

When Stars Align



*I wish to have a playhouse
for me and my chickens*

Aspen, 7
cancer

Make-A-Wish®
NEBRASKA

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



*I wish to have a
playhouse for me
and my chickens*

**Aspen, 7
cancer**

Dear friends of Make-A-Wish Nebraska,

At Make-A-Wish, we celebrate all the numerous kinds of "stars" who align with us to help make more wishes, like Aspen's, come true. From wish families, to donors, to referral sources, to communities across Nebraska, we are grateful for every star who shines a light of hope for our wish children, and continues to help us achieve our goal of granting the wish of every eligible child.

Since Make-A-Wish's inception in 1980, stars have aligned to grant more than 520,000 wishes around the world. But unfortunately, children continue to be diagnosed with critical illnesses every day, and stars like you continue to come forward to ensure those wishes come true.

The Nebraska Chapter has been fortunate to never have to turn down a child who deserved a wish or to place them on a waiting list until funds were available. Supporters like you have stepped in to renew hope for our wish kids who need it most, as they navigate through the most difficult times in their lives. Through your support, you made an impact on the lives of our wish kids and their families for a happier and brighter future.

Together, we give the brightest of days to children fighting critical illnesses. THANK YOU for being a Make-A-Wish star and making wishes come true!

Sincerely,

Brigitte Young
President/CEO

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

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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).



Aspen's Story

As a parent, there are four words you never want to hear: 'your child has cancer.'

In April 2019, these are the very words wish kid Aspen's parents heard for their little girl Aspen at just six years old.

The story began when Aspen's parents noticed a lump on her neck. She had a cold at the time so they thought it was associated with that. When she wasn't getting better, her parents decided it was best to take her to the doctor. The doctor ordered an ultrasound which detected something different or abnormal. After being referred to several different specialists, they received the news that the lump in Aspen's neck was indeed cancer. Words that immediately threw them into a medical vortex of treatment plans to cure her of this terrible diagnosis.

Within days, Aspen had surgery to remove the tumor from her neck. A team of surgeons were able remove the mass that was the size of a large potato. It was a delicate, intricate surgery. Following surgery, Aspen was left with vocal cord paralysis, the inability to sweat on her left side and a droopy left eye.





There was no time to rest as her medical team put her on a plan of recovery. The tumor had pressed on her vocal cords for so long that she was unable to eat or drink without aspirating. She immediately began doing intense physical, occupational and speech therapy to regain functions she had lost. She remained in the hospital for a month and continued out-patient treatment for many weeks to months following.

Cancer found a mighty fierce opponent in Aspen. This personality trait served her well.

Aspen set a goal for herself that she was going to start kindergarten able to eat what she wanted and with no feeding tube. She worked very hard on this goal. When she started school in August, she had almost mastered all foods and drinks. After 137 days Aspen had her NG tube removed -- the day after she started kindergarten.

Aspen loves chickens. To get her through this difficult time, her sister started a social media petition when she was hospitalized to have people send her stuffed chickens/animals. Her hospital room was soon FULL of them. Her other sister started buying her real chickens to have on the family farm. Aspen became known as the chicken farmer in her family. At one point she had over 80 chickens and ducks. She even became a little entrepreneur selling her eggs to friends and family.



When Make-A-Wish met with Aspen and her family about her very own wish, it was an easy decision...she wanted a playhouse for her and her chickens.

Because of COVID-19, it took a while for Aspen's wish to become a reality, but the day finally arrived for Aspen's wish to be granted on World Wish Day, April 29, 2021.

The town of North Bend, population 1,213, came together to make it very special. Aspen was made to feel like royalty that day. She was escorted from school to her home in a fire truck with the state patrol and the sheriff's department leading the way. Aspen and her parents were blindfolded on the way to the house. When they arrived, they stepped off the fire truck, and removed the blindfolds to see the playhouse completed with an attached chicken coop for her feathered friends, plus flower boxes and a chalkboard wall.

"Make-A-Wish afforded Aspen so many opportunities that nothing else in life ever will," said Kris, Aspen's mom.



Kris continued, "Since her wish, Aspen has been a part of the Make-A-Wish Annual Blue Jean Ball, she has been interviewed, spoken lines for commercials, attended and auctioned off her eggs at galas and so much more."

"These experiences would never have been possible without Make-A-Wish," Kris said. "We are just ordinary people from a

small town, made to feel extraordinary. Thank you to everyone who supports Make-A-Wish and their mission. Allowing sick children to close their eyes and make a wish is an indescribable experience."



Additional Ways to Grant Wishes



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 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 to sign up today!



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.



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 to learn more.

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

To keep up to date on all the ways you can support local wish kids, sign up for our monthly newsletter! You can sign up by visiting wish.org/nebraska and clicking “Sign up for our newsletter” toward the bottom of the web page.

Thank you to our generous Donors & Supporters

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. For more information, 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, 2020 to Aug. 31, 2021.

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Anna & Scott Feddersen
Penny & Albert Fink
John & Tracy Finocchiaro
Christi Fisher
Carrie & Roger Fitzke
Larry & Machele Foxworthy
Bessie Frith
Dwight Frost
Full Tilt Wraps
Zakary Gangwer
Allison Garrett Johnson
Jeff Geissinger
Michael Gilliam
Tiffany Gilpin
Todd & Denise Gilroy
Michael & Joyce Glaser
Christopher Goble
Mary Gay Gordon
Joseph Grasse
Great Lakes Asset Solutions
Great Western Insurance Company
Gretna Middle School
Jason & Beth Grotelueschen
Michael Gulbrandson
Laura Haddock
Jim Hageman
Lynne Hakei-Lehms
David Halla
Byron & Sheryl Hansen
Jim Harper
Hastings Public Schools District 18
Kirk & Natalie Hazen
Heavy Duty Rebuilders Supply, Inc.
Dr. Greg & Mary Heidrick
Douglas & Kathy Hiemstra
Robert & Teresa Hillbrandt
Kelly & Karree Hillman
Wendy Hind Yoga Party
Mike & Cathy Hinrichs
Ron Hofmeister
Linda & Jeff Hogrefe
Stephanie Horeis
Ric & Claudia Horton
Patti & Bob Hrbek
Lacey & Peter Hudnut
Kristine & Tim Hughbanks
Jana Hughes
Steve & Sheri Idelman
J & A Services
Jack Wills Outdoor Living
Jacobson Orr Lindstrom & Holbrook, PC, LLO

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Janie Zadina

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

In Honor of

Dr. Michael Ash
Joshua Carson
Chiamaka M. Ekeh
Deb K. Fenton
Alexa Foster
Kahleb, Kyler, Hannah
& Hailey Elliott
Nicholas Foxworthy
Michael K. & Amanda Fu
Grady Simants
Makenzie Wynegar

In Memory of

Garry Ailes
Sandy Aldy
Rosie Allison
Karen Beck
Gabriel Blanford
Brinkley Chandler
Michelle Deras
Paul Dworak
Kyle Elliott
John M. Grier
Darrell Hansen
Ben Hofmeister
Hannah Huckfeldt

Greg Hulsey
Marilyn Kasik
David F. Kirkle
- deceased 1934
Robert Lee Kirkle
- deceased 1934
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Roger B. Whitefoot

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

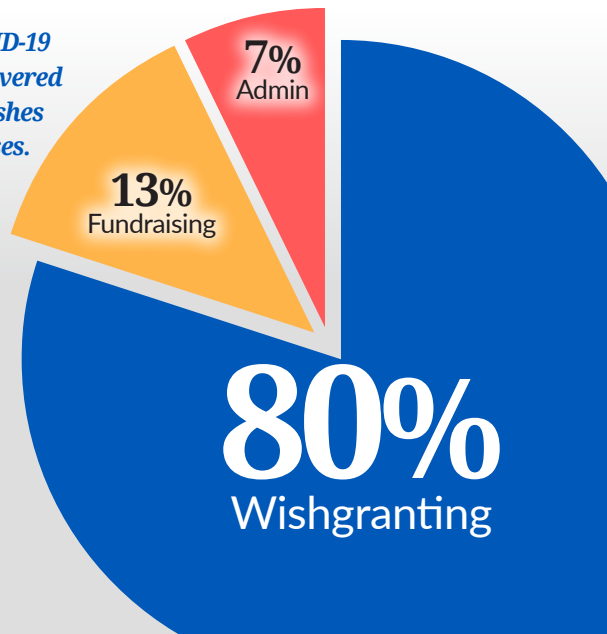
Financial Statement

Audited financial statement for Fiscal Year 2021 (September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021)

	TOTAL
Revenues, gains, and other support:	
Public Support:	
Contributions	3,466,297
Grants	228,352
Total public support	3,694,649
Internal special events	981,539
Less costs of direct benefits to donors	(124,811)
Total internal special events	856,728
Investment income (Loss), net	1,386,352
Foregiveness of Paycheck Protection Program Loan	160,655
Other income	300
Net assets released from restrictions	
Total revenues, gains, and other support	6,098,684
Expenses:	
Program services – Wishgranting:	2,542,865
Total program services	2,524,865
Support services:	
Fundraising	416,660
Management and general	237,446
Total support services	654,106
Total program and support services expenses	3,196,971
Change in net assets	2,901,713
Net assets, beginning of the year, as adjusted	8,981,834
Net assets, end of the year	11,883,547

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

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



When Stars Align

Fiscal Year 2021 was another outstanding year for granting wishes throughout the state of Nebraska. Despite the continual challenges experienced with COVID-19, 92 children with

NAME, AGE	ILLNESS	WISH	HOMETOWN
Zane, 4	congenital heart disease	I wish to have a camper	Omaha
Keegan, 12	rare disease	I wish to have a camper	Omaha
Josiah, 6	nervous system disorder	I wish to go to Mahoney State Park	Omaha
Adyn, 12	brain tumor	I wish to have a smart TV with Disney+ and soft blankets	Kearney
Blakely, 5	genetic disorder	I wish to have a camper	Howells
Carmenella, 5	wilms tumor	I wish to have a play structure	Omaha
Kinzlee, 7	leukemia	I wish to have a play structure	Clarks
Zamari, 4	congenital heart disease	I wish to have a camper	North Platte
Jaxen, 4	wilms tumor	I wish to have a play structure	Eagle
Walker, 8	leukemia	I wish to have a camper	Gering
Jaden, 18	kidney failure	I wish to have a gaming computer	Bellevue
Brayden, 9	nervous system order	I wish to have a shopping spree	Omaha
Layla, 10	neurological disorder	I wish to have a hot tub	Omaha
Harley, 13	leukemia	I wish to have a camper	Imperial
Kainen, 10	genetic disorder	I wish to have an art studio	Omaha
Daymen, 18	leukemia	I wish to have a shopping spree	Dodge
Joshua, 9	gastrointestinal disorder	I wish to have a camper	Riverdale
Judith, 18	kidney failure	I wish to have a college scholarship	Omaha
Itza, 16	leukemia	I wish to have a play structure	Grand Island
Roscoe, 18	nervous system disorder system	I wish to have a surround sound	Marquette
Isaac, 9	brain tumor	I wish to have a PlayStation 5 with TV and games	Omaha
Katy, 16	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a camper	Crete
Gage, 18	cystic fibrosis	I wish to have a shopping spree	Lincoln
Coby, 13	congenital anomalies	I wish to have an Ice Castle Fish House	Papillion
Macilynn, 9	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a camper	Omaha
Victor, 18	germ cell tumor	I wish to go snowboarding in Aspen	McCook
Harlan, 3	congenital heart disease	I wish to have a treehouse	Omaha
Cameron, 9	neuromuscular disorder disorder	I wish to have 3 remote control cars	Lincoln
Paishence, 4	brain tumor	I wish to have a shopping spree Gothenburg	Gothenbug
Evan, 17	cancer	I wish to have a shopping spree	Fremont
Emmett, 8	kidney failure	I wish to have a camper	Lincoln
Carson, 15	neurological disorder	I wish to have a dog	Murray
Tristyn, 15	genetic disorder	I wish to have a camper	Nebraska City
James, 8	congenital heart disorder	I wish to have a camper	Omaha
Aspen, 7	cancer	I wish to have a playhouse for me and my chickens	North Bend
Zane, 4	congenital heart disease	I wish to have a camper	Omaha
Ayden, 15	lymphoma	I wish to have a camper	Plattsmouth
Mackenzie, 16	nervous system disorder	I wish to have an Australian Shepard	Lincoln
Ender, 9	genetic disorder	I wish to have a camper	Omaha

critical illnesses experienced the power of a wish this year. We continued granting wishes such as play structures, hot tubs, room redo's, playhouses and shopping sprees as well as specific types of intercontinental wishes involving travel.

NAME, AGE	ILLNESS	WISH	HOMETOWN
Olivia, 16	leukemia	I wish to have a virtual shopping spree	McCook
Maggie, 8	leukemia	I wish to have a ninja warrior play structure	Lincoln
Addison, 16	genetic disorder	I wish to have a sweet 16 party	Lincoln
Lilly, 9	cancer	I wish to have a virtual shopping spree	Schuyler
Colton, 5	leukemia	I wish to have a camper	Lincoln
Cameron, 18	cancer	I wish to have a shopping spree	Omaha
Madeleine, 6	lymphoma	I wish to ride a unicorn	Bellevue
Brenton, 3	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a cabin experience	Imperial
Ethan, 6	tumor	I wish to have a PlayStation 5 with TV and games	Carter Lake
Melodie, 17	cancer	I wish to give tumbling mats to my cheerleading team	Grand Island
Ebbin, 15	cancer	I wish to have a camper	Plattsmouth
Rory, 3	brain tumor	I wish to have a camper	Norfolk
Ian, 9	leukemia	I wish to have a boys gaming cave	South Sioux City
Tessa, 4	leukemia	I wish to have a camper	Bennington
Dalton, 18	kidney disease	I wish to have a camper	Fullerton
Camden, 11	wilms tumor	I wish to have a gaming system	Omaha
Evelyn, 5	leukemia	I wish to go to the Black Hills	Seward
Reece, 18	cancer	I wish to have a pontoon boat	Omaha
Alex, 16	leukemia	I wish to go to Colorado	Omaha
Sei, 15	renal failure	I wish to have a shopping spree	Omaha
Jack, 3	wilms tumor	I wish to have a backyard waterpark	Lincoln
Nina, 18	nervous system disorder	I wish to meet my favorite Avenger	Hastings
Zion, 5	rare disease	I wish to have a bulldog	Crete
Paislee, 3	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a shopping spree	Omaha
Megan, 17	nervous system disorder	I wish to have a dog	Cook
Evelyn, 7	genetic disorder	I wish to have a camper	Omaha
Loc, 16	cancer	I wish to have a room re-do	Lincoln
Bentley, 4	leukemia	I wish to have a special behind-the-scene's tour of the zoo	Omaha

92 Reasons to Smile!

Ninety-Two Wishes Granted in FY 2021

Camper.....	25
Shopping Spree.....	19
Gaming Systems.....	13
Play Structure.....	8
Domestic Travel.....	7
Room Makeover/Other Structure	5
Animal.....	4
Other.....	11

Total Wishes in FY21 92



wish.org/nebraska

800-760-WISH (9474)

Headquarters

1005 South 107th Avenue, Suite 102
Omaha, NE 68114

Lincoln satellite office

8033 South 15th Street, Suite B
Lincoln, NE 68512

Kearney satellite office

412 East 25th 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!

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To refer a child, visit wish.org/nebraska