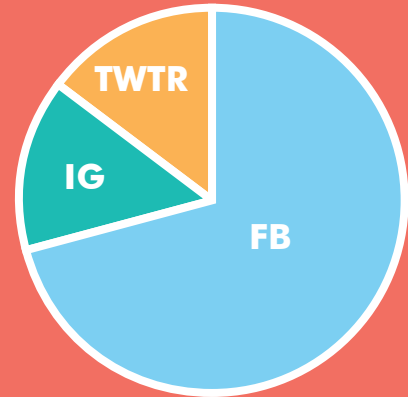


# OUR INFLUENCE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

*In the 2019 fiscal year, our social media audience grew to more than **40,000** individual followers worldwide, with Facebook leading the way with more than **28,000** followers. More than **149,000** individuals engaged with us, seeing our posts organically, as well as through shares and comments. That's three times the number of our followers and shows that not only our followers, but also those that might not follow us, see the importance of our message.*

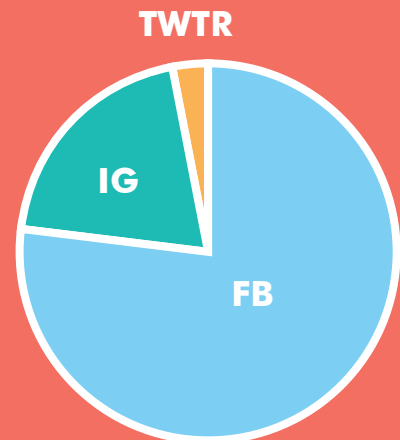
This year, our team “**went live**” for **21 “Wishes in Action”** bringing our viewers into these life-changing moments. In all, we engaged our supporters with **44 live streams**, showcasing wish experiences and special events.

## FOLLOWERS



Facebook: 28,849  
Instagram: 5,900  
Twitter: 5,900  
**TOTAL: 40,649**

## REACH



Facebook: 115,410  
Instagram: 30,000  
Twitter: 4,200  
**TOTAL: 149,610**



On August 14, 2019, we posted a video of **Zoey**, an 11-year-old with cancer, who wished to have her very own French bulldog puppy. The video hit a record-breaking count of more than **1 million views** by the end of the month, and has well over **4 million views TODAY**. Zoey's mom continues to share images, videos and stories of their heartwarming puppy love affair.

*“Snowflake is more than a puppy...that little puppy understand Zoey's every mood and emotion. She is there to snuggle and lick it all away and make it better. It's beautiful and such a forevermore blessing to see.” – Zoey's mom.*

*I wish to have a  
French bull  
dog puppy*

Zoey, 11  
cancer

Use **THIS** QR code



to watch **Zoey's**  
**record breaking**  
**video**

# Wishes

“

Make-A-Wish has made a huge difference in Angelina's life and how she and her family view her condition. While Angelina is the bravest girl I know, coming to her check-ups used to only bring back bad memories. Now when she thinks about her heart it isn't all bad or worrisome. Since Angelina's wish, Angelina and her family have these incredibly good and happy memories to get them through the tough times.

– *Dr. Blaine John,  
her pediatric cardiologist*



*I wish to have a  
Royal Ball*  
Angelina, 13  
heart condition





*I wish to be a  
figure skater*

Nicole, 7  
brain tumor

**NICOLE'S GOLD MEDAL MOMENT**

**Nicole's** vivid imagination helps her through her battle with a brain tumor. She would imagine the cheers as she gracefully twirled around on center ice as a figure skater. She had it all planned out and drew a picture of her wish day for her wish granters.

From never stepping on the ice before to weeks of private lessons and countless stumbles on the ice, Nicole was ready for her ice skating debut at the Florida Panthers IceDen. She had her own dressing room and custom-made skates and skating gown, plus a little sparkle in her hair and makeup.

Her family beamed with pride as her greatest wish materialized. Nicole declared "tonight, I will win the show" as she led the way for the dozens of skaters who participated in this "Nicole On Ice" skating exhibition. She performed a solo routine, as well as a pairs skate during the grand finale. Nicole's dad said, "She's happy - I'm happy. I'm happy for the accomplishments she made, for the commitments. Anything is possible, everything is possible."

Nicole skated into everyone's hearts and felt the love as well. She described her star status with an Olympics-sized smile: "Everyone is calling me Nicole, but I don't know them!" Her wish come true shows her that with determination, she can overcome anything. "I'm not gonna fall, unless I do - I'll stand up." #NicoleOnIce

***"It's awesome that they gave me the medal. And I can keep it. It's not like they gave it to me and the next day they are going to come and I give it back to them. I can keep it!" – Nicole***

Wish Granters: Cynthia Lau & Sonia Vanegas  
Referred by Rolando Tabares, her social worker  
Wish adopted by the Looby Family Foundation  
Special thanks to the Florida Panthers IceDen  
Photos courtesy of Lisa Lefevre Photography







*I wish to go to  
Walt Disney World®*

Alec, 4  
kidney disease

## ALEC'S MAGICAL ADVENTURE



An energetic and Disney-loving boy, **Alec's** wish to go to the theme parks with his family was terrific. His days were filled with absolute delight as he strolled through the parks, meeting princesses and superheroes alike. From kisses on the cheek from Cinderella to posing with the Marvel gang, Alec's Disney adventure was one unforgettable experience.

Sporting his favorite superhero shirt and Mickey Mouse ears, Alec was ready to conquer his first trip to *Walt Disney World®*. According to Alec's mother, his wish was therapeutic in a sense because "it gave us the opportunity to not be consumed with medications, testing and hospital visits."

For Alec's mother, their first time in the theme parks as a family brought tears to her eyes. The magic surrounded them and worked wonders on her little warrior's soul. Alec got the chance to meet his favorite princesses including Ariel and Belle. However, it was Cinderella who stole his heart with her sweet kiss. His eyes sparkled with awe as he also met every character that crossed his path as he covered every inch of the theme parks.

The grin on Alec's face says it all - his heart is extra joyful because of his wish experience and first-ever Disney vacation.

***"This wish experience allowed our family to make precious memories...it was amazing, something we will never forget. I cried so many happy tears seeing the magic and watching my kids experience it." – Alec's mother***

Wish Granters: Constance L. Lucas & Carrie Santinelli  
Referred by Irina Gershin-Stevens, Alec's physician







*I wish to be  
a firefighter*

Samuel, 11  
cystic fibrosis

## SAMUEL'S HEROIC MOMENT



*Samuel's* determination in his daily battle with his critical illness is unwavering. Tampa Fire Rescue found his drive to be particularly admirable so when they learned of his wish, they invited him to join their team.

After being sworn in and issued a uniform, Samuel was eager to get on the fire engine. His team gave him a tour of the truck and explained how all the tools are used. Samuel was all smiles as he rode to their first mission: a water rescue. They jumped on a firefighting boat and Samuel felt so accomplished putting out a fire on his own.

At a mock car crash site, Samuel helped use an intricate hydraulic cutter to remove a door that had been crushed. His final act as a firefighter was to extinguish the flames of a large fire with a giant hose and his own two hands. Samuel's team couldn't believe how persistent and strong he was during the process.

Samuel's wish was a community effort that will forever touch the lives of everyone involved. A local fireman said, "I will never forget is the look on his face and his bright smile."

*"You could see it in his face – he was having a blast...it was time to take his mind off of it [his critical illness]."* – Captain Charles Eliason

Wish Granters: Nelcy A. Rivera-De Leon and Roger Zehr  
Referred by Inez Marciano, his social worker  
Wish adopted by Transportation Control Systems and Steve & Natalie Gillis







*I wish to have  
a golf cart*

Cody, 14  
cerebral palsy

**CODY'S CARTFUL OF SMILES**



Fun-loving and adventurous **Cody** has cerebral palsy, which makes it difficult to walk and get around most of the time. His friendly personality radiates warmth and allows him to make friends instantly. After years of riding around his neighborhood in other people's golf carts, Cody dreamt of having his own personal golf cart. "Cody's face brightens like a 1,000-watt light bulb when you mention (his) golf cart," says Fran, his wish granter. Before long, his wish to own a brand new blue, 8-passenger, street-legal golf cart named "Cody's Wish" came true.

Waiting right outside of Cody's house was his brand new golf cart emblazoned with "Cody's Wish." After the initial awe, Cody was ready for his first test drive. With great confidence and excitement, Cody took his family on a ride around the community, and loved every second of it.

Cody's golf cart gives him the freedom like he's never had – the freedom to go wherever he wants, whenever he wants. Because Cody is non-verbal, sometimes it's hard to understand how he is feeling, but Cody was so eager for his golf cart that his smile itself said a thousand words. His wish empowers him to be a social butterfly, spending even more time with his family and friends.

***"What I saw in Cody was absolute joy and pure excitement—he lit up when he knew his wish was being granted!" – Cody's mother***

Wish Granter: Fran Garfunkel

Referred by: Angela Walker, his mother

Wish adopted by Mr. Dan Baker







*I wish to clean  
the ocean*

Vanessa, 18  
cancer

**VANESSA'S INSPIRING IMPACT**



**Vanessa** never lets her illness stop her from making an impact. While she battles cancer in her home country of Canada, her dream was to help others by cleaning up the ocean with 4ocean.

Vanessa and her family flew down to Florida to kick off her inspiring wish. The 4ocean team gifted Vanessa and her family with shirts that said “4ocean is 4Vanessa,” and they instructed her on the ins and outs of ocean cleanup. Next they cruised along the coast picking up litter that polluted the waters. Vanessa was amazed by the difference she was making: “We picked up as much plastic and trash that we could find along the coastline...you name it!”

After collecting a sizable amount of litter in the nets, Vanessa continued her selfless mission at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, where she took to the sand and continued to pick up litter scattered along the beach. That evening, she witnessed a special sea turtle release on the shores she had just helped to clean.

4ocean made Vanessa an honorary Cleanup Crew Member and presented her with a plaque as a thank-you for making a difference in the world. Vanessa was both humbled and honored to give back during her wish.

*“I’m helping me, and I’m helping others – that’s a big thing. Cleaning something or helping others is pretty much helping everyone in the community.” – Vanessa*

Originating Chapter: Make-A-Wish Quebec Canada







*I wish to have  
an interactive  
playground*

Wyatt, 4  
chronic lung disease

## WYATT'S HAPPY PLACE



**Wyatt** is a kid who has defied the odds. Born three months premature, he was given a four percent chance of surviving and spent his first year in the neonatal intensive care unit. Fifteen medical procedures later, Wyatt is a fighter who brings joy to his loved ones... and like every 4-year-old, he enjoys playing outside! However, due to his medical and sensory challenges, Wyatt can't use public play areas.

On his wish day, Wyatt's parents took him by the hand and walked to his new and improved backyard. As they rounded the corner, Wyatt's face lit up with joy! The interactive playground featured two slides, an adaptive swing, rock wall, sand box, sensory enhancements and a high-tech trampoline. Wyatt immediately climbed up the rock wall and slid down the slide, giggling gleefully the entire time. He now had a safe place to dream, play and make happy memories with his loved ones.

***“Saying we are thankful just isn’t even enough,” said Wyatt’s mother. “Everything is just amazing and we are so incredibly grateful and thankful..we wouldn’t be able to give him this.”***

Wish Granters: Nicholas D. Owens and Laura Travis  
Referred by Crystal Ipe, his mother  
Wish adopted by POP Yachts & POP RVs

*Wyatt’s wish to have an interactive playground for his backyard marks Make-A-Wish Southern Florida’s **12,000<sup>th</sup> wish** granted. This wish was custom-designed to meet the special needs of a child and family that never gives up. We can’t think of a better way to celebrate this historic **wish-granting milestone!***



# Supporters



“

The best part of the car is that it symbolizes what I like, the New York Giants. When you look at the car, it represents me. It is one of the biggest things to happen to me and my family since they told me I beat cancer...When they opened the garage, it was like I stepped into a dream.

– *Joshua*





*I wish to have  
a car makeover*

Joshua, 18  
brain tumor

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

*“We believe that the true definition of a community is people woven together in a bond of helping, building, and leaning on each other when in need. We feel honored to be a part of the Make-A-Wish Southern Florida team because they optimize operations and leverage their relationships to deliver true impact and change lives. Make-A-Wish is love, passion and impact – love of the mission, passion for the cause and the kids, and impact on lives in a lasting and meaningful way.”*

*– Ameen and Zainab Killidar*



Ameen and Zainab Killidar's support of Make-A-Wish® Southern Florida emerged in 2016 and has grown ever since. Ameen is a member of our Board of Directors, as well as an integral part of the Board's executive committee. As members of the Chairman's Challenge Society, they help underwrite the cost of putting on the Ball so that more funds raised can go directly to making wishes come true. In addition, the Killidars support our events and have adopted more than 35 life-changing wishes.



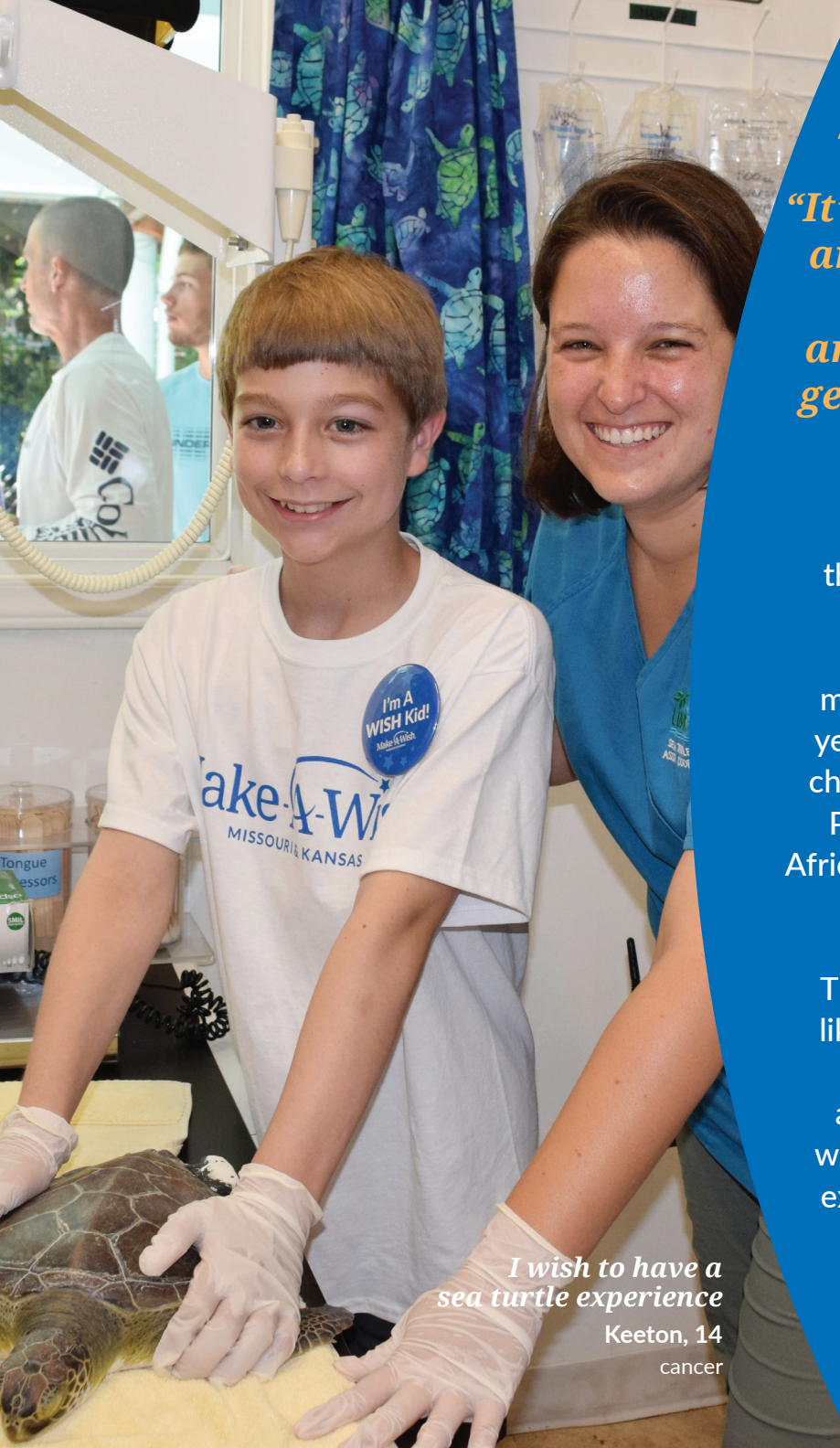
# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

*Make-A-Wish Southern Florida has adopted a bold, new vision to establish an endowment so that no child's wish ever goes ungranted, and to build a Wish House to further enhance an already incredible wish experience for each wish child and family.*

*We are eternally grateful to the visionary supporters of our Endowment and Capital Campaign. Through their remarkable contributions, these philanthropic individuals and foundations are investing in the future of our great organization.*

The Finker-Frenkel Family  
Stuart A. Miller  
Bob & Alysia Press  
The Malnik Family  
Drs. Roger & Ginger Medel  
The Perez Family  
Dr. Wasim Shomar  
Stanley & Gala Cohen  
Richard & Robin Weissman and The Learning Experience  
The Looby Foundation  
The Harry T. Mangurian, Jr. Foundation  
The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.  
Bonnie Eletz and The William & Mildred Lasdon  
Foundation  
Brett Rose & Jeremiah Gutierrez  
James K. & Susan Oppenheimer  
Anthony R. Abraham Foundation  
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Anonymous

Dr. Arthur Diskin  
The Mary Alice Fortin Family Foundation  
Taylor & Lisa Gang  
Brent & Nicollette Hagey  
Alan & Janine Mandel  
Sadaka Family Charitable Fund  
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Norman E. Wedderburn  
Murray H. Goodman  
Jorge & Sherri Gutierrez  
L. Scott Helms & Jorge Alonso  
Josh & Stacey Mandel  
Carlos & Angie Valdes  
Sheila Cesarano  
Jamie Elias  
Rick & Jackie Fernandez  
Jodi Siravo



## A Community OF

*“It’s amazing! It’s such a relief and it’s such a blessing to see him smiling and laughing and knowing in his heart he’s getting his dream come true.”*

*– Keeton’s mother.*

When a child’s heartfelt wish brings them to our territory for experiences like meeting our local sports teams, being a mermaid, swimming with dolphins and more, it is called a **wish assist**. This fiscal year, we coordinated **257 wish assists** for children from **39 states**, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Canada, Belgium and South Africa when their wish experiences brought them to our communities.

The kindness of our community partners, like Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton, shines through with each wish assist that we coordinate. Keeton’s wish was “10 times more than what” his family expected. Beams of our Southern Florida sunshine brought light into his life, and hope back into his future so that he is better equipped to tackle any medical battle ahead.

*I wish to have a  
sea turtle experience*

Keeton, 14  
cancer



# HELPING HANDS

**Community partners** like Island Dolphin Care welcome our wish kids with open arms and embrace them with love and attention to ensure that their experiences exceed all expectations. They also provide generous in-kind donations, maximizing the funds we have to grant even more wishes. In fact, **17.2%** of the support we received this fiscal year came from in-kind donations.

Libby's wish to have dolphin therapy was a life-changing adventure for her and her family. Connecting with the dolphins helped Libby forget her worries, gain confidence and gave her relief from the daily challenges that she faces. "We'll definitely remember that forever, that look on her face when she's here with the dolphins," says mom.

***"It's incredible seeing her excitement...you can't imagine that excitement and how special it is for her."***  
– ***Libby's mother***

*I wish to have  
dolphin therapy*

Libby, 6  
nervous system disorder



# CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE SOCIETY

*Members of the Chairman's Challenge Society are generous philanthropists dedicated to making the InterContinental® Miami Make-A-Wish® Ball a success. Led by our Gala Chair, Shareef Malnik, these supporters underwrite the cost of the Ball so that more funds can directly go toward making children's wishes come true.*

Shareef Malnik & Gabrielle Anwar

Stuart Miller

The Lennar Foundation, Marshall Ames

Richard Polidori

Todd & Kim Glaser

Geert-Jan & Joyce Bakker

Jim & Sue Oppenheimer

Randy & Barbara Ann Frankel Foundation

Brett Rose & Jeremiah Gutierrez

Braman Family Foundation

Wayne & Cynthia Boich

Eugene & Brooke Frenkel

Dennis Crowley & Maria Hauptert

Craig Sienema & Ashley Huffman

Ameen & Zainab Killidar

Barry Skolnick

Richard & Susan Finkelstein

Andrew & Tatsiana Ansin

Alan Mruvka, StorageBlue

Felipe Lafratta, AssociatesMD Medical Group

Marko & Shelly Dimitrijevic

Anonymous

Bob & Alysia Press



# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

*“Being able to give back to the community is a wonderful feeling. A wish not only gives those in need the added support and confidence to stay strong during whatever they are facing, it also inspires others to give. The most rewarding part of my affiliation with Make-A-Wish Southern Florida is knowing that our efforts restore a sense of childhood back to the child and normalcy back to the family that are going through this difficult time.” – Chris LaFace*



In 2015, Chris LaFace established his involvement with Make-A-Wish when his company, RIPA & Associates launched their annual Fishing for Wishes tournament, which has now raised enough funds to grant nearly 100 wishes. Chris and his wife Angela are personally passionate about supporting our wish-granting mission, contributing through their foundation and as members of our Cornerstone Society. Chris was honored in 2018 as our Wishmaker of the Year in the Tampa Bay region, and is serving as our Wishmaker's Ball Tampa chair in 2020.

# CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

*Our Cornerstone Society is a giving program where members personally pledge to grant wishes over a 5-year period. The following Cornerstone Society members are truly committed to helping make life-changing wishes come true for kids with critical illnesses.*

## VISIONARY LEVEL

**(\$100,000 PLEDGE\*\*)**

Levitetz Family Foundation  
Dr. Bianca Ferrari

## HERO LEVEL

**(\$50,000 PLEDGE\*\*)**

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Caruso  
Dr. Arthur L. Diskin  
**Mrs. Michele Eddy**  
Mr. Todd P. Linden  
Mary and Patrick McClain  
Foundation

**Vecchitto Family  
Charitable Foundation**

## JOY LEVEL

**(\$25,000 PLEDGE\*\*)**

Brenda Yester Baty and  
Greg Baty  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter O. Byrd  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom  
Castellanos  
Crystal Vision Foundation  
in memory of Heather  
Montagano

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Demar  
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Eisenberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Marcus  
Fernandez  
Mr. & Mrs. John W.  
Fisher III

Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Flegel  
**The Freund Family**  
The Gonzalez Family  
Foundation  
Mr. & Dr. Chris LaFace  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Levitats

Mr. & Mrs. Josh and  
Stacey Mandel

Ms. Theresa Mandell  
Pediatric Associates  
Foundation  
Mr. Matthew F. Sacco  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Salsburg  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael &  
Alison Simon  
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Tramazzo

Mr. & Mrs. James Vogt  
Ms. Emily Ziegler  
Pediatric Associates  
Foundation  
Mr. Matthew F. Sacco  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Salsburg  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph  
Tramazzo  
Vecchitto Family  
Charitable Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. James Vogt  
Ms. Emily Ziegler

## STRENGTH LEVEL

**(\$10,000 PLEDGE\*\*)**

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Aibel  
Anonymous in memory of  
The Hamilton Family  
**Dr. & Mrs. Cesar Barada**  
Jennifer Barnes & Jack K.  
Barnes

**Boyers Law Group**  
Mr. Douglas Brehm  
**Ms. Sheila M. Cesarano**  
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Ms. Alicia Jarrett  
Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Joseph  
Ms. Julie Katz  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard and  
Pauline Kelly and Family  
**Mr. & Mrs. David Kingsley**  
Daniela Malo & Alec  
Dilanchian  
**Mr. & Mrs. Camilo  
Miguel, Jr.**  
**Ms. Terrie Rosenthal**  
Capt. Julie Schumacher,  
USMC & Mr. Casey  
Schumacher - in memory  
of Emily Sutker  
**Mr. Norm Wedderburn**  
Mr. Frank Zacherl

## HOPE LEVEL

**(\$5,000 PLEDGE\*\*)**

Mr. & Mrs. Alex Adams  
Mr. Joseph Akar  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Andrews  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph &  
Janine Balkin  
Ms. Jolie Balido  
**Mr. & Mrs. Robby Elias**  
Mr. Joseph M. Ferrio  
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan  
Fetherston  
**Mr. & Mrs. Yale Fishman**  
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Gallo  
Ms. Barclay Gang  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Godsey  
**Mr. & Mrs. Dan Goldberg**

**Ms. Jackie Gonzalez &  
Mr. Greg Anderson**  
Ms. Lisa Gruenloh – in  
honor of Kennedy Burger  
**Mr. & Mrs. Frank Jacobs**  
Mr. & Mrs. Mason &  
Beth Jackson  
**Mr. & Mrs. Michel  
Koopman**  
Ms. Deidre Krause  
Ms. Tammy E. Lynn  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Mandala  
Mrs. Kathy K. Marini - in  
memory of Dora Kollar  
Mr. Michael W. Marrero  
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Mrs. Danielle Rubinstein  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher  
Rux  
**Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Sard**  
Storch Family Fund  
Ms. Judith Yevick  
Ms. Dorlene Zaslow  
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Zipay

*\*\*pledges are fulfilled over 5 years*



# MAKE-A-WISH® CHAMPIONS

*Make-A-Wish Champions are successful business professionals who live out the Make-A-Wish mission while enhancing their professional network. The following Make-A-Wish Champions have each committed to a five-year pledge and are active participants in events and initiatives that help make wishes come true.*

**Mr. Winston Wood**  
Co-Chair

**Mr. Harris Mandler**  
Co-Chair

Mr. Hani Abisaid  
Mr. Alberto Alvarado  
Mr. Alex Arguelles  
Mr. Benjamin Arndt  
Mr. C. Brandon Arzabe  
Mr. Juan Carlos Bellon  
Mr. Gal Bensaadon  
Mr. Maxx A. Carney  
Mr. Herman Castro  
Mr. Chris Cataldi  
Mr. Charles Coffin  
Mr. & Mrs. Reinaldo and  
Anna Cruz-Morales  
Mr. Jorge Delgado  
Mr. & Mrs. Alex & Jacky Denault  
Ms. Christie Doura  
Mr. Derick Duchodni  
Mr. Zachary Elliott  
Mr. Richard Fausset  
Mr. Carlos Ferreyros &  
Mrs. Carla Cacero  
Ms. Vanessa Florez

Mr. Carlos Gaviria  
Mr. & Mrs. Derrick and  
Omaira Garcia  
Mr. Harris Gilbert &  
Mr. Andrew Smallman  
Mr. David Gorson  
Mr. Spencer Hastings  
Dr. Moises Issa  
Mr. Joseph Jackson, CPA  
Ms. Shalina Jaffer  
Mr. Charlo Jenkins  
Mr. Wesley Kean  
Mr. Marc Kleiner  
Mr. & Mrs. Lucas and Carrie  
Klimczak-Folse  
Mr. Eliot LaBreche  
Mr. John Lenahan  
Mr. & Dr. Matthew and  
Jennifer Mazzarella  
Mr. James Neira  
Mr. Ryan Powers  
Ms. Lisa Rectenwald  
Mr. Steven Rodriguez  
Mr. Jacob Roffman  
Mr. Adam Rothstein  
Mr. Josh Rudolph  
Mr. Steven Schermer  
Mr. Samuel Schwartz

Mr. James Sikes Jr.  
Mr. Mark Silverstone &  
Mr. Voytek Faber  
Ms. Rachel Simowitz  
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Ms. Stephanie Turk  
Mr. Broderick Ureel  
Ms. Jessica L. Villagrana  
Mr. Joshua Weisenfeld  
Mr. Jesse Wright  
Mr. Brian P. Yates  
Mr. & Mrs. Jose and Melissa Yunen  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom and Jennifer Zur

# WISH SOCIETY

*The Wish Society (formerly known as the Women's Initiative Group) is an empowering community of proactive female leaders who share their time, talent and treasures in support of Make-A-Wish Southern Florida. The following women are passionately dedicated to advancing our mission to grant the wish of every eligible child.*

**Lisa Balkin**  
Co-Chair

**Erin Briede**  
Co-Chair

Sabrina Badeaux  
Jolie Balido  
Jennifer Barnes  
Lisa Bass  
Veronica Beach  
Sunita Bhagwan  
Magali Bouckhaert  
Renee Lopez-Cantera  
Leslie Carey  
Alette Carolan  
Sheila Cesarano  
Michelle Chereque  
Vanessa Fioravante-Cuomo  
Vivianne Del Rio  
Jennifer Deupi  
Melyza Eatmon  
Lacey Elmenge  
Martha Valdes-Fauli  
Amy Federman  
Carrie Klimzak-Folse  
Patricia Fuller

Danielle Garno  
Christina Garriga  
Mariana Gaxiola  
Lizz Gonzalez  
Marty Goodwin  
Monique Graciotti  
Renee Grossman  
Maria Hauptert  
Amanda Hertzberg  
Danielle Hoffman  
Lacey Hofmeyer  
Reagan Hoy  
Elizabeth Jackson  
Dara Jaffe  
Terry Jonas  
Jennifer Judice  
Ashli Katz  
Elaine Keyser  
Christine Klingspor  
Cynthia Lau  
Elizabeth Crabtree Lentz  
Patty Liebowitz  
Marianne Luis  
Isabela Marquez  
Tenelle McCormack  
Patricia Mendoza  
Peri Miarecki

Nina Miguel  
Bronwyn Miller  
Jen Montoya  
Maria Mora  
Lisa Moses  
Jasmine Neal  
Joelle Oiknine  
Meredith Ortega  
Olga Padillo  
Valerie Quemada  
Pamela Segal Rhodes  
Mary Rogers  
Danielle Rubinstein  
Racine Serrano  
Dulce Stephens  
Gaby Tassi  
Roxana Tejeda  
Tarin Teno  
Alyssa Toland  
Stephanie Turk  
Tina Vander Ven  
Soeuraya Wilson  
Suzy Buckley-Woodward  
Holly Wright  
Beatrice Zapata



# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

*“Make-A-Wish is an endearing part of our team that we feel privileged to be a part of. There is no feeling more gratifying than seeing the absolute joy on a child’s face when their wish is granted. We at Brooks & Freund are both humbled and honored to make children’s wishes come true and provide them with an escape from what must be an exhausting daily struggle.”*

*– Richard Freund*

For more than a decade, Brooks & Freund has proved to be a valuable corporate partner to the Make-A-Wish community. Through Cornerstone Society pledges and building a Walk For Wishes team year after year, the employees at Brooks & Freund have come to know our mission closely. With the backing of the company, their Walk For Wishes team raised nearly \$39,000. This company’s passion for helping the community shows through in every single employee’s dedication to giving back. This past year they also lent their professional talents by helping to grant Isabella’s wish to have a sensory bedroom makeover.



We grant a wish  
every **14 hours.**



## SOUTHEAST FLORIDA YOUTH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

*The Youth Leadership Committee – Southeast Florida region is Make-A-Wish Southern Florida's program that shows students the importance of philanthropy and the impact youth can make in their own communities. This program is comprised of 8<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grade students who are enrolled in Broward and Miami-Dade county schools. The entire committee meets monthly to plan and execute fundraising events while the Executive board meets twice a month and facilitates the group. Each meeting has a Wishing for Success component which helps the students develop additional skills and add value to their future careers such as leadership, professionalism and personal development.*

Riya Babu  
Cooper Bakos  
Maxwell bergman  
Ricardo Bowen  
**Ariella Ciuraru**  
President  
Ryan Clarke

**Alex Diament**  
Treasurer  
Hannah Elbahri  
Noa Elbahri  
Nicholas Gomez  
Jack Gonzalez  
Lindsey Greene  
Rebecca Harkins

**Aditya Kapadia**  
Marketing Chair  
Hannah Kelly  
Michelle Martinez  
Ahmed Martinez  
Dylan Minevich  
Ilham Mukati  
Nabeel Mukati

Hanya Mukati  
Sofia Nicastro  
Ben Redler  
Morgan Rosen  
**Sophie Rubinowitz**  
Vice President  
Skyller Sacks  
Leah Schneider



# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA YOUTH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

*Members of the Youth Leadership Committee – Southwest Florida region include 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who are enrolled in Collier and Lee county schools. These bright students help make their peers' wishes come true as they come together in monthly meetings guided by their elected executive board to plan awareness and fundraising events to support our mission. Many community partners at the meetings teach the students invaluable skills including leadership, interviewing and networking, which will help them in their academic and professional futures.*

Ava Aloia  
Ben Axline  
Chris Axline  
Carson Batcheller  
Kirchgessner  
Alyssa Bernhardt  
Justin Braverman  
Angelina Crawford Frantz  
Anthony D'Aquino  
Marissa Diaz

Hailey Gervais  
Madisyn Goodman  
Sara Goodwrich  
Quinn Hepler  
**Addie Jenkinson**  
President  
Jonathan Jordan  
Caroline Juda  
Grant Juda  
Lauren Juda

Kate Kramer  
Lianna Larson  
Thamar Lundy  
Lauren Major  
Victoria Mena  
Leanne Millikan  
Gracie Mitchell  
Makenzie Mumaw  
Trisha Phan  
Bailey Reum

Olivia Rose  
Grace Scharlacken  
Delaney Shovlin  
Berklie Simmering  
Madison Young  
**Payton Ziegler**  
Vice President  
Samantha Zimmer



Since 1983,  
our chapter has  
granted more than  
**12,000 wishes.**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Coming from a multitude of professional backgrounds and diverse in geographic representation, our Board of Directors is a driving force in our mission to grant the wish of every eligible child in our territory. Members are elected to three-year terms and assist in all phases of Make-A-Wish Southern Florida's efforts. From financial planning to wish granting, our Board of Directors provides the leadership and guidance that propels us forward.*

**Richard Weissman**  
*Chairman of the Board*  
The Learning Experience

**Greg Baty**  
*Vice Chair*  
Community Volunteer

**Jodi Siravo**  
*Treasurer*  
Community Volunteer

**Michael Appleton**  
Hotel Connections

**Jennifer Barnes**  
University of St. Augustine for  
Health Sciences

**Gal Bensaadon**  
Red Door Construction

**Sheila M. Cesarano**  
Shutts & Bowen LLP

**Dennis Crowley**  
Doctor's Choice Pharmacy

**Marko Dimitrijevic**  
Volta Global

**Dr. Art Diskin**  
Quality Medical Risk Management,  
Inc.

**Brian Exelbert**  
Morgan Stanley

**Marcus Fernandez**  
Kinney, Fernandez and Boire, PA

**Mayte Fernandez**  
Momentum Consulting Corporation

**Eugene Frenkel**  
Legacy Wealth Group

**Taylor Gang**  
Evensky & Katz/Foldes Financial  
Wealth Management

**Todd Glaser**  
Entrepreneur/Developer

**Sherri Gutierrez**  
Arquitectonica

**L. Scott Helms**  
Helms Development

**Kristin Johnson Karp**  
Hotwire Communications

**Terry Jove**  
Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits

**Lizabeth Kane-Hanan**  
Marriott Vacations Worldwide

**Ameen Killidar**  
Malibu Holdings and Investments

**Shareef Malnik**  
*Chairman of the Board Emeritus*  
The Forge  
Nextwave Funding

**Drew Mandala**  
Stillwater Structured Finance LLC

**Joe Perez**  
Zerep Holdings

**Brett Rose**  
United National Consumer Suppliers

**Danielle Rubinstein**  
Greenberg Traurig

**Dylan Sanders**  
Fidelity Private Wealth Management

**Barry Skolnick**  
BLS Asset Management Corporation

**Caitlin Beck Stella**  
Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital

**Angela Valdes**  
JBG SMITH



# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ADVISORY BOARD

*Members of our Southwest Florida Advisory Board offer their leadership and professional expertise to help further our wish-granting mission. The following members of the Lee/Collier community have devoted themselves to making every eligible child's wish come true.*

**Erin Dever**

Chair

Collier County Sheriff's Office

**Amy Frith**

Golisano Children's Hospital of  
Southwest Florida

**James Oliver, Esq.**

James M. Oliver, P.A.

**Susan Battaglia**

Norman Love Confections

**Rick Gallo**

CloseWatch Services & Rick Gallo  
Auctioneer

**Brandy Ollie**

Go Platinum Transportation

**Lianne Caruso**

Community Volunteer

**Jenny Gezella**

Naples Princess

**Bryan Simmering**

First Horizon

**Michele Eddy**

Community Volunteer

**Mary McClain**

Community Volunteer

**Lori Teague**

Lake Michigan Credit Union

**Theresa Fletcher**

Hotwire Communications

**Denise Thoman**

Allstate



5,000

This year, volunteer wish granters have donated more than **5,000 hours** of their time to help transform children's wishes into reality.

We collaborated with  
other chapters on  
**257 wish assists** when  
children from around the  
world experienced their  
wishes come true in our  
communities.



## SUNCOAST ADVISORY BOARD

*Members of our Suncoast Advisory Board bring exceptional knowledge and skills to help further our wish-granting mission in the Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, DeSoto and Hardee counties. The following Suncoast Advisory Board members have committed themselves to granting life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.*

**Renee Phinney**  
Chair  
Palm Printing

**Terri Klauber**  
Fundraising Chair  
Michael's on East

**Luke Nicholas**  
Allegiant Private Advisors

**Nick Owens**  
POP Yachts & POP RVs

**Sherra Fritz**  
WWSB ABC 7

**Phil Mancini**  
Michael's On East

**Lisa Olan**  
Sarasota Memorial Hospital

**Elena Reuter**  
Community Volunteer

**Rob Wagner**  
Immediate Past Chair  
Brown and Brown Insurance



# TAMPA BAY ADVISORY BOARD

*Members of our Tampa Bay Advisory Board are committed to sharing their time and talents to advance our wish-granting mission in the Tampa Bay community. The following Tampa Bay Advisory Board members are determined to help us reach the vision of granting the wish of every eligible child.*

**John Flinn**  
Chair  
RIPA & Associates

**Ted Abrams**  
Joffrey's Coffee & Tea  
Company

**Kerry Allgire**  
Tech Data

**Brandon Day**  
MicroLumen

**Tim Farrell**  
Gregory, Sharer & Stuart

**Marcus Fernandez**  
Kinney, Fernandez &  
Boire, PA

**Steven Gillis**  
*Immediate Past Chair*  
Transportation Control  
Systems, Inc.

**Gary Godsey**  
JLL

**Greg Grabau**  
Monin Gourmet  
Flavorings

**C.J. Mintrone**  
PNC Bank

**Christina Murray**  
Tom James

**Mala Murthy**  
United Healthcare

**Frank Musolino Jr.**  
Power Design

**Anthony Pedicini**  
Strategic Image  
Management

**Woody Pollack**  
Shutts & Bowen

**Chris Rux**  
Cherry Bekaert  
**Danielle Vona**  
The Marketing Posse

**Matt Zipay**  
Northern Trust



Of the **625 wishes** we granted for local children this year, our most popular wish requests were: *Walt Disney World®*, travel, cruises and shopping sprees.



There is a **\$0 cost** to a wish family to experience a wish come true.

## MEDICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Meet the members of our Medical Advisory Council who bring their expertise to our mission and help us to grant the wish of every eligible child.*

**Dr. Eric Eason**  
Golisano Children's  
Hospital

**Dr. Joanna Davis**  
University of Miami  
Health System

**Dr. Maggie Fader**  
Nicklaus Children's  
Hospital

**Mrs. Michele King**  
Golisano Children's  
Hospital

**Dr. Jonathan John**  
Pediatric Cardiology  
Associates

**Dr. Ronald A. Ligon**  
Joe DiMaggio Children's  
Hospital

**Dr. Ginger Medel**  
Pediatrix/ Honorary  
Medical Advisor

## BENEFACTOR SOCIETY

*The Make-A-Wish Benefactor Society is dedicated to making our largest fundraising events a success. These supporters underwrite the costs of events so that more funds can directly go toward making children's wishes come true. The intent of the Benefactor Society is to enlist business, civic, and philanthropic leaders who will pledge a designated amount for the next 5 years. This gift will allow Make-A-Wish Southern Florida to change the lives of even more children and families in our local community.*

*Special thanks to The Mary & Pat McClain Foundation for being our first members of the Benefactor Society.*

**The Mary & Patrick McClain Foundation**



# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

*“Make-A-Wish is how I learned what my purpose in my community is. At some point, we all need our community to stand up for us. Make-A-Wish understands clearly that our role is to craft a ray of hope that can help these children through the darkest parts of their medical battles. As a volunteer wish granter, I have the unparalleled honor of playing an enormous role in the best day of a child’s life and it’s often a life which has been devoid of so many opportunities children are supposed to have.”*

*– Nick Owens*

As a Suncoast Advisory Board member, committee member, wish granter and donor, Nick Owens is a true community advocate who lives and breathes our mission. He is also the founding member of the region’s Cornerstone Society. Through a proprietary program at his company POP Yachts & POP RVs, he provides the Suncoast region with a steady stream of corporate support. Nick’s passion shines through in whatever he focuses his energy on and we are grateful for his drive to further our wish-granting mission.



# MAKE-A-WISH STAFF

*Make-A-Wish provides a spark of hope that can be a game-changer in the life of a child with a critical illness. This belief guides and inspires every person who joins our staff to grant wishes that change the lives of the kids we serve.*

**Norman Wedderburn**  
President/CEO

**Richard Kelly**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Karen Mullins**  
Vice-President of Mission  
Delivery

**Beth Jackson**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Julie Katz**  
Vice-President of Mission  
Resources

**Lisa Andrews**  
Regional Director - Tampa  
Bay & Suncoast

**Tammy Lynn**  
Regional Director -  
Southwest Florida

**Julie Robbins**  
Director of Business  
Intelligence & Information  
Technology

**Bich-Iy Ludwig**  
Director of Philanthropy

**Mary Holt**  
Special Events Manager

**Melanie Holley**  
Volunteer Program Manager

**Marissa Shea**  
Program Manager

**Kristen Bladen**  
Donor Services Manager –  
Tampa Bay

**Kelsey Curls**  
Development & Events  
Manager – Tampa Bay

**Rachel Simowitz**  
Manager of Corporate  
Relations

**Daniela Malo**  
Associate Director of  
Philanthropy

**Jessica McIntyre**  
Regional Manager - Suncoast

**Denae Ankele**  
Senior Brand Advancement  
Coordinator

**Patty Escobar**  
Senior Development  
Coordinator

**Jessy Balbuena**  
Senior Wish Coordinator

**Marina Deluca**  
Senior Creative Designer

**Jackie Perl**  
Senior Special Events  
Coordinator

**Jessica Rivera**  
Senior Community  
Development Coordinator

**Kimberly Tabor**  
Wish Coordinator

**Patty Abreu**  
Medical & Community  
Outreach Coordinator

**Megan McGee**  
Volunteer Coordinator

**Elizabeth Erra**  
Wish Coordinator

**Katia Rodrigues**  
Wish Coordinator

**Stephanie Boydston**  
Development Coordinator

**Martha Carmen**  
Wish Coordinator

**Emily Sumpmann**  
Development Coordinator -  
Southwest Florida

**Jennifer Ozanich**  
Wish Coordinator

**Sydni Huguet**  
Wish Assist Coordinator

**Denise Rackauskas**  
Wish Coordinator

**Michelle Roonoe**  
Wish Coordinator

**Bryanna Dunning**  
Accounting & HR  
Coordinator

**Kelly Murray**  
Development Coordinator -  
Tampa Bay

**Taylor Norman**  
Special Events Coordinator -  
Southwest Florida

**Alex Lieberman**  
Wish Coordinator

**Allyson Mancini**  
Wish Assist Coordinator

**Halley Stennes**  
Special Events Coordinator -  
Tampa Bay

**Tina Markowitz**  
Donor Services Coordinator -  
Southwest Florida

**Kika Madden**  
Digital & Social Media  
Coordinator

**Jade Ferrada**  
Accounting Coordinator

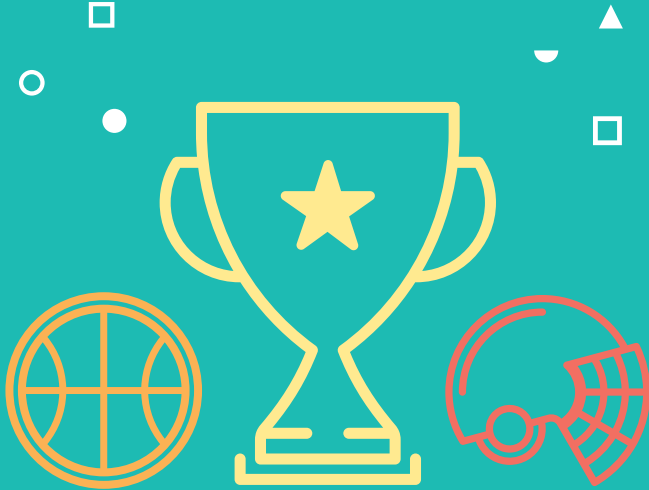
**Tara Currier**  
Special Events Coordinator

**Tessa Dvorak**  
Medical and Community  
Outreach Coordinator - West  
Coast

**Jessica Dirogene**  
Administrative Assistant



# Sports



We have **7 professional sports teams** headquartered in our territory, the most of any Make-A-Wish chapter in the country.

Michael Jordan, Dwyane Wade, Dan Marino, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson and John Cena have been the most popular athletes our kids have met in our chapter’s history. More than **110 kids** from our area have met those **5 athletes**.

# DID YOU KNOW?

In our history, more than **75 kids** from our chapter have attended championship and all-star game events worldwide.

# Facts & Figures

“

Brendan said ‘this is the best thing I ever could have done’ [as he floated a lantern in memory of his beloved dog]. Out of all the excitement from sitting in the cockpit with the pilots and all of the amazing family excursions we shared, the most amazing moment for all of us was hearing him say those words! It was truly a boy and his dog, loyal to each other until the very end! Make-A-Wish helped to heal my son’s heart in ways I could never express.

– *Brendan’s mother*



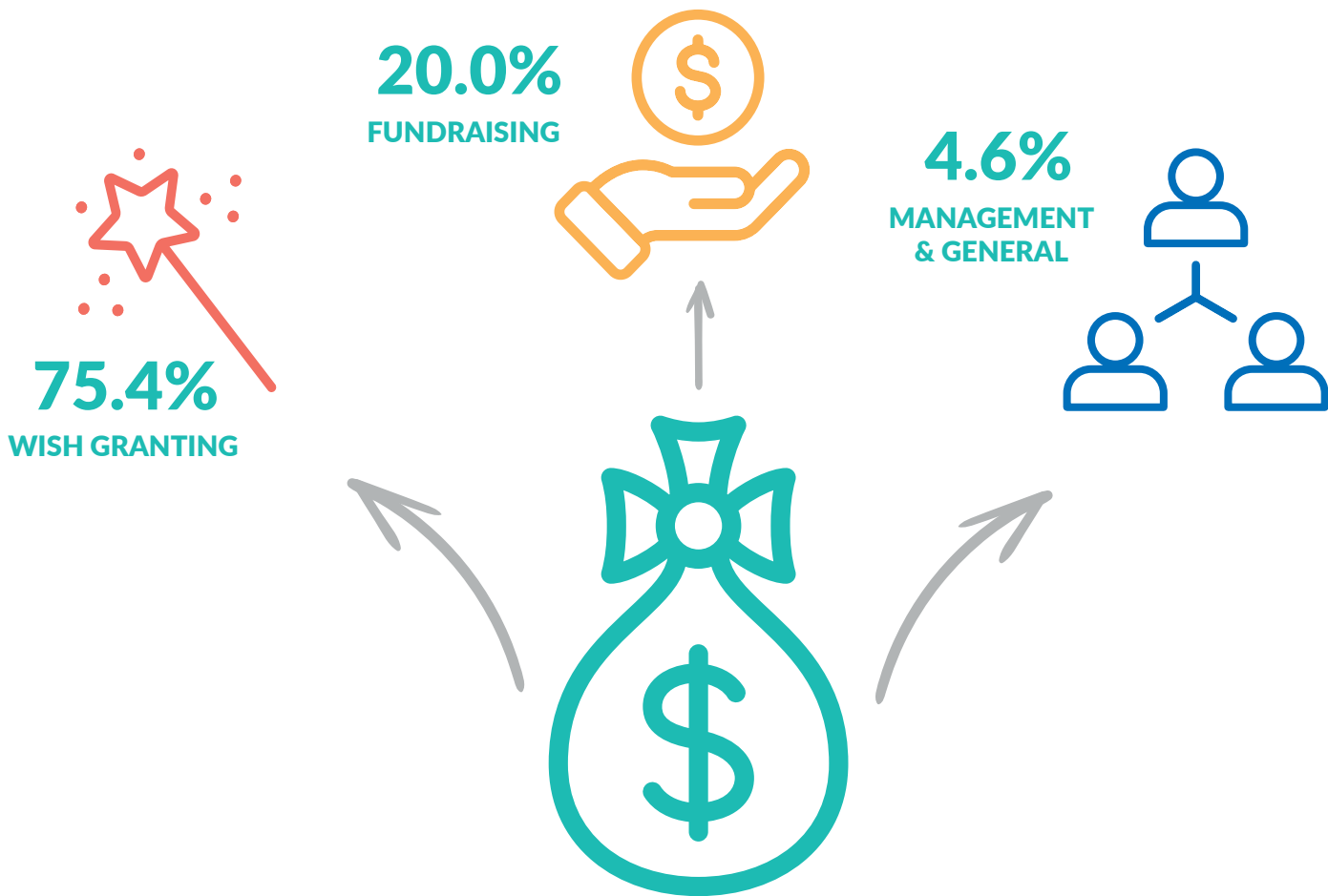


*I wish to attend  
Lantern Floating Hawaii*  
Brendan, 9  
autoimmune disorder

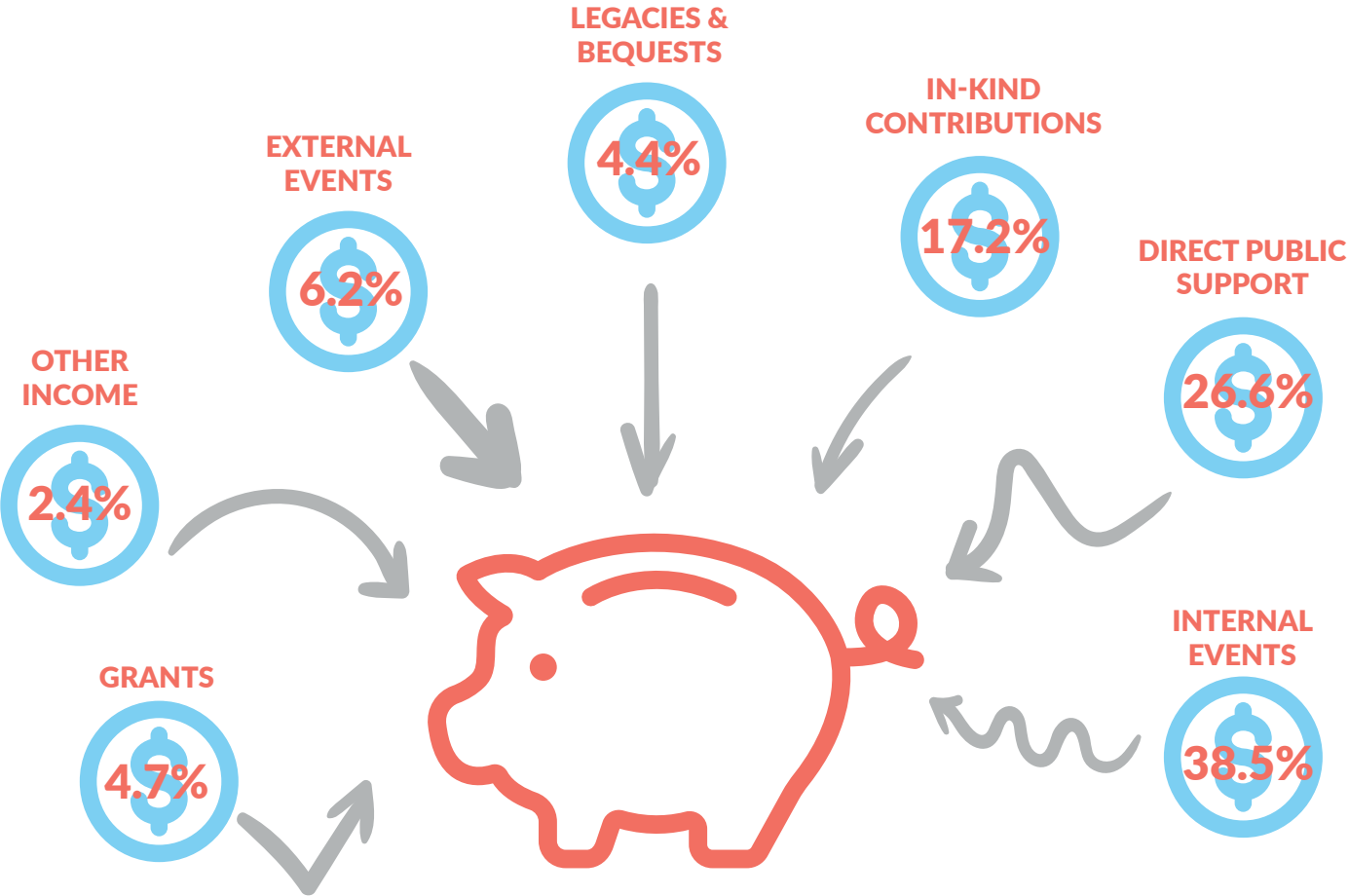
# FINANCIALS

Corporate sponsorships, special events, foundation grants and individual contributions make it possible for Make-A-Wish Southern Florida to deliver our wish-granting mission. All funds raised locally are used to grant the wishes of local children with critical illnesses. To provide our wish families with a stress-free experience, wish expenses including travel, hotel, meals, passes for attractions and spending money, are fully covered.

## WHERE THE MONEY GOES...



# WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM...





<b>STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION</b> August 31, 2019 and 2018	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$7,632,534	\$6,102,246
Investments	9,752,670	8,699,380
Contributions Receivable	11,663,103	12,738,806
Property and Equipment, Net	152,766	121,679
Other Assets	1,327,973	1,294,869
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$30,529,046</b>	<b>\$28,956,980</b>
Current Liabilities	\$1,288,002	\$4,192,789
Net Assets	29,241,044	24,764,191
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$30,529,046</b>	<b>\$28,956,980</b>

<b>STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES</b> Years Ended August 31, 2019 and 2018	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Operating Revenue</b>		
Public Support	\$11,960,255	\$11,896,888
Investment & Other Income	264,398	673,561
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>12,224,653</b>	<b>12,570,449</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Program Services	9,100,035	8,083,542
Fundraising	2,419,264	2,197,136
Management & General	556,694	473,877
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>12,075,993</b>	<b>10,754,555</b>
<b>Non-Operating Revenue</b>	<b>1,227,581</b>	<b>3,611,986</b>
<b>Change in Accounting Policy</b>	<b>\$3,100,612</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$4,476,853</b>	<b>\$5,427,880</b>

*Audited financial statements are available upon request.*



*I wish to meet  
Gordon Ramsay*

Jordan, 9  
leukemia

**TRANSFORM LIVES,  
ONE WISH AT A TIME.**

Thank you to all of our donors for helping make wishes  
come true. For a complete list of our donors, visit  
**[makeawishdonors.org](http://makeawishdonors.org)**



**Make-A-Wish®**  
SOUTHERN FLORIDA



**[sfla.wish.org](http://sfla.wish.org)**  
**[@makeawishsfla](https://twitter.com/makeawishsfla)**

**Make-A-Wish Southern Florida, Inc.**  
4491 S State Road 7  
Suite 201  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314  
(954) 967-9474  
Toll Free (888) 773-9474

**Make-A-Wish Southern Florida,  
Southwest Florida Regional Office**  
3655 Bonita Beach Road  
Suite 3  
Bonita Springs, FL 34134  
(239) 992-9474

**Make-A-Wish Southern Florida,  
Tampa Bay Regional Office**  
324 North Dale Mabry Hwy  
Suite 203  
Tampa, FL 33609  
(813) 288-2600

**Make-A-Wish Southern Florida,  
Suncoast Regional Office**  
3430 Magic Oak Lane  
Sarasota, FL 34232  
(941) 378-9474