

*I wish to have a
boat-themed playset*

Nolan, 7
nervous system disorder



Make-A-Wish®
MICHIGAN

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Make-A-Wish

FRIENDS

This past year and the pandemic's impact on our wish families, mission delivery, and annual revenue have been unlike anything our organization has ever seen. Yet, because of the strength and support of our generous Michigan community Make-A-Wish Michigan continued to grant life-changing wishes to 248 children throughout our state.

For Michigan children like Chloe with critical illnesses, feelings of isolation and hopelessness are all too familiar. Hospital stays, doctor visits and painful treatments become their new normal upon diagnosis. For them, finding hope in challenging circumstances is something they have been doing long before any of us heard the word quarantine.

Hope is Essential, and we remain committed to delivering our mission in new, innovative ways. From shifting to virtual wish discovery meetings to reimagining our events to ensure vital funds were in place, we did not waver in our resolve to be a beacon of hope for our wish kids and families.

With the help of our compassionate supporters, wish kids like Jacob, who wished for a beach vacation, and Ruby, who wished for a cabana, experienced the transformational power of a wish with their families during this past Fiscal Year.

Yet, there are many more children still waiting for their wish to come true. Wishes are only made possible through community support. And we don't want Michigan children waiting a single day longer than necessary to experience the transformational power of a wish in their lives.

A child's wish begins with hope—and hope begins with you. We are so grateful for your love, care and support of our resilient wish kids, and we look forward to our continued partnership to reach even more Michigan children with the hope, strength and transformation that a wish provides.



Julie Booth
Board Chair



Karen Davis
President & CEO



I wish to have a zero-gravity experience

Chloe, 9
cancer



“It’s a great feeling to see him happy, so it’s nice to have him have these moments where he gets to just be a kid and get his wish fulfilled and have some hopes for the future.”

I wish to have an outdoor shed

Ian, 15
seizure disorder

“He was able to just be a kid and not have to worry about literally anything! He just LIVES in the water, and he always seems so peaceful when he’s around it! It was a nice change to watch him be a child without any worries.”

I wish to go to a beach house

Jacob, 7
congenital heart disease





I wish to have a cabana

Ruby, 12

nervous system disorder

“We are loving Ruby’s lounge and cabana! We are so excited that she will be able to be out by our family in her own special and comfortable spot. This is such an incredible gift!”

I wish to have a boat-themed playset

Clara, 12

end-stage kidney disease

“Make-A-Wish has been beautiful as she is waiting for her kidney and afterwards, sending her little presents in the mail. We can’t tell you how happy we are. I want to say thank you to all the people who have donated to Make-A-Wish. If it weren’t for you, this [wish] would not be happening.”





Volunteers engage with wish families in CREATIVE WAYS

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Make-A-Wish® Michigan volunteers continued to express their creativity while engaging with Michigan wish families in safe ways.

During their virtual Wish Discovery Meeting with wish kid Emma, Kelli and Elizabeth Lovasz discovered Emma gets excited about water, swimming and sharks. In their virtual meeting, Kelli and Elizabeth also learned that Emma was on complete bedrest. The mother and daughter duo decided to do something fun to lift her spirits.

After first clearing the safe visit with Emma's mom, they got some shark face masks and came to surprise Emma with an enhancement gift and to talk with her through the window while social distancing. It was a complete surprise to Emma, and she absolutely loved their visit.

Other Make-A-Wish volunteers held drive-by car parades and threw fun Zoom wish celebrations for online shopping spree wishes.

The health and safety of our wish families and volunteers remained the top priority for Make-A-Wish Michigan during this time. Our volunteers rose to the challenge to come up with creative ways to not only help make wishes come true but to build relationships with our wish families and show up in their lives as a beacon of **HOPE, STRENGTH AND JOY.**

Would you like to make a difference in the lives of children with critical illnesses in your community? Make-A-Wish Michigan is actively seeking volunteers. To learn more, visit michigan.wish.org/volunteer.

Photo: Kelli (left) and Elizabeth (right) during a socially distanced visit with wish kid Emma.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER



Make an impact in the life of a child battling a critical illness, while also positively impacting their family and the community.



Learn specific skills needed to succeed in your role via role-specific trainings.



Utilize skills, talents and interests that may not be used in your day-to-day life.



Share your knowledge, wisdom and experience with other volunteers.



Meet new people, develop new skills and discover new experiences.



Bring joy and hope to those who receive wishes.

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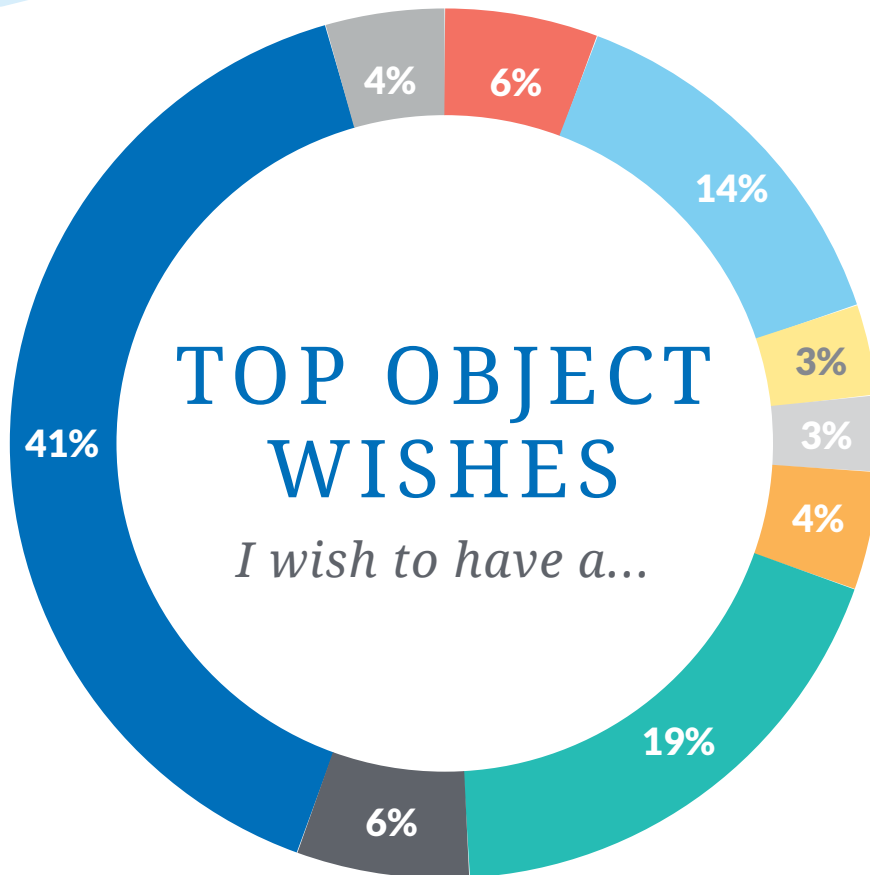
President & CEO
Make-A-Wish Michigan



248

TRANSFORMATIVE WISHES

were granted to Michigan kids in 2020



- Shopping Adventure
- Playset
- Camper
- Animal
- Room Redo

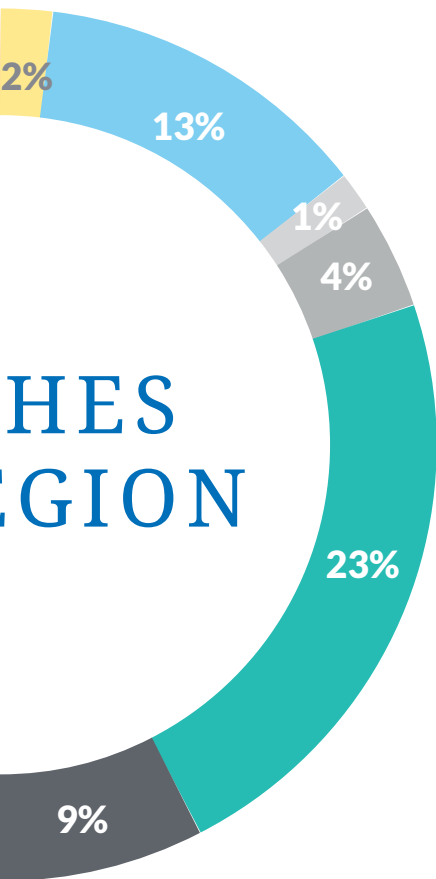
- Medical Bed/Chair/Wheelchair
- Spa/Hot Tub
- Computer Systems
- Electronics

- Metro Detroit
- West Michigan
- Mid-Michigan
- Southwest
- Southeast

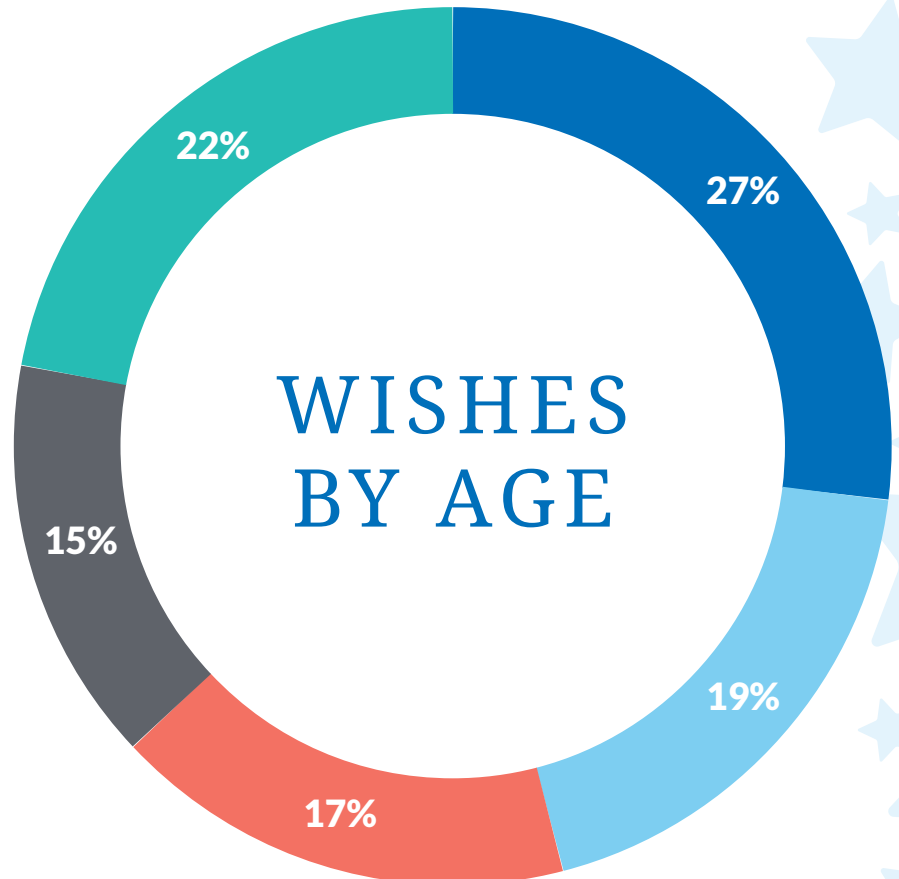
“The experience gave Hope something to look forward to. It will also stay with her for years to come. Her brain cancer severely weakened her right side, but the rock wall and rope ladder force her to use both arms and legs. This will give her the strength and muscle development needed for the future.”

I wish to have a playset

Hope, 4
brain tumor



- Thumb
- Northern
- Upper Peninsula*
- Greater TC



- 2.5–5 years
- 15+ years
- 6–8 years
- 9–11 years
- 12–14 years

**FY20 UP wishes were granted in partnership with Make-A-Wish Wisconsin.*

Thanks to community and sponsor support, we created ENGAGING EVENT EXPERIENCES

WISH BALL – SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Nearly 600 guests witnessed wish kid Chloe's celebrity entrance complete with paparazzi and adoring fans prior to the premiere of her music video at Wish Ball – Southeast Michigan on Oct. 12, 2019.

Wish Ball, with presenting sponsor **TEAM SCHOSTAK FAMILY RESTAURANTS** and lead sponsor **SAINT JOSEPH MERCY HEALTH SYSTEM**, celebrated 35 years of granting wishes in Metro Detroit. Thanks to the generous support of co-chairs Chris and Jennifer Granger, corporate partners and event attendees, \$500,000 was raised to help grant life-changing wishes to Michigan children like Chloe.



I wish to star in my own

Chloe, 8
leukemia



[WATCH CHLOE'S
MUSIC VIDEO](#)

“Our wish families need the hope that a wish provides, now more than ever. Thanks to our generous sponsors who continued their important support during this very challenging year, our events raised more than \$2.6 million to create life-changing wishes that brought hope, strength and transformation to our courageous wish kids right here in Michigan. The impact that our sponsors have on our families’ lives is truly inspiring.”

Karen Davis, President & CEO of Make-A-Wish Michigan



WISH-A-MILE® BICYCLE TOUR

More than 900 riders participated in the Virtual Wish-A-Mile® Bicycle Tour 2020 over the summer to raise critical funds for Make-A-Wish Michigan. The event, sponsored by **EATON CORPORATION**, featured riders logging miles in their respective communities or even on a Peloton. Two virtual programs took place to celebrate riders' fundraising efforts and to share inspiring wishes taking place in the summer.

TRAILBLAZE CHALLENGE

Nearly 40 hikers went 21 miles through the beautiful Manistee River Trail/North Country Trail Loop on Sept. 7, 2019, to raise funds for Make-A-Wish® Michigan in the third annual Trailblaze Challenge. Because of the hard work and determination of these hikers, more than \$128,000 was raised to help Michigan children battling critical illnesses experience the transformational power of a wish.



music video



FY2019 Walk For Wishes

WALK FOR WISHES®

Both Walk For Wishes® events in Southeast Michigan on May 2, 2020, and Northern Michigan on June 13, 2020, went virtual due to COVID-19. Both Walks were livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube followed by a walk in participants' respective neighborhoods. Walkers also had the opportunity to participate in a competitive and fun scavenger hunt for the chance to win prizes.

The Southeast Michigan event, sponsored by **PLANET FITNESS**, featured an inspiring opening ceremony emceed by Alicia Smith of WXYZ-TV. The Northern Michigan event, sponsored by **MEIJER**, highlighted 4-year-old Hope's wish for a playset during an opening ceremony hosted by Lauren Scafidi of 9&10 News.





I wish to have a golf cart

Finnly, 10
nervous system disorder

Turning generosity into life-changing **EXPERIENCES**

Make-A-Wish Michigan relies on private philanthropic efforts. Our donors provide the full financial resources needed to make these dreams come true. Knowing this, we are excellent stewards of those funds, with an average over the last five years of 77 percent of every dollar spent going towards wish granting and program-related activities.

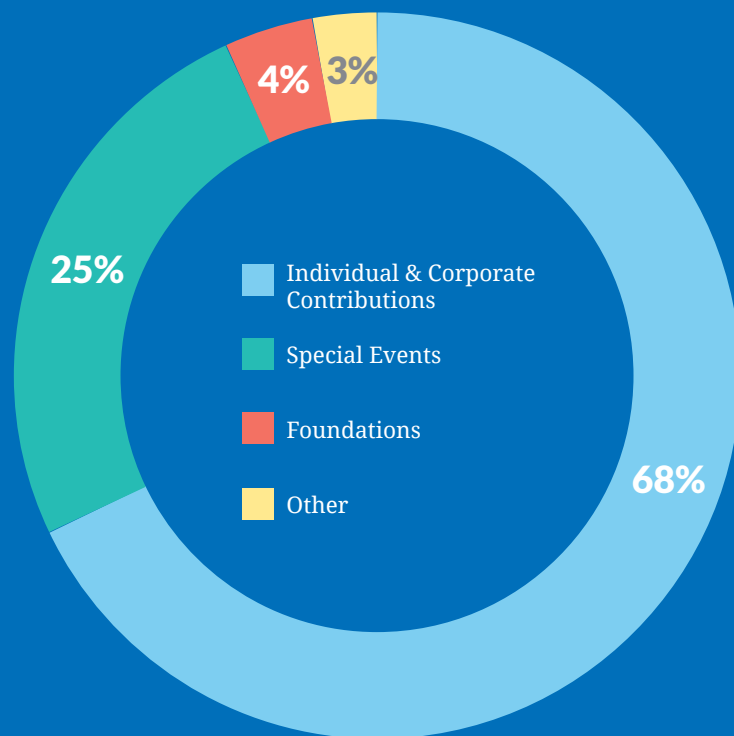
Some airline and entertainment organizations provide significant support through discounted rates. However, the fact is that there is a cost for each wish we grant.

Make-A-Wish covers all the costs for the entire family: transportation to and from the airport, airfare, excursions, hotels, food and spending money. Families do not have to pay for or plan a single part of the wish-granting experience.

The monetary total of a wish is significant, but its impact is incalculable. That gift inspires children to persevere through difficult and often painful treatment. It inspires families to **STAY POSITIVE** and **KEEP MOVING FORWARD**.

OUR FUNDING SOURCES

Make-A-Wish Michigan does not receive state or federal funding to grant wishes. We are funded through community support—caring individuals, family foundations, corporate friends, school-aged kids and other supporters—all making wishes possible.



Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ended August 31, 2020



Copies of our audited financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2020 are available on our website at michigan.wish.org/our-chapter.

TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT	\$9,892,535
EXPENSES	
Total Program Services	\$4,618,061
SUPPORT SERVICES	
Fundraising	\$2,073,291
Management and general	\$1,339,672
Total support services	\$3,412,963
TOTAL PROGRAM AND SUPPORT SERVICE EXPENSES	\$8,031,024
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$1,861,511
Net assets, beginning of the year	\$4,122,100
NET ASSETS, END OF THE YEAR	\$5,983,611



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

at Make-A-Wish Michigan

Make-A-Wish® Michigan is committed to creating an inclusive and diverse culture that supports and reflects the diversity within our community. Over the last several years, we have made significant progress in our diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts and laid the groundwork for **SUSTAINABLE, MEANINGFUL CHANGE.**

Our overarching goal is to ensure equitable access to our mission and to make sure diverse communities feel both welcomed and invited to participate. We have been intentional and thoughtful in our DEI work, ensuring that it flows through all aspects of the organization, from diverse representation on our staff and board, to images reflected in our materials to training around unconscious bias and systemic racism.

In 2020, we continued our work with DEI expert consultant Maria Arcocha White, Founder and CEO of Inclusivity, who we have worked with since 2018. Inclusivity is an organization that focuses on building and sustaining initiatives for

diversity and inclusion, culture change, and leadership development. As Make-A-Wish Michigan continued to work through Inclusivity's 8-Step Culture Change Model this year, we held board and staff trainings throughout the year, and we formed a DEI staff council consisting of 13 staff members committed to helping develop and implement DEI strategies. Additionally, we translated more than 30 mission delivery documents and marketing materials into Spanish and developed gender and race neutral alt text to accompany all images on our new chapter website. For the organization's DEI efforts in 2020, Make-A-Wish America awarded our chapter with the Inclusion & Diversity Innovation Award.

As we head into 2021, our chapter has an actionable and measurable plan for our overall external outreach strategy. We are steadfast in our commitment to making sure our DEI efforts are about more than words as we work to grant more wishes and enhance the level of service we provide to our wish kids and families.



I wish to have a shopping adventure

Dorien, 14
inflammatory disorder



I wish to go to Walt Disney World® Resort

Rosendo, 13

nervous system disorder
wish granted March 2020

I wish to star in my own music video

Chloe, 8
leukemia



I wish to go to Walt Disney World® Resort

Lucy, 6

blood disorder
wish granted February 2020





Make-A-Wish Michigan's **CULTURAL VISION STATEMENT**

We are a community of authentic and passionate individuals who foster trust, candor and respect in all aspects of driving our mission forward. We actively listen, seek to gain a deeper understanding of the people and communities that we serve and work hard to become better.

By intentionally demonstrating the value of diverse people, ideas and leadership, we engage new people and thought partners to ensure equitable access to our mission. We are inclusive of and welcome all people and backgrounds. We stand against racism, violence, intolerance and injustice.

Together, we embrace collaboration and innovation to be a force of good in the world, grant more wishes and enhance the level of service we provide to our wish kids and families.

Together, we create
LIFE-CHANGING WISHES
for children with critical illnesses

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*I wish to
have a puppy*

Ed, 18
lymphoma

Make-A-Wish
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