



Make-A-Wish®
NORTHEASTERN & CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
AND NORTHERN NEVADA

2019 Impact Report



Thanks!

Dear Wish Supporter,

On behalf of the Make-A-Wish® Northeastern & Central California and Northern Nevada Board of Directors, Regional Councils and staff, and most of all, the children and families we serve, thank you for your support in helping us to continue to grant life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

We have had quite a momentous year, starting with granting 408 wishes! Our team of staff and volunteers is tenacious in making sure every wish has a generous dusting of magic to grant life transforming wishes.

We also celebrated another milestone this year — our Wishing Place, located in Sacramento and serving as our chapter headquarters, turned 10! Although our chapter was formed in 1983, it wasn't until the vision of our Founder Frank Ramos and the generosity of Thomas Winn and family, and many generous supporters in our community, that the Wishing Place became a reality and a place where children can escape the rigors of treatment, transplants and never ending tests. Please plan a visit soon and learn just how impactful it is for the wish child and their family to step into the Wishing Place and start their journey. This magical place and the transformational stories that begin here, would not be made possible without our generous donors and community supporters.

As we move into the future and continue to grant wishes to children across our chapter, we also recognize our more than 450 volunteers and countless individuals and organizations within each region that help grant these memorable wishes to our children.

Whether you volunteer, have given to the mission through donations or even through sponsoring an entire wish, your generosity has impacted the life of a local child and their family forever.

Gratefully,



Sean Mullin
Chair, Board of Directors



Jennifer Stolo
President and Chief Executive Officer

Wish Stories – When Stars Align

“This is probably one of the best things that’s happened to me since my mom’s passing. The whole journey made me excited. I feel like I’m closer with her now. I’m more at peace.”

— Rebekah, wish kid

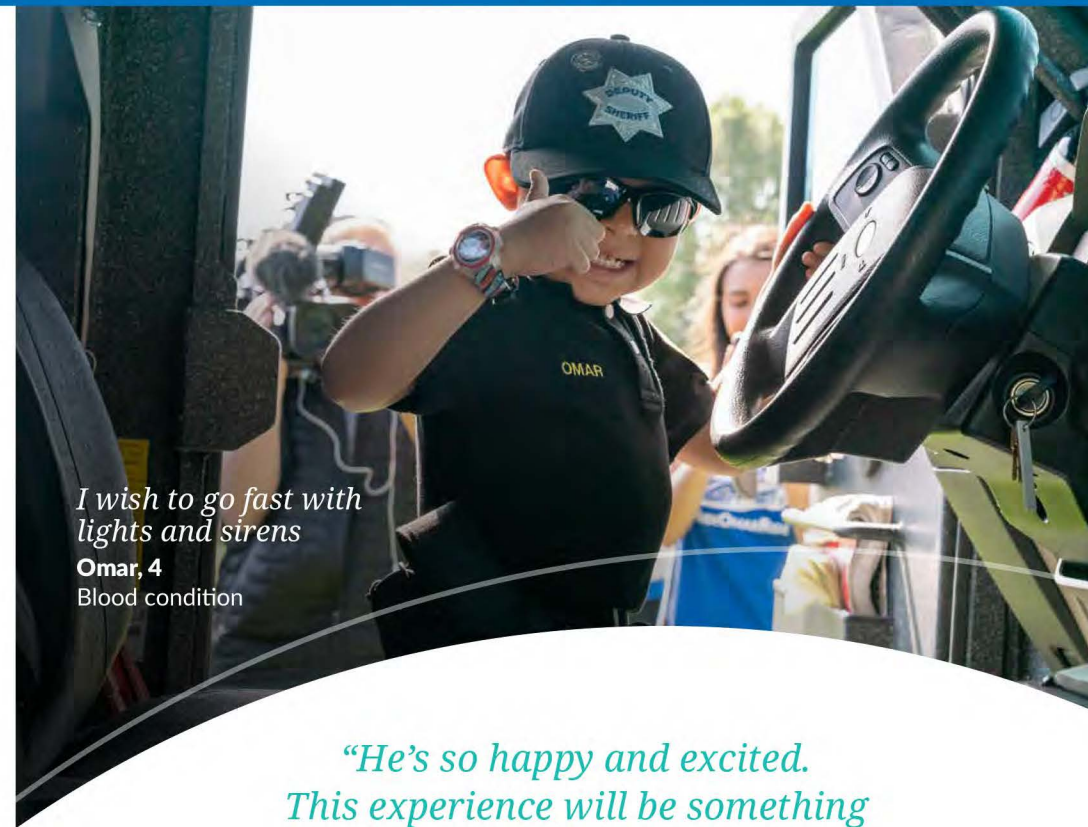
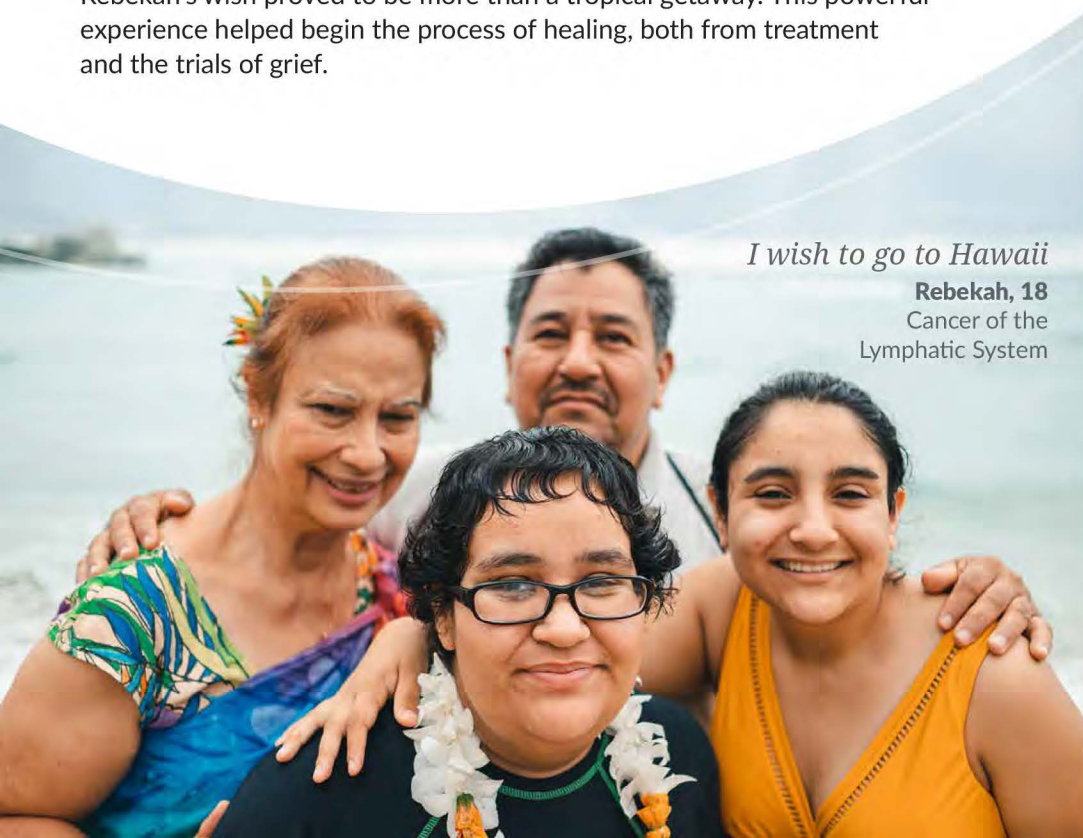
Rebekah became ill in October of 2018 with flu-like symptoms. Appearing jaundiced, her Mom took her to the doctor, and she was immediately sent to the ER. A CAT scan confirmed the diagnosis of cancer. Following several biopsies, she had her gallbladder removed and began chemotherapy. During her treatment, Rebekah’s mom suddenly became very ill and sadly passed away unexpectedly. During a time where treatment and tragedy consumed Rebekah’s life, a glimmer of hope came knocking — Make-A-Wish.



When Rebekah discovered that she would be granted a wish, she used that opportunity to wish for something that would instill hope, strength and joy in her for the rest of her life. In honor of her mom, Rebekah wished to go to Hawaii. Inspired by the stories her mom would tell her as a little girl of the beautiful islands and warm waters, Rebekah wanted to journey to the place that her mom had promised to take her one day. Together, her Central California community and Adopt-A-Wish® sponsors at Michelangelo’s Pizzeria came together to help make this wish a reality.

While visiting the islands on her wish, Rebekah traced the steps that her mom once took, and even took part in a traditional lei ceremony alongside our Make-A-Wish® Hawai’i chapter and Hawaii cultural expert Auntie Kehau. Rebekah’s wish proved to be more than a tropical getaway. This powerful experience helped begin the process of healing, both from treatment and the trials of grief.

I wish to go to Hawaii
Rebekah, 18
Cancer of the Lymphatic System



I wish to go fast with lights and sirens
Omar, 4
Blood condition

“He’s so happy and excited. This experience will be something our whole family remembers forever.”

— Mohammadullah, Omar’s Dad

Four-year-old Omar has been battling a blood condition since he was only six months old. After showing signs of general illness, his doctors diagnosed him with Beta Thalassemia, a rare blood condition that results in a lack of oxygen throughout the body. Omar receives blood transfusions every two weeks, but despite his battle, he continues to show resilience and strength through his positive outlook and ‘thumbs-up’ attitude.



Omar is a social kid that has a fascination for cars and first responders. He dreams of being a police officer one day. Fortunately, with the help of the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department, Omar’s dream became a reality. He got to experience a day-in-the-life of an official Jr. Sheriff’s Deputy alongside his partner and previous wish kid, Deputy Chris Guerra. Chris battled a heart condition and underwent a heart transplant when he was younger. Since then, Chris has stayed close to the mission, helping make wishes come true, like Omar’s!

Omar’s day consisted of riding around in the sheriff’s car, being fitted in his very own uniform and ending his shift by saving a puppy! With the help of our local community and his Adopt-A-Wish® sponsors from the Sacramento County Sheriff Walk Team, Omar was reminded of his strength while experiencing what it means to serve.

To make Omar’s wish even more special, his wish was granted on World Wish Day, a worldwide “Thank You” day that celebrates all Make-A-Wish® medical professionals, donors, volunteers, sponsors, wish kids and families. World Wish Day takes place annually on April 29, in honor of the day that inspired the founding of Make-A-Wish.

“I knew this was the one wish that I wanted. Thank you, Make-A-Wish for helping me through this past year.”

— Wish kid Vaughn

Vaughn was taken to the doctors after presenting very high fevers in October 2018. After various blood tests, Vaughn showed a very low white blood cell count. Shortly thereafter, his Pediatric Oncologist confirmed his leukemia diagnosis. Since beginning treatment, Vaughn has responded well both physically and mentally to the treatment. His hopeful heart and compassion for others has proven to outshine even the toughest of times.



Driven by his diagnosis, Vaughn’s family has been involved in community events and fundraisers to help raise awareness and support for those enduring the same struggles. Friends at the family’s local gym, Double Edge Fitness, were so moved by Vaughn’s strength, that they decided to come together and raise money to support his wish. In the end, Double Edge Fitness successfully raised enough money to sponsor Vaughn’s wish to go on a cruise! Together, a community rallied together to help make a child’s wish come true.

When imagining his wish to go on a cruise, Vaughn was so excited to be able to experience the open water the way he has always dreamt of! This wish allowed him to experience so many moments with his family that he did not have the opportunity to experience before due to the onset of his illness. The ability to experience new frontiers will continue to give him hope for his future.



I wish to go on a cruise
Vaughn, 11
Leukemia



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MISSION

Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

VISION

To grant the wish of every eligible child.

ABOUT

Since 1983, our chapter has brought joy to nearly 9,000 children and their families by granting magical and transformative wishes. Each one of those unique heartfelt wishes impacts the life of the child, their family and community. We are on a quest to bring every eligible local child's wish to life — to take what is in their imagination and make it a reality. Thanks to your support, we will grant more life changing wishes together.

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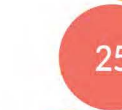
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408 LIFE-CHANGING WISHES!



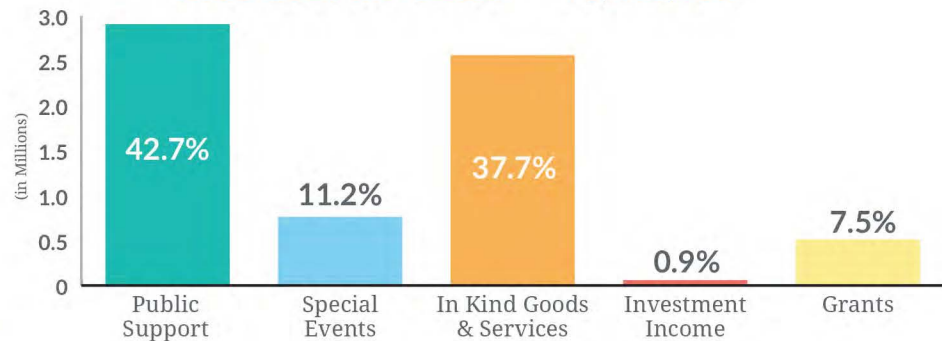
What Children Wanted

I wish to be...

2019 Highlights



2018-2019 Revenues — \$6,803,034



2018-2019 Expenses — \$8,397,257

