

A CHILD
MAKES A WISH.

you

MAKE THE
DIFFERENCE.



Make-A-Wish®
NEBRASKA

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



I wish to have a treehouse
Harlan, 3
congenital heart disorder

Dear Friends of Make-A-Wish Nebraska,

A child makes a wish. YOU make the difference!

40 years and counting! Our Chapter all started with Dr. Jim Manion and his wife Pat in 1983. They responded to an ad in the Los Angeles Times seeking interested individuals willing to start a Make-A-Wish Chapter in their state.

Thanks to their vision, Make-A-Wish Nebraska was formed in 1983 with the very first wish granted for wish kid Brenda, who wished to go to Walt Disney World®. Forty years later, our Nebraska Chapter has grown to 3 offices -- one in Omaha, one in Lincoln and one in Kearney, and there are over 350 volunteers throughout the state that have helped grant 3,100+ wishes.

Children who are currently waiting for their wish have had to endure more than most people endure in a lifetime. For these children, feelings of isolation and hopelessness are all too familiar. Hospital stays, doctor's visits and painful treatments are their "new normal." Family plans are put on hold indefinitely. Uncertainty looms, constantly.

Wishes aren't just "nice to have," they are a necessity. For many children, a wish marks a significant turning point in their medical journey. The hope of a wish come true is more than a temporary escape, it is a wellspring of strength to keep fighting for better days.

Because of YOU, we were able to grant the heartfelt wishes of 116 children this past fiscal year. Because of YOU, a wish child has been able to **envision a brighter future** through a wish. Because of YOU, local wish kids and their families will have lasting memories for years to come.

THANK YOU for being a part of their journey and for making these wishes a reality! Your support has made wishes possible and has helped us fulfill our mission of providing hope, strength and joy to children battling critical illnesses in Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Brigitte Young
President/CEO

Brad Ewerth
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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).

Harlan's Story

Written by Harlan's mom, Erin

Heart defects happen in 1 in 100 babies. We found out at our 20-week ultrasound that our 3rd child would have severe congenital heart disease. Harlan was born with half a heart, and his defects are 1 in 200,000 for how unique his heart is.

Our world was turned upside down knowing three open heart surgeries were the only known means of survival. Harlan's first open-heart surgery was at 2 days old and his second at 5 months old. His heart continues to be monitored and a third surgery is in his future. I had to become his full-time nurse, and NG tube fed him the first 6 months of his life. Having a 4-year-old and 2-year-old at home at the same time, seemed unreal that keeping it all together would be possible, but I've learned on this journey that you don't know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have.

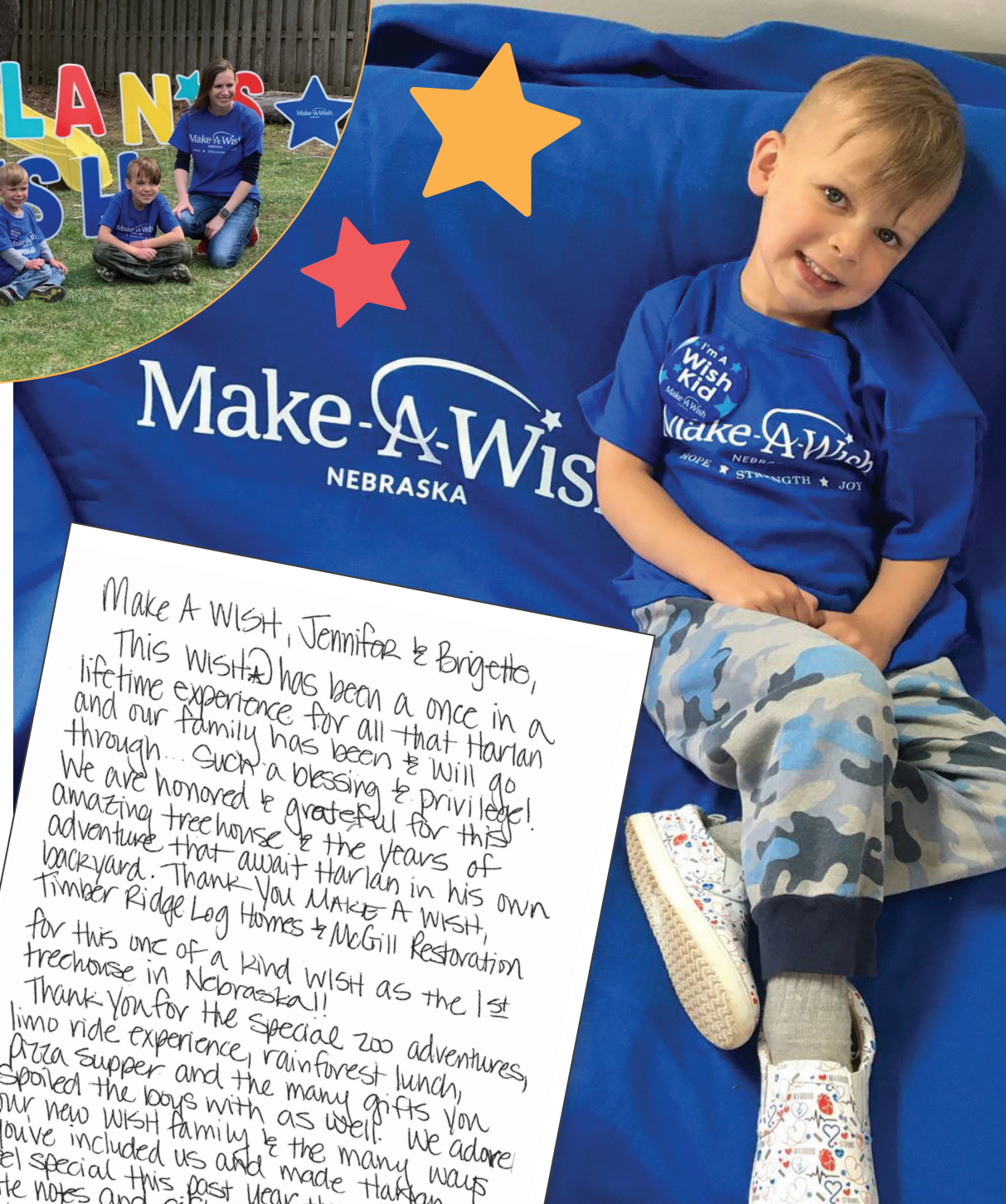
There is no cure, only monitoring, procedures and surgeries. This disease is lifelong. Harlan was, and is a fighter and showed us with his amazing resilience that he would defy the odds and be a warrior. On the outside not knowing Harlan, you'd

never know he fights this battle every day, but if you ask him where his heart is he'll show you and tell you ...the strongest hearts have the most scars.

He is your typical boy who loves the outdoors, playing in the mud, riding bikes, fishing and keeping up with his older brothers. Harlan's love of climbing, the outdoors & trees at an early age drew him to wanting a treehouse from the time he could talk. Receiving this wish to have a treehouse means he can go into his backyard every day and have a place to escape, play and just be a kid, away from doctor appointments and medications he takes daily, to be free and let his imagination run wild.

This wish lets us see, feel and experience the hope we all want for kids like Harlan who battle childhood diseases daily. This wish has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all that Harlan and our family has been and will continue to address in the years ahead. We are honored for this amazing treehouse and the years of adventure that await Harlan in his own backyard.

Truly, we are forever grateful.



Make A Wish, Jennifer & Brigette,
This wish has been a once in a lifetime experience for all that Harlan and our family has been & will go through... Such a blessing & privilege! We are honored & grateful for this amazing treehouse & the years of adventure that await Harlan in his own backyard. Thank You Make A Wish, Timber Ridge Log Homes & McGill Restoration for this one of a kind wish as the 1st treehouse in Nebraska!!
Thank you for the special zoo adventures, limo ride experience, rainforest lunch, pizza supper and the many gifts you spoiled the boys with as well. We adore our new wish family & the many ways you've included us and made Harlan feel special this past year through the little notes and gifts in the mail as well. Truly we are forever grateful for you all!
God Bless, Erin, Nathan, Harlan, Abel & Ollie



Our future, Our challenges, Our Needs...

Our vision is to provide a wish for every eligible child in Nebraska.

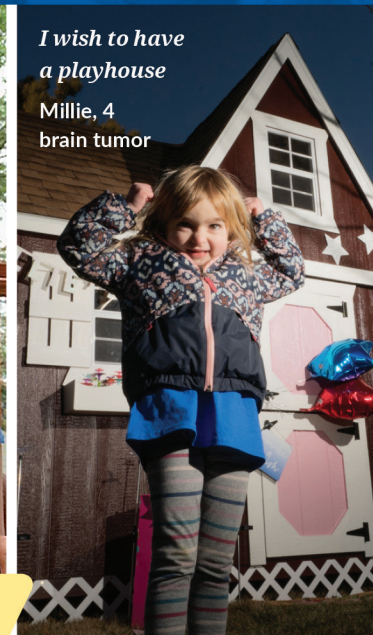
In March 2020, Make-A-Wish made the difficult decision to pause granting wishes involving travel in order to protect the safety

and health of our wish kids and their families. However, we never stopped granting wishes during that time. We continued to grant many non-travel wishes. Some children changed their initial travel wish to something they could enjoy right way. But many

children waited 2 years, until travel restrictions were lifted, to experience their heartfelt wish to travel.

Due to the delays caused by COVID19, Make-A-Wish Nebraska now has more wishes waiting to be granted than ever before. Currently, we have over 180 wishes – our largest number ever – waiting for their wish.

We anticipate this larger than normal number of kids waiting for their wish to come true to be elevated for the next 2 ½ to 3 years. In order for us to fulfill our vision of granting the wish of every eligible child, we must raise crucial funds and build the capacity to grant all the wishes of critically ill children when they are able and ready to go over the next several years.



The Impact of Make-A-Wish

Trauma Relief



9 out of 10 wish kids reported that the wish experience relieved them from traumatic stress.

Emotional & Mental Well-Being



9 out of 10 wish parents saw their child's emotional well-being improve with a wish.

Turning Point



9 out of 10 medical providers say a wish increased compliance with treatment.

Strength to Fight



8 out of 10 wish kids reported that their wish gave them the strength to fight their critical illness.

Long-Term Impact



9 out of 10 medical providers observed that the wish experience has a positive impact on a child's physical well-being and overall quality of life.

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 \$1,000 or more are listed in this report. This report is also available on 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, 2022 to Aug. 31, 2023.

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

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All Knights of Columbus members who passed in the last year

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

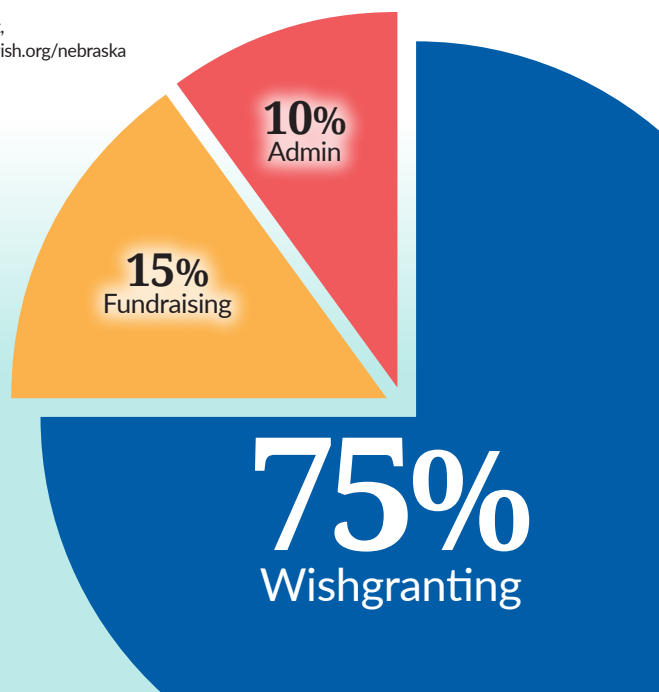
Forever in Our Hearts.

Financial Statement

Audited financial statement for Fiscal Year 2023 (September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023)

	TOTAL
Revenues, gains, and other support:	
Public Support:	
Contributions	2,450,073
Grants	259,127
Total public support	2,709,200
Internal special events	1,246,637
Less costs of direct benefits to donors	(239,309)
Total internal special events	1,007,328
Investment income (Loss), net	644,080
Other income	6,200
Net assets released from restrictions	
Total revenues, gains, and other support	4,366,808
Expenses:	
Program services – Wishgranting:	2,852,348
Total program services	2,852,348
Support services:	
Fundraising	553,293
Management and general	375,516
Total support services	928,809
Total program and support services expenses	3,781,157
Change in net assets	585,651
Net assets, beginning of the year, as adjusted	11,866,842
Net assets, end of the year	12,452,493

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



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.



Planned Giving

Create a legacy that will impact wish kids for years to come. By including Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Nebraska in your estate plans, you can provide the resources necessary to grant inspiring wishes for children now and into the future.

* 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.

this year. Wishes ranged from the ever-popular trip to Walt Disney World® Resorts, Hawaii, to going on a shopping spree, to meeting their favorite celebrity.

WISH

I wish to meet Minnie Mouse
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to have a camper
I wish to go to Legoland®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to an NBA Finals Game
I wish to go to Disneyland®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to the Outer Banks in N.C.
I wish to have a "pinked out" camper
I wish to go to Hawaii
I wish to meet Guy Fieri & be on Grocery Games
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to New York City
I wish to have a 2-seater side-by-side
I wish to go to Walt Disney World® and Universal Studios®
I wish to have a camper
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to re-do my truck
I wish to re-do my basement
I wish to go to Mall of America
I wish to have a gaming computer system
I wish to meet the Millennial Farmer
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to have a hot tub
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to have a Semi-Truck play structure
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Hawaii
I wish to go to Hawaii
I wish to go to the Florida Gulf Coast
I wish to have a gazebo
I wish to meet a Lego Master Builder at Legoland®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Alaska
I wish to go to Colorado
I wish to go to the Daytona 500
I wish to have a fishing boat
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®

NAME, AGE, ILLNESS, HOMETOWN

Rylee, 7, cancer, Ithaca
Oakley, 4, cancer, Bellevue
Kaiden, 16, cystic fibrosis, Omaha
Anthony, 18, cancer, Yutan
Gabriel, 18, leukemia, Ashland
Caysen, 7, leukemia, Papillion
Wyatt, 4, leukemia, Omaha
Joslyn, 14, leukemia, Omaha
Liam, 4, cancer, Omaha
William, 14, bone marrow transplant, La Vista
Lily, 5, leukemia, La Vista
Eric, 4, brain tumor, Omaha
Jonah, 9, cystic fibrosis, Bellevue
Andres, 5, kidney transplant, Omaha
Grace, 10, brain tumor, Omaha
Jayden, 9, liver transplant, Omaha
Benjamin, 17, cancer, Omaha
Easton, 10, cystic fibrosis, Eagle
Grace, 10, end stage renal failure, Omaha
Caleb, 10, cystic fibrosis, Papillion
Peter, 17, cancer, Omaha
D'Mitri, 4, liver transplant, Omaha
Presley, 11, cystic fibrosis, Omaha
Leo, 10, neuromuscular disorder, Omaha
Keira, 15, autoimmune disorder, Lyons
Elijah, 12, malignant brain tumor, St. Edward
Roland, 9, cystic fibrosis, Bellevue
Averie, 12, cancer, Omaha
Brady, 15, congenital heart disease, Omaha
Calvin, 7, leukemia, Omaha
Sutton, 4, nervous system disorder, Palmer
Reed, 11, cystic fibrosis, Yutan
Aftyn, 9, cystic fibrosis, Omaha
Nathan, 14, kidney transplant, Papillion
Brooklynne, 13, genetic disorder, Lincoln
Teodoro, 15, neuromuscular disorder, Omaha
Evelyn, 3, metabolic disorder, Omaha
Deshaun, 4, cancer, Omaha
Freyja, 3, malignant brain tumor, Omaha
Carter, 3, nervous system disorder, Omaha
Jade, 9, malignant brain tumor, Omaha
Anjari, 18, blood disorder, Omaha
Jacelyn, 16, nervous system disorder, Omaha

WISH

I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to have a FBI Cybersecurity experience
I wish to have a college scholarship
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Hawaii
I wish to have a fun exercise room
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to have a dinosaur playhouse
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Discovery Cove in Florida
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Hawaii
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to attend the Buffalo Bills Spring Training
I wish to go to Bethesda Game Studios
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Volcano National Park
I wish to go to Hawaii
I wish to have a corgi puppy
I wish to go to Super Ninetindo World in California
I wish to have an art studio
I wish to go to Oahu
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Hawaii
I wish to go to Hawaii
I wish to have a gazebo
I wish to have a shopping spree
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to have sensory equipment
I wish to go to Walt Disney World®
I wish to meet Mickey Mouse
I wish to have a professional music recording studio
I wish to go to Hawaii

116 Reasons to Smile!

Walt Disney World Resort/Land.....	60	UTV.....	2
Hawaii.....	13	Gazebo.....	2
Domestic Travel.....	11	Fishing Boat.....	1
Shopping Spree.....	5	Animal - dog.....	1
Camper.....	4	Car refurbished.....	1
Room Redo/Makeover.....	4	College Scholarship.....	1
Celebrity.....	4	Gaming Computer System.....	1
Hot Tub/Pool.....	2	FBI Cybersecurity experience.....	1
Playstructure.....	2	Professional Music Recording Studio.....	1

Total Wishes in FY23.....116



wish.org/nebraska

800-760-WISH (9474)

Headquarters

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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



/MakeAWishNebraska



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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 and click "Sign up for our newsletter" toward the bottom of the web page.

To refer a child, visit wish.org/nebraska