

# HOPE

IS ESSENTIAL



*I wish to have  
a play structure*

Jaxson, 4  
genetic disorder

Make-A-Wish®  
NEBRASKA

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



*I wish to have a  
play structure*  
**Carmenella, 4  
Wilm's Tumor**



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

Dear friend of Make-A-Wish Nebraska,

Thank you for continuing to deliver HOPE during these uncertain times.

There is no doubt that 2020 was one of the most challenging years in Make-A-Wish history. Due to COVID-19, Make-A-Wish made the difficult decision to pause granting wishes that involve travel, in order to protect the health and safety of our wish kids and their families. However, we continued to grant many wishes for some very special children. These non-travel wishes included play structures, hot tubs, room redos, playhouses and shopping sprees. We've even granted some more unique wishes that are featured in this report, like a horse-drawn buggy, a utility terrain vehicle, and a player piano.

We know hope is essential for a child battling a critical illness. As we continue through these unprecedented times, now more than ever we need to continue to shine a light of hope on those children who need it most. Supporters, like you, have stepped in to renew hope for our wish kids. Through your support, you made an impact on the lives of our wish kids and their families for a happier and brighter future.

THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

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At Make-A-Wish® Nebraska, we grant wishes to children throughout Nebraska who have been diagnosed with a critical illness and are between the ages of 2-1/2 and 18 years old.

To refer a child you think might qualify for a wish, please contact us at 800-760-WISH (9474).



# John Paul's Story

For John Paul, who was born with an extremely rare genetic disorder, each day was a miracle. Most children born with his diagnosis don't live to birth because of extensive mental and physical abnormalities. He spent his first year of life in hospice care and was not expected to survive.

John Paul, who received his wish when he was 11 years old, defeated all odds and lived a stable life day to day. He was non-verbal and suffered from dangerous seizures his whole life.

He enjoyed the outdoors, swimming, and anything to do with music, particularly the piano. "We had taken many afternoon outings to visit a department store where the piano was played for the customers while they shopped," said John Paul's mom. "Each time we went, he signaled his excitement of the performance by his laughter and smiles. Over the years, I have even tried taking piano lessons so I could play for him every day."

Music was a vital part of John Paul's life and the primary inspiration for his unique wish. When John Paul was 10, he had a significant seizure and spent nine days in the ICU. During this time, his family reflected on how special he was and how special his wish needed to be. After thoughtful consideration it was determined a piano could give him hours of enjoyment every single day.

John Paul received his magical wish and was gifted a self-playing piano. He was able to listen to over 10,000 songs and enjoyed listening to music together with his whole family. At any given moment, his wish provided him with stimulation, pure enjoyment, the world of music at his fingertips. Even with his recent passing, his family will be able to enjoy listening to music from the piano and cherish the memories of his wish and love for music for years to come.



*I wish to have  
a player piano*  
John Paul, 11  
genetic disorder



*I wish to have  
a shopping spree*

**Nigella, 18  
bone marrow transplant**

# Nigella's Story

Nigella was diagnosed at birth with sickle cell disease. Over the years, Nigella had to endure numerous doctors' visits, hospital stays and blood transfusions. Currently, Nigella is recovering from a bone marrow transplant, which has not been easy especially during a pandemic.

With COVID-19, new health worries are present, bringing added vulnerability for wish kids and their families. For Nigella, she originally wanted her wish to be a trip to Walt Disney World® Resorts, but due to the public health concerns surrounding COVID-19, Nigella and her parents decided to change her wish to something she could enjoy immediately—a shopping spree!

“Nigella was more than happy to go on a shopping spree and when we heard about the limousine, we were sold,” said Nigella’s mom. She spent days making her list of items she wanted to buy and planning the stores she wanted to visit.

Nigella’s wish provided hope for their whole family in so many ways. “Just knowing someone out there has a vision and a mission to help kids going through these difficult periods is like the Lord sending angels,” said Nigella’s dad. “When our child is happy, so are we.”

# Hope's Story

Wish kid Hope was born with a heart defect. Doctors told her mom and dad they likely would only have between 10 hours and 10 days with her. Even with her prognosis, they determined surgery was something to at least try for their baby girl. This leap of "hope" paid off and Hope survived, but has dealt with many health issues throughout her life.

By the age of 10, Hope had been hospitalized multiple times and had more than 10 surgeries. The biggest blow was in May 2010 when the doctor noticed an enlarged liver during a routine appointment. Doctors found tumors called adenomas on her liver. The only treatment with a desired result would be a liver transplant. While going through the assessment process for a transplantation, doctors also found a heart problem with the valve and aorta which they needed to fix before the transplant. So in 5 months, Hope had major heart surgery, a serious staph infection, and a liver transplant. Additional surgeries followed. Daily medications are a part of her life. Now 20 years old, health issues continue to be part of Hope's everyday life.

Hope is a huge Harry Potter fanatic. When asked what her heartfelt wish would be, she decided to go to the Harry Potter Theme Park in Universal Studios®. It was truly the wish of a lifetime for Hope and something to look forward to while going through such hard and difficult times.

Aside from going to the Harry Potter Theme Park as her one true wish, they also went to all the other Disney® parks and received the ROYAL treatment at the Give Kids the World® Resort where many of our wish families stay.

"Wishes are important because it gives sick kids like me the chance to make memories that will last a lifetime... It gives us a time of joy and excitement when things look so difficult and sad. It gives kids like me a special time to celebrate the good things in life rather than dwelling on health issues. It gives us "HOPE" to continue fighting." Wish kid Hope

Why are wishes important? Why should you care? Because they give wish kids, like Hope, the HOPE they need to continue persevering through the darkest moments of their life.



*I wish to go to  
Walt Disney World®*

Hope, 11  
liver transplant  
(wish granted in 2011)



# More Ways to



## Wishes in Flight

For children with critical illnesses, wish trips provide a much-needed escape from grueling medical treatments and doctor visits. Every mile donated helps wish kids and their families travel to destinations around the world. And although wish travel is currently on hold due to public health concerns, once donated, your miles will never expire and can be used to support future wishes across the country. This is just one simple way you can help grant a life-changing wish experience. Visit [wish.org/airline-miles](https://www.wish.org/airline-miles) to make an individual cash donation or to donate your points or miles from American Airlines, United, JetBlue or Delta Air Lines.



## Monthly Giving

Your monthly gift can help grant wishes all year long! You can become a monthly giving donor and make a big difference for local children – transforming lives, one wish at a time – every month of the year. Visit [wish.org/nebraska/donate](https://www.wish.org/nebraska/donate) to sign up today!

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To keep up to date on all the ways you can support local children, sign up by visiting [wish.org/nebraska](https://www.wish.org/nebraska) and clicking “Sign up”

# Grant Wishes

## Wheels for Wishes



Your unwanted car can do more good than you thought possible when you donate it to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish Nebraska! Wheels for Wishes accepts nearly all cars running or not. Whether you have a car, boat, RV or motorcycle, you can donate it today to benefit your local wish kids! For more information, visit [wheelsforwishes.org/nebraska](https://wheelsforwishes.org/nebraska).

## Donate Stock



Giving stock doesn't just help the children we serve: It also helps you. A gift of appreciated stock to the Make-A-Wish Foundation® can benefit you in two ways: you receive a charitable income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the securities, and at the same time you may avoid capital gains taxes on appreciated stock. This helps stretch your gift even further and helps us grant more wishes. Visit [wish.org/stock](https://wish.org/stock) to learn more.

\* The information provided is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor.

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al wish kids, sign up for our monthly newsletter! You can  
p for our newsletter” toward the bottom of the web page.

Thank you to our generous

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Make-A-Wish Nebraska is funded entirely on private contributions. Every gift is important to the Foundation and our ability to carry out our mission to grant wishes. Due to space limitations, only gifts of \$500 or more are listed in this report. This report is also available on [wish.org/nebraska](http://wish.org/nebraska). For more information or to report an error, please contact Make-A-Wish at 800-760-9474. The following generous donors contributed monetary or in-kind gifts during our fiscal year, Sept. 1, 2019 to Aug. 31, 2020.

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Element Omaha Midtown  
Elkhorn High School  
Ellerbrock-Norris  
Emerald Limousine Service™  
Enterprise Holdings® Hawaii  
Anna & Scott Feddersen  
Deb & Robert Fenton  
Fifty NYC Hotel  
John & Tracy Finocchiaro  
Tate & Denise Fitzgerald  
Larry & Machele Foxworthy  
Marta & John Frey  
Frontier Bank  
Dwight Frost  
Jeff Geissinger  
Michael Gilliam  
Drs. Diane & Stephen Gilles  
Giving Tuesday  
Michael & Joyce Glaser  
Lisa Glathar  
Christopher Goble  
Joseph Grasse  
Jane Green  
Cheryl Haffke  
Joe Hames  
Jacqueline Harral  
Harlan County Health System  
Heavy Duty Rebuilders Supply, Inc  
Jennifer Herroon  
Carol Hester  
Jason & Allison Hillyard  
Jeff & Linda Hogrefe  
Horsemen's Park  
Carter & Jennifer Hubbard  
Ted & Lynda Hughes  
I-Go Van & Storage  
Idea Bank Marketing  
Innerspace Luxury Products LLC  
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Lori & Reed Koepppe  
Kohl's® Department Stores, Inc  
Jeff & Peg Kriha  
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Scot & Donna Larson  
Leadership Resources  
Michael & Shirley Leibert  
Lincoln North Star High School  
Lincoln Regulators  
Randy Lock

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Michael Zack

A special thank you to those who gave to Make-A-Wish  
in recognition of loved ones

## In Honor of

Michael Abramson  
Dr. Michael Ash  
Nicholas Foxworthy  
Avery Kester  
River L. Maranville  
Benjamin Metzler  
Michael Reigle  
Grady Simants

## In Memory of

Jackson Arens  
Karen Beck  
Ashley Carter  
Brinkley Chandler  
Michelle Deras  
Kyle Elliott  
Zavier Escobar  
Sharon Hansen  
Helen Hempel  
David W. Hojnacke  
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Jean Rock  
Don Rogert

Lynne Rustad  
Alyce Schaffran  
Allison Shiverdecker  
Jeff Simcox  
Hannah Sindelar  
Nathan C. Waite  
Roger B. Whitefoot

This Annual Report is dedicated to our Wish Kids who passed away during the fiscal year.

*Forever in Our Hearts.*

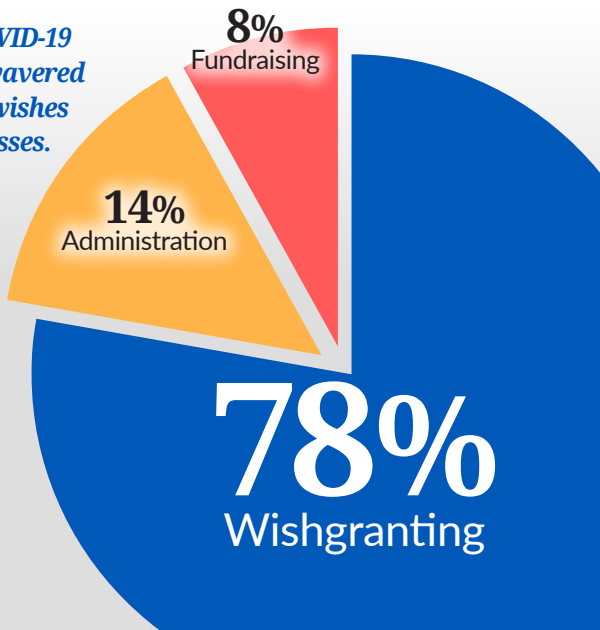
# Financial Statement

Audited financial statement for Fiscal Year 2020 (September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020)

	TOTAL
Revenues, gains, and other support:	
Public Support:	
Contributions	1,705,710
Grants	200,611
Total public support	1,906,321
Internal special events	698,549
Less costs of direct benefits to donors	(-67,588)
Total internal special events	630,961
Investment income (Loss), net	426,585
Other income	12,340
Net assets released from restrictions	-
Total revenues, gains, and other support	2,976,167
Expenses:	
Program services – Wishgranting:	1,939,472
Total program services	1,939,472
Support services:	
Fundraising	347,064
Management and general	208,025
Total support services	555,089
Total program and support services expenses	2,494,561
Change in net assets	481,606
Net assets, beginning of the year, as adjusted	8,500,228
Net assets, end of the year	8,981,834

If you would like a copy of the full CliftonLarsonAllen audit, please contact the Make-A-Wish Nebraska office or visit [wish.org/nebraska](http://wish.org/nebraska)

*Even with the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Make-A-Wish Nebraska never wavered from our mission and continued to grant wishes for children in Nebraska with critical illnesses.*



# HOPE

IS ESSENTIAL

## NAME, AGE

## ILLNESS

## WISH

## HOMETOWN

Wyatt, 14	brain tumor	I wish to go on a Hawaiian Cruise	Roca
Christian, 14	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Mahoney State Park	Omaha
Nyeilah, 19	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a shopping spree	Omaha
Caitlin, 4	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Gretna
Robert, 6	genetic disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Omaha
Fenton, 12	cancer	I wish to go to Hawaii	Hastings
Emily, 3	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Crete
Seth, 11	genetic disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Omaha
Sabrina, 4	leukemia	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Lincoln
Kailey, 5	cancer	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Plattsmouth
Jakob, 15	leukemia	I wish to go to NYC	Omaha
Wyatt, 7	genetic disorder	I wish to go to CoCo beach & see the ocean	Omaha
Jackson, 11	lymphoma	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Seward
Joslyn, 7	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Firth
Kaiden, 14	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Bellevue
Deighten, 17	neuromuscular disorder	I wish to have a shopping spree	Macy
Carter, 14	neurological disorder	I wish to go on a Disney Cruise Line®	Gothenburg
Martin, 17	leukemia	I wish to have my truck refurbished	Omaha
Ariannah, 8	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a Barbie Dream Camper® and supplies	Ord
Autumn, 5	nervous system disorder	I wish to have an outdoor space with shade & swing	O'Neill
Ricardo, 10	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	South Sioux City
Kyleah, 5	cancer	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Omaha
Eily, 6	congenital heart disease	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Omaha
Zachary, 18	lymphoma	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Plattsmouth
Alyzabeth, 7	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Papillion
Rex, 4	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Norfolk
Sofia, 17	brain tumor	I wish to go to Costa Rica	Gering
Jared, 19	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Alda
Leevi, 7	congenital heart disease	I wish to go to Hawaii	Omaha
Emily, 7	leukemia	I wish to go to NYC	Madrid
Keagan, 8	lung transplant	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Norfolk
Phoebe, 6	congenital disorder	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Norfolk
Alexus, 18	cancer	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Omaha

**Fiscal Year 2020** was an unprecedented year for wishes. Although the first half of fiscal year 2020 started out normal, due to COVID-19, Make-A-Wish made the difficult decision to pause granting wishes that involve travel in order to protect the health

and safety of our wish kids. However, we continued granting wishes such as play structures, hot tubs, room redo's, playhouses and shopping sprees. Despite the circumstances, 64 children in Nebraska were able to experience the power of a wish come true this year.

NAME, AGE	ILLNESS	WISH	HOMETOWN
Carter, 15	neuromuscular disorder	I wish to go on a Disney Cruise Line®	Auburn
Cade, 5	cancer	I wish to go to Walt Disney World®	Scottsbluff
River, 12	leukemia	I wish to go to Hawaii	Lincoln
Quinn, 4	genetic disorder	I wish to have a camper	Papillion
Sydney, 3	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a hot tub	Ceresco
Oakley, 6	genetic disorder	I wish to have a sensory room and items	Scottsbluff
Jace, 6	nervous system disorder	I wish to have sensory items	Hastings
Jada, 13	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a room redo with sensory items	Grand Island
Elijah, 17	cancer	I wish to have a utility terrain vehicle	Bruning
John Paul, 11	genetic disorder	I wish to have a player piano	Omaha
Jaxson, 4	genetic disorder	I wish to have a play structure	Papillion
Terry, 6	brain tumor	I wish to have a shopping spree	Ogallala
Andrew, 6	congenital heart disease	I wish to have a camper	Papillion
Nigella, 18	bone marrow transplant	I wish to have a shopping spree	Omaha
Avanna, 11	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a camper	Hastings
Joseph, 17	lymphoma	I wish to have a shopping spree	Omaha
Ellie, 4	leukemia	I wish to have a play structure	Waverly
Kayleigh, 18	cystic fibrosis	I wish to have a shopping spree	Elkhorn
Brayden, 7	leukemia	I wish to have a camper	Bellevue
Evangeline, 3	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a sensory room and items	Omaha
Bradley, 14	neuromuscular disorder	I wish to have a shopping spree	Omaha
Celeste, 7	congenital heart disease	I wish to have a camper	Papillion

Walt Disney World® Resort/Land®	24	Hot Tub	1
Shopping Spree	9	Barbie Dream Camper with Barbies	1
Camper	6	Utility Terrain Vehicle	1
Domestic Travel	4	Refurbished Truck	1
Hawaii	4	Outdoor Space with Swing	1
Room Makeover/Sensory Room	4	Player Piano	1
Disney Cruise Line®	3	Horse-Drawn Buggy	1
Play Structure	2		
International Travel	1	<b>Total Wishes in FY20</b>	<b>64</b>

# Make-A-Wish®

NEBRASKA

[wish.org/nebraska](http://wish.org/nebraska)

800-760-WISH (9474)

**Headquarters**  
(New Address)

1005 South 107<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 102  
Omaha, NE 68114

**Lincoln satellite office**

8033 South 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite B  
Lincoln, NE 68512

**Kearney satellite office**

412 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite D  
Kearney, NE 68847

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**To keep up to date on all the work we do, sign up for our monthly newsletter!**

Visit [wish.org/nebraska](http://wish.org/nebraska) and click "Sign up for our newsletter" toward the bottom of the web page.

To refer a child, visit [wish.org/nebraska](http://wish.org/nebraska)