

SPRING 2023

Make-A-Wish[®]
MINNESOTA

Wish News

*I wish to meet the
Minnesota Vikings*

Charlie, 9
leukemia



CHARLIE'S WISH

While battling leukemia, Charlie's wish to meet the Minnesota Vikings came true

WISH BALL 2023

More than 95 wishes will be granted thanks to our generous Wish Ball sponsors and donors

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Our amazing volunteers were celebrated during National Volunteer Appreciation Week

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



LEADERSHIP

Fiscal year 2023



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Medical Advisory Panel

Members of the Medical Advisory Panel are physicians in Minnesota who volunteer their expertise to support chapter program staff in the areas of wish safety, eligibility and medical outreach.

Dr. Courtney Herring

Pediatric Hospital, Medical-Surgical Director, Children's Minnesota

Dr. Andrea Singh

Pediatrician, Park Nicollet Health Services

Dr. Jen Pratt

Hospitalist, Children's Minnesota, St. Paul and Wish Alum

CHARLIE'S WISH

I wish to meet the Minnesota Vikings

Charlie, 9
leukemia

In the Spring of 2021, at the age of only 7, Charlie was diagnosed with leukemia. Charlie's dad, Chris, recalled "[after the diagnosis] as we were leaving the pediatrician's office, I was crying, and Charlie grabbed my hand and said, 'it's okay Dad, we've got God'..." Following his diagnosis, Charlie began a two-and-a-half-year treatment plan which included an especially intense first nine months which left him immunocompromised and unable to attend school.

During this time, Charlie found distraction and a deeper love for the game of football by watching the 2021-2022 National Football League season which is where Charlie's wish to meet the Minnesota Vikings was born!

With the help of the Minnesota Vikings, Charlie's wish to meet the team came true last fall when he was invited to meet the Minnesota Vikings during practice and to even play catch with Adam Thielen and Justin Jefferson! Charlie's mom, Beth, shared, "it was surreal watching the whole thing, it felt like watching a movie...Make-A-Wish gives you hope. They give your child something that you can't. They can make their dreams come true."

At the end of his wish day, after several sweet surprises from the Minnesota Vikings, head coach Kevin O'Connell invited Charlie with the invitation to blow the Gjallarhorn at U.S. Bank Stadium that Sunday against the Chicago Bears!

Charlie, now 9, has a positive prognosis and - as introduced at a Minnesota Viking's game - is truly a **CANCER WARRIOR**.



WAYS to GIVE

Did you know there are multiple ways that you can give a gift to help support wishes like Charlie's? Here are some of the ways you can help to grant wishes:

GIVE BY MAIL

Gifts made by check should be payable to Make-A-Wish Minnesota and mailed to:

Make-A-Wish Minnesota
1919 University Ave W, Ste. 415
St. Paul, MN 55104

GIVE BY PHONE

(612) 767 - 9474

ONLINE GIVING

mn.wish.org/donate

APPRECIATED SECURITIES

A tax savvy way to benefit from growing assets.

IRA ROLLOVER

Another tax-saving way to help grant wishes.

DONOR ADVISED FUND

Recommend a grant through your Donor Advised Fund.

MATCHING GIFTS

Make your gift go even further through a corporate matching gift.

PLANNED GIVING

Leave a legacy of hope by granting life-changing wishes now and into the future.

For more information, visit mn.wish.org/waystohelp or contact:

Lindsey Kumlien
Director of Development
lkumlien@mn.wish.org
(612) 767-2751



WISHball



On World Wish Day®, more than 600 guests and volunteers came together to celebrate Make-A-Wish Minnesota's annual Wish Ball at Mystic Lake Center! Emceed by WCCO's 830 Radio 3-6 p.m. host, Jason DeRusha and hosted by Wish Ball Event Chair, Julie Warner of Warners' Stellian, it was a magical evening filled with silent and live auction bidding, beautiful art made by wish kids and local artists and featured Charlie's incredible wish to meet the Minnesota Vikings.

Together, we raised more than \$960,000 to advance the Make-A-Wish® mission of creating life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.



Special thanks to our volunteer photographers Angela, Bill and Sue for capturing this beautiful evening!



Thank you for donating to Make a wish to make my wish come true.

signed Charlie H.



Saturday, April 29, 2023



WISH BALL SPONSORS



Make-A-Wish® Minnesota would like to extend a special thank you to the following 2023 Wish Ball sponsors for supporting our mission and helping to grant wishes to Minnesota wish kids!

PRESENTING SPONSOR



DIAMOND SPONSORS

Hormel Foods
Marsden Holding, LLC
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

STAR SPONSOR

U.S. Bank

SUPERHERO SPONSORS

Event Lab
Polaris
Bob & Celeste Rekieta

WISH SPONSORS

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Amy Roberts
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Sportech
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TABLE SPONSORS

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KPMG
Twin Cities Orthopedics
Minnesota Twins
Brian Tilzer & Lisa Valensi
Charlie & Jen Vanek
Minnesota Vikings
Wellington Management
Wells Fargo
Xactly Corporation
YMCA of the North

IN-KIND SPONSORS

Fladeboe Advancement
Showcore Inc.
UnitedHealth Group

TRAVEL PARTNER

Sun Country Airlines



PARTNERSHIPS



Sun Country Airlines Airplane Pull

Last fall, Make-A-Wish Minnesota and travel partner, Sun Country Airlines, partnered for the Twin Cities' most unique team fundraising challenge of the year - The Sun Country Airplane Pull! Local companies and their employees came together to test their strength by pulling airplanes and raising money for wishes!

Thanks to the generosity of Sun Country Airlines and all the teams that participated, more than \$100,000 was raised for Make-A-Wish Minnesota.

We look forward to the Airplane Pull again this fall!



Flight to the North Pole

Sun Country Airlines and Make-A-Wish Minnesota partnered up again in December to host the 15th annual Flight to the North Pole.

More than 70 wish kids boarded a Sun Country airplane for a flight to visit the North Pole where they got to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, play games and enjoy a winter wonderland.

Special thanks to Sun Country Airlines staff and crew and to all the wonderful volunteers and first-responders for creating a magical night for Minnesota wish kids!



TRAVEL PARTNER

Sun Country Airlines® has been a long-time supporter of Make-A-Wish Minnesota, helping wishes take flight for countless wish kids and their families. Through a three-year partnership that launched two years ago, the airline is committed to donating travel costs for Minnesota wish kids flying Sun Country during their wish trip.

Thank you, Sun Country Airlines, for your continuous dedication and generous support. Wishes wouldn't be possible without you!



PARTNERSHIPS



Warners' Stellan The Great Giveback

In January, Warners' Stellan donated \$50 for every qualifying appliance purchase above \$799 to Make-A-Wish Minnesota. For the second year in a row, the Warners' Stellan Great Giveback campaign raised \$100,000 to Make-A-Wish Minnesota to help grant wishes in Minnesota!

Thank you to Warners' Stellan for your continued partnership and to everyone who made qualifying purchases during the month of January.



Jersey Mike's Month of Giving

In March, local Jersey Mike's locations accepted donations throughout the month, building to the company's Day of Giving on March 29, when 44 restaurants across the state of Minnesota donated 100 percent of sales to Make-A-Wish Minnesota!

As a result of your direct support, the Jersey Mike's Month of Giving campaign raised \$589,263 to help grant wishes in Minnesota!

Thank you to Jersey Mike's and the 14 Minnesota franchise owners for selecting Make-A-Wish Minnesota as the beneficiary for this year's Month of Giving campaign!

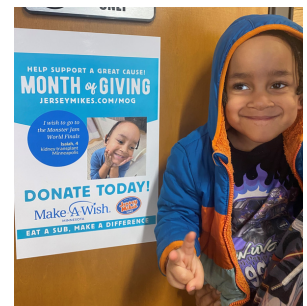
And a special thanks to all the Jersey Mike's employees, Make-A-Wish volunteers and wish alum families who helped make the Month of Giving so spectacular.

BECOME A LOCAL PARTNER!

Through innovative consumer-facing campaigns, cause marketing programs, generous financial contributions and mission-critical in-kind support, life-changing wishes are being granted right here in your community.

To learn more about how you can get your company involved, contact us today:

Pete Johnson, Manager of Corporate Giving
pjohnson@mn.wish.org
(612) 767-2766





GIVE HOPE



Help Create Life-Changing Experiences

You can make a difference! Did you know we rely heavily on in-kind items and services to help grant wishes to kids across the state of Minnesota? Nearly 40 percent of our wish items come from individual donations.

Popular wish items and services needed:

- Accessible partnerships
 - Ramps
 - Lifts
 - ADA construction
- Above-ground pools
- ATVs
- Campers
- Car restoration services
- Computers
- Electrician services
- Fishing boats
- General construction services
- Gift cards
- Landscaping services
- Snowmobiles
- Stereo equipment
- Video game equipment

★ To see if your item, service, or trade connection can help us transform lives, one wish at a time, please contact:

Carleen Crouse, Program Director
ccrouse@mn.wish.org
(612) 767 - 2760

AMAZON WISH LIST

Shop online and make wishes possible by purchasing items needed for current wishes from our Amazon Make-A-Wish Minnesota Wish List!

Many of the items on our Wish List are needed today to help fulfill current wish needs. Your purchase will help to spark joy for a wish kid who so desperately needs it!

To help create hope by making a purchase from the Make-A-Wish Minnesota Amazon Wish List, scan the QR code shown here.

SCAN ME



IMPACT OF A WISH

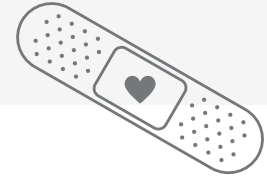
98%

of medical providers said they have observed that the wish experience helps relieve families from traumatic stress related to their child's critical illness.



90%

of medical providers said a wish increases a child's compliance with treatment.



92%

of wish alumni said the wish experience brought their family closer together.



95%

of parents said they saw their child's emotional well-being improve through the wish experience.



MINNESOTA WISHES GRANTED BY AGE

21

2.5 - 5 years old

44

6 - 9 years old

48

10 - 12 years old

34

13 - 15 years old

71

16+ years old

*fiscal year September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022



"Before I received my wish, my quality of life was horrible, and I had no desire to keep going. When I learned I would be getting a wish, I had something that made me want to fight for my life. Now, instead of having 100 seizures a day, I have less than 10 a day." —Anonymous



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS



Volunteer Appreciation Week

The week of April 17-21 was National Volunteer Appreciation Week and we had a blast thanking our volunteers for all they do to help support our mission and grant wishes to Minnesota wish kids!

Throughout the week, we celebrated across the state with in-person and virtual meet-ups and also hosted a several fun professional development sessions - Improv for Volunteers and ASL 101 for Volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who joined and a very special thank you to our 438 volunteers who so selflessly devote their time and talents to Make-A-Wish Minnesota. You are critical to our mission and are a light of hope for wish kids when they need it most. Thank you!



BECOME A WISH GRANTER!

Wish granters are essential to fulfilling each child's wish. They work in teams of two or three and help the wish child discover wish ideas that could bring them hope and joy. They also help create an exceptional wish experience through ongoing engagement with the child and their family.

To learn more and become a wish granter today contact:

Gabby Santiago, Volunteer Services Manager
gsantiago@mn.wish.org
(612) 767-2765



SAVE THE DATE



Walk for Wishes®

Walk For Wishes® is a nationwide Make-A-Wish® fundraiser that celebrates the more than 500,000 wishes that have already been granted, while raising funds to fulfill future wishes of children with critical illnesses. It's a family-friendly event powered by wish families, volunteers, companies, donors and friends. This event will feature kid's games and activities and an optional 5K or 1-mile route at Minnehaha Regional Park. Lace up and join us!

For more information and to register, visit: mn.wish.org/events



Wishes in Flight®

Airline miles needed for wish travel! We are in desperate need of Delta and United Airline miles to help grant the wishes to the more than 100 Minnesota kids who are waiting for their travel wish. More than 36 million miles are needed to help grant these wishes in waiting. Help a child's wish take flight by donating your unused airline miles to Make-A-Wish Minnesota during our Wishes in Flight campaign this fall!

To donate your airline miles TODAY, visit: mn.wish.org/donatemiles



Give to the Max Day

Join thousands of Minnesotans on Thursday, November 16 for Minnesota's annual day of giving! Your generous support on this day can help unlock matching grants and cash prizes from GiveMN, increasing the impact of your gift and helping us to grant more magical wishes to Minnesota wish kids. Mark your calendars and get ready to Give to the Max!

Destination Wishes

Do you have frequent flier miles to help make wishes come true?

It takes more than 75 million miles to grant all Minnesota travel wishes annually and more than 75 percent of wishes involve travel. Donated airline miles help make these wishes possible.

Every mile donated helps wish kids and their families travel to destinations around the world. Once donated, your miles will never expire. This is just one simple way you can help grant a life-changing wish experience.

Our greatest need is for Delta and American Airline miles.

For more information on how to donate your miles and/or points visit:
mn.wish.org/donatemiles

SCAN ME

