

*I wish to meet the  
San Francisco 49ers*

Chris, 17  
congenital heart disease



Make-A-Wish®  
IDAHO

Our Record-Breaking Year

2023 Fiscal Year

# Our People

## Staff

Janie Best, President and CEO

Matt Dahlgran, Director of Mission Delivery

Renee Beal, Director of Operations

Julie Thomas, Regional Director (East Idaho)

Josh Peterson, Communications Manager

Michelle John, Regional Manager (North Idaho)

Mo Bagley, Sr. Mission Delivery Coordinator

Joshua Hemphill, Wish Coordinator

Cae Odell, Special Events Coordinator

## Board of Directors

Abby Black, Chair - Retired

Grant Porter, Vice Chair - Bluebird Home Loans

Neil Gulley, Treasurer - CBIP Services

Jason Hover, Secretary - InfoStrategy Consulting

Travis Gerhard, TMG Financial Group

Matt Bauscher, Bauscher Real Estate

Nick Schlekeway, Amherst Madison Real Estate

Breanne Simplot, J.R. Simplot Company

Samantha Schmitt, St. Luke's Health System

Mark McGuire, Retired

Becki Woodbury, CLM Marketing and Advertising

Vicki White, Retired

Wendi Lete, Kount

## The Mission

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



Make-A-Wish® has once again been recognized as the #1 Most Trusted Nonprofit Operating Locally Across 50 States based on Morning Consult polling data.

## Connect with us

For all the latest news about Idaho wishes and events.



[facebook.com/MakeAWishIdaho](https://facebook.com/MakeAWishIdaho)



[instagram.com/maw\\_idaho](https://instagram.com/maw_idaho)



[linkedin.com/company/make-a-wish-idaho](https://linkedin.com/company/make-a-wish-idaho)



[youtube.com/@MakeAWishIdaho](https://youtube.com/@MakeAWishIdaho)



[twitter.com/MakeAWish\\_Idaho](https://twitter.com/MakeAWish_Idaho)

Website: [idaho.wish.org](https://idaho.wish.org)

Email: [idaho@idaho.wish.org](mailto:idaho@idaho.wish.org)

Boise Office

310 W. Idaho St. 83702

208-345-9474

Post Falls Office

362 N. Herborn Place 82854

208-342-8878

# Chair and CEO Update



**Abby Black**  
Chair, Board of Directors



**Janie Best**  
President and CEO

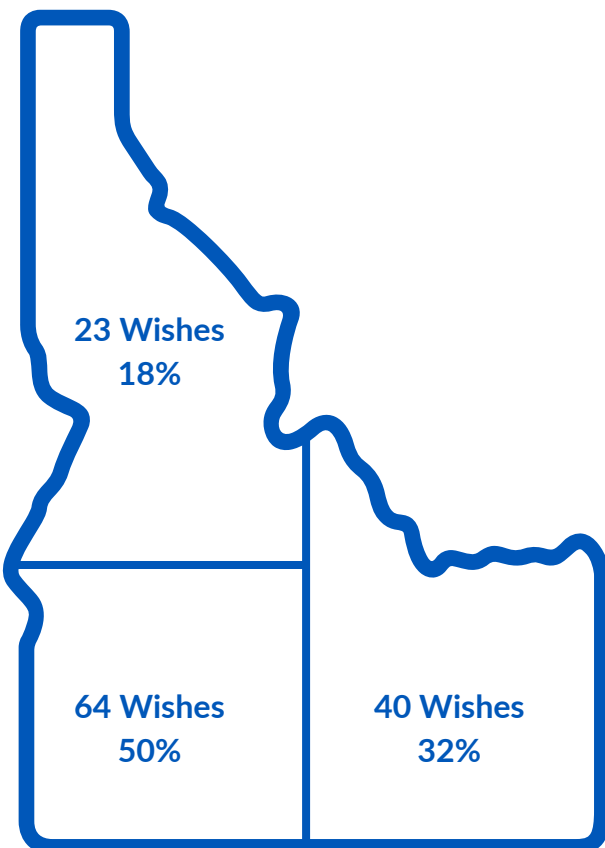
## Board Message

We couldn't be more pleased to have a record-setting year granting 127 wishes. Along with this record came exciting growth with our second office location in Post Falls, Idaho. We are thankful for so many individuals, families, and corporations who contributed to Make-A-Wish Idaho. We've set lofty goals for this coming year as the need for wishes continues to rise, but their impacts are so long lasting. Thank you for your support!

## CEO Message

We are so grateful for the backing of so many Idahoans, supporting Idaho children with critical illnesses. Your generosity allows us to create life-changing, unique, and magical wishes for children throughout the state. For 2024, we plan to grant 140 wishes! This would not be possible without all of you who invest in our mission. Thank you for continuing to grow with us, and cheers to a happy and healthy year!

## Wishes Granted by Region



## Wishes Granted by Type



*I wish to go*  
**69%**



*I wish to have*  
**24%**



*I wish to meet*  
**7%**

# Worth the Wait

## Isaac's Wish Marked a Return to Normal

Isaac became a fan of WWE wrestling years ago. His mom, Amy, doesn't remember how he learned about wrestling, but over the years, his love for it has grown. There have been WWE-themed birthday parties, school reports, and of course his bedroom décor features all his favorite stars. Unsurprisingly, Isaac wished to experience a WWE live event and to be surrounded by the WWE champs and to meet his hero, John Cena. Isaac's bags were packed to travel to meet his hero, but then the coronavirus pandemic came along and delayed Isaac's wish.

Isaac ended up having to wait two years for his wish to come true. "I can definitely say IT WAS WORTH THE WAIT!" Amy wrote. "Not only did [Isaac] get to attend both nights of Wrestlemania, he met his hero, John, and got to be a part of [Cena's] Wrestlemania entrance. The entire experience was amazing!"



On Saturday, Isaac went to rehearse with John Cena for their Wrestlemania entrance. While backstage, he met several other wrestlers and received their autographs. Isaac was also inducted into the Circle of Champions and given a plaque to commemorate the event. Plus, the WWE gave him apparel and other gifts. "A huge thank you to WWE and Make-A-Wish®...for this once-in-a-lifetime experience that Isaac will cherish forever!" Amy wrote.



Little did Jessa know that the end of her wish was just the beginning. On her flight back to Boise, a Southwest crew member asked Jessa to come to front of the plane. He explained to the other passengers that Jessa was coming home from her Disney World wish trip and that Jessa had recently beaten cancer and was now cancer-free.

A video of the announcement went viral, getting over a half a million views in just a few days and racking up over 400,000 likes. Jessa's story appeared on *Upworthy*, *Insider*, *The Today Show*, and *Good Morning America*.

"It was just an incredible experience, just having that many people, that many strangers, love your child in that moment. They were so proud of her and wanted the best for her," Jessa's mom, Laura said.

**Watch Jessa's  
Heartwarming Story**



# Wishes by Type

## 60 Disney Wishes



I wish to go to Disney World  
Stanley, 6  
respiratory disorder

## 15 Travel Wishes



I wish to go to New York City  
Josie, 12  
cystic fibrosis

## 15 Shopping Sprees



I wish to have a shopping spree  
Benny, 10  
cancer

## 13 Hawaii Wishes



I wish to go to Hawaii  
Carmen, 13  
nervous system disorder

## 9 Wishes To Meet



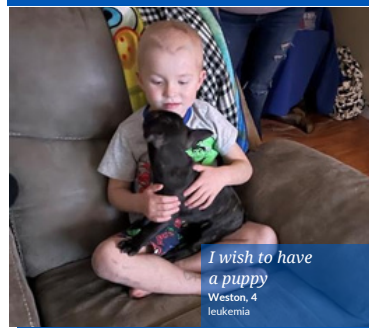
I wish to meet the Phillies  
Joseph, 11  
cancer

## 4 Electronics Wishes



I wish to have a camera  
Brandon, 18  
leukemia

## 4 Pet Wishes



I wish to have a puppy  
Weston, 4  
leukemia

## 2 Vehicle Wishes



I wish to have an ATV  
Beatriz, 16  
kidney transplant

## 2 Playhouses



I wish to have a play house  
Paisley, 4  
heart transplant

## 1 Hot Tub



I wish to have a hot tub  
Avery, 11  
genetic disorder

## 1 Wish to Donate



I wish to give to Sacred Heart  
Claire, 16  
cancer

## 1 Wish to Give



I wish to give softball equipment to the school  
Emersyn, 14  
cystic fibrosis

I wish to go to Disney World  
Laura, 3  
cancer



## Laura's Wish A Trip Full of Wows

"This trip has been a dream come true, exceeding our expectations," wish mom Teresa wrote in a letter.

"We spent the last two years in the midst of so many treatments, hospital stays, constant stress and pressure after the diagnosis of our daughter Laura, that we could not imagine a trip like this as a family. For us this is a miracle, and it is really incredible."

"This trip has been wonderful. Laura lived every moment with a constant smile, from the moment we left home to getting on the plane and arriving at Give Kids the World, it was spectacular. When she saw each princess, participated in all the Disney activities, it was incredible to see her face so full of happiness and the word she repeated the most was: Guao." (Wow)



# FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

Revenue \$1,838,630

Expenses \$2,035,380

Net income \$(196,750)

Total net assets \$2,095,580



*I wish to go to shopping in L.A.*

Kiara, 12  
cystic fibrosis

## Kiara's Wish The Wish that Broke a Record

Kiara flew to Los Angeles for her shopping spree wish. A limo chauffeured Kiara, her friends, and her mom around the city, a real luxury if you've ever driven there. They went to the Nike Store at the Grove and then to Tiffany and Company on Rodeo Drive. During her shopping spree, she obtained 10 phone cases, four pairs of shoes, books, makeup, and clothes. She also stopped by Paramount Studios and the Venice Boardwalk.

Her wish was 101st wish of the '23 fiscal year, a new record for the Idaho chapter. Make-A-Wish Idaho granted 127 in total during the year 2023, setting a new all-time record

## Jaleel's Wish A Wish that Provided Closure

After a hard-fought battle with leukemia, Jaleel made a wish to meet the Memphis Grizzlies and his favorite player Ja Morant. The team invited Jaleel and his dad to sit courtside during their next match, and Jaleel got to be an official ball kid for the game.

"I think besides making him feel the most alive I've seen him in two years since all this happened, it has directly impacted him. He has been playing basketball non-stop since. When we have been home, that's all we talk about. I feel like it ended a chapter in his life with him getting to go to the game and meet his favorite player and having the other players be really cool and down to earth," wish dad Jemier said.

*I wish to meet the Memphis Grizzlies*

Jaleel, 11  
leukemia



# EVENTS

Walk for Wishes Twin Falls



Jersey Mike's Month of Giving



Christmas in Color



*I wish to go to the San Diego Zoo*  
Susanna, 11  
cancer

Gebert-Arbaugh Polar Bear Challenge

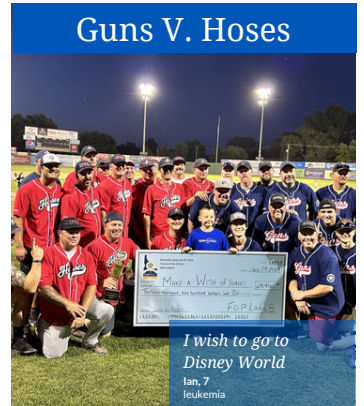


Serving Up Wishes

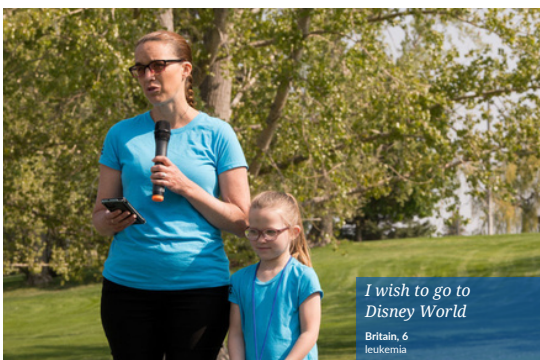


*I wish to go to Hawaii*  
Maddie, 11  
cancer

Guns V. Hoses



*I wish to go to Disney World*  
Ian, 7  
leukemia



*I wish to go to Disney World*  
Brittain, 6  
leukemia

Walk For Wishes East Idaho



North Idaho Office Opens



Wishes Golf



Kids For Wish Kids



Walk For Wishes Boise



*I wish to have a clubhouse*  
Maddex, 7  
cancer

World Wish Day



## Paisley's Wish Backyard Memories

"There were several times that we weren't sure if Paisley would pull through. We do not take any day or moment for granted. Although we have seen so much hardship, trials, sadness, and stress, we have also seen miracles and kindness beyond words."

Her new playhouse has a ten-foot slide, walkways on both sides, a rock-climbing wall, a tire swing, and a large front porch. Her older brothers have particularly enjoyed leaping from the playhouse on the nearby trampoline. Paisley's dad has also built an indoor play area for Paisley, so even it when rains or snows, she can have fun!

Paisley, also known as PJ or Peanut, was diagnosed with a heart defect at nine months old. She's had seven open-heart surgeries, including a heart transplant and a kidney transplant. "This has been the hardest year of our lives," said wish mom, Natalie. "We spent over a year in the cardiac ICU."

Paisley is currently doing much better, all things considered. She still struggles with blood pressure issues and kidney problems, and her parents have decided to home school her for health reasons. Paisley might be stuck at home for the foreseeable future. So when Paisley was selecting a wish, she was looking for something to make the stay-at-home life more exciting;

"Huge thank you to Make-A-Wish Idaho and Wood Manor Playhouses. This is such an amazing day for our sweet girl. After spending an entire year in the hospital, we are happy to be home and this playhouse is the perfect wish for us. Can't wait for all the memories we will make in our backyard with this," Natalie wrote.



## Levi's Wish A Catch With Crawford

Picking a wish was simple for Levi. He wanted to go to San Francisco and meet his favorite team and his favorite players. When he and his family arrived in San Francisco, they were transported to the hotel in a limo. They were able to spend some time at the beach and at the Golden Gate Bridge before the big day. They received the VIP treatment from the Giants who even flashed Levi's name up on the jumbotron. Levi watched the Giants beat the Padres, but the best part was when Levi met his favorite player, Brandon Crawford, and played catch with him.

Crawford even gave Levi his jersey.

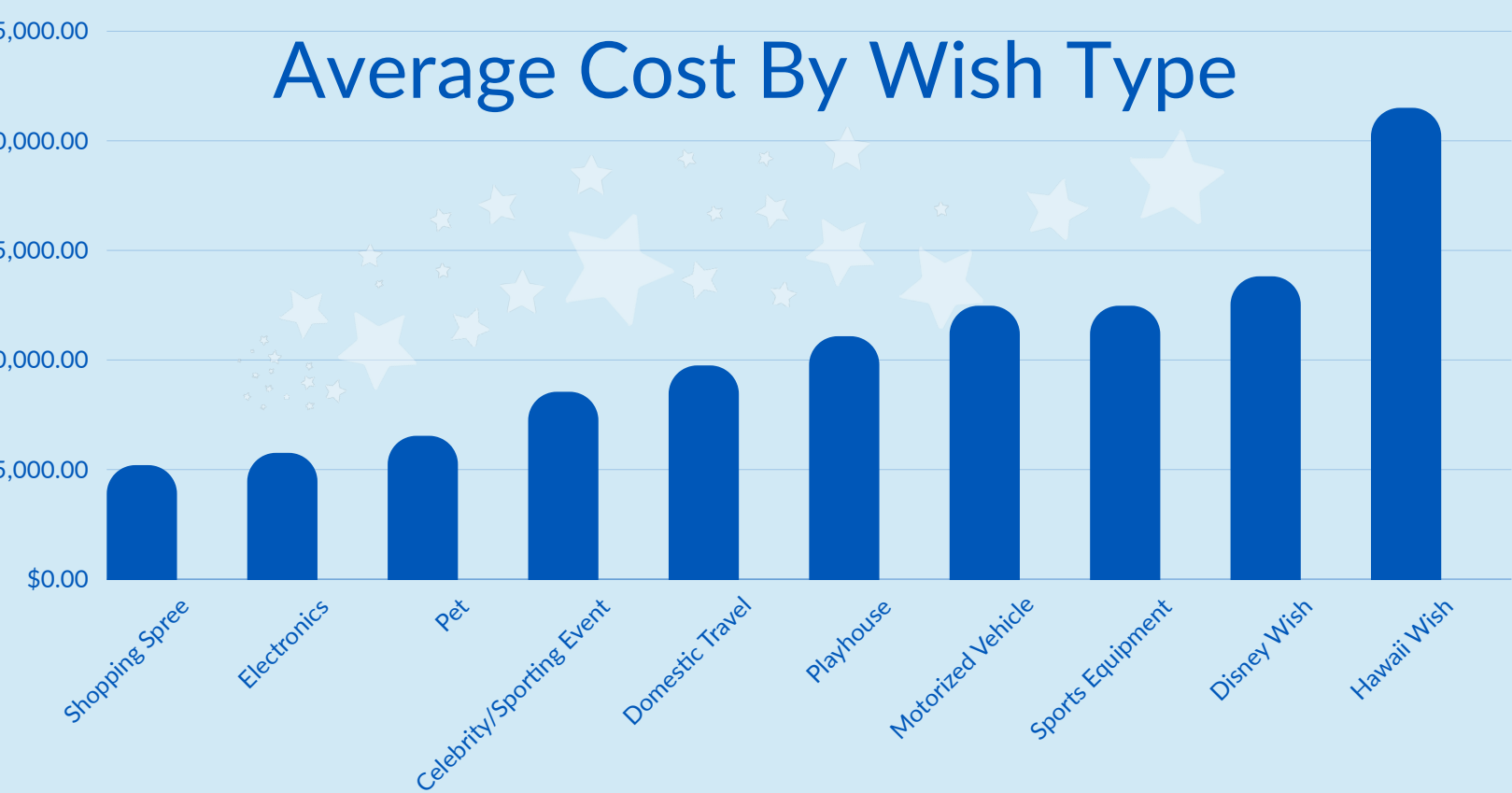
"What an amazing opportunity," wish mom Angie wrote on social media. "Make-A-Wish® gave our family a trip of a lifetime. Levi and our family were blessed by so many caring people each day we were there."



In 2016, Levi was diagnosed with a neuromuscular disorder that causes severe muscle weakness. He goes to Utah twice a year to see specialists at the university, has daily physical therapy, and does exercises at home.



# Average Cost By Wish Type



## Grey's Wish A Chance for Childhood



Grey was diagnosed with leukemia in early 2022. He was life-flighted to Primary Children's hospital in Salt Lake City where he received chemotherapy, and his treatments will continue until 2024. Grey also struggles with speech delays and has other special needs.

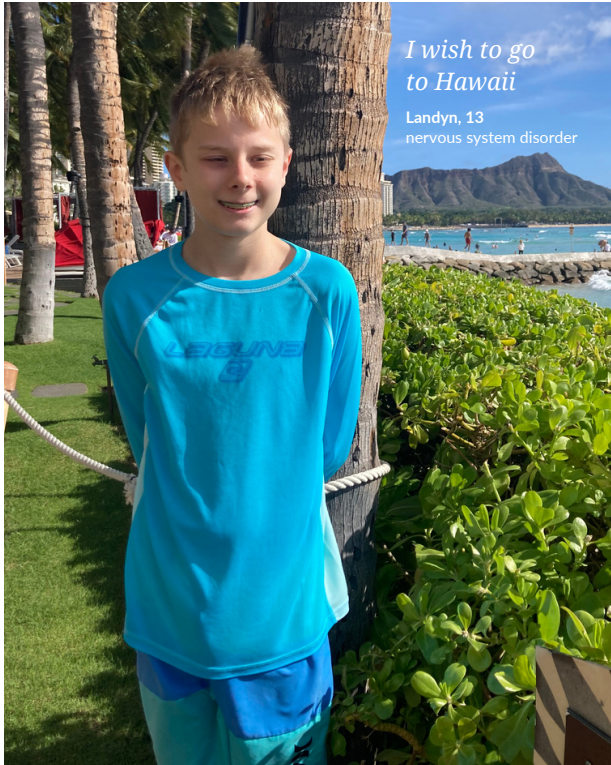
However, Grey can light up a room with his presence. He is beloved by his nurses and his lunch lady who he greets with a hug everyday. In March 2023, Grey's wish to go to Disney World came true. The wish was made possible by a grant from the Janice Seagraves Family Foundation.



Grey's mom, Brookeanne said, "We had the best vacation as a family, and it was super special for Grey. We explained that very nice people had made it possible for us to do all the fun things in Florida, and that made him smile. Grey had a blast going on every roller coaster that he was tall enough for. "When I asked him what his favorite part was he said 'All of it!' Grey got to relax, be a kid, and have the most fun he's ever had. Not a boy who is worried every time we mention the 'doctor' or who has learned how to be careful with almost anything he does. He had a week to just focus on fun, and he really needed that, a chance to forget what he's going through. He loves talking about the trip everyday, and now he has all these memories to look back on to help get him through the rest of his treatment. Thank you so much to those who were able to make this happen for Grey and to give him some of his childhood back."

# Landyn's Wish

## Hawaii Is His Happy Place



Landyn is described as a kind-hearted, thoughtful, polite and sweet kid. He enjoys camping, riding dirt bikes, swimming, four-wheeling, collecting rocks and shells, playing with his dogs and putting together Legos.

He has a nervous system disorder that causes severe seizures which are sometimes accompanied by short-term memory loss. These seizures are very stressful and emotionally exhausting for him and his parents who often stay up all night to watch over him. However, Landyn is empowered by his supportive family and the medical professionals who care for him. "It amazes me how resilient he is after going through what he goes through daily. He is a fighter," said his mom, Rachel.

Landyn knew he wanted to go somewhere tropical for his wish. He gets cold swimming in pools and wanted to be in a place where he could swim as much as he liked without freezing.



When selecting his wish, he wrote about wanting to slide down a waterslide near or into the ocean. His mom said that "Landyn went down the waterslide into the pool next to the ocean more times than I can count, each time he had a smile on his face with pure joy!"

During the trip, the family went to Sea Life Park. Landyn interacted with dolphins and also fed tropical fish. He was surprised that the fish would eat lettuce and how fast they would snatch the leafy vegetable from his hands.

"Landyn was incredibly happy to be in Hawaii; his anxiety was better and he was just over-the-moon excited to get to spend quality time with his family and explore Hawaii. For the week, he was stress free and not thinking about his seizures and other health issues and was able to just have fun with his family," said Rachel.

"Landyn says Hawaii is his favorite place to be, he calls it his 'Happy Place' and can't wait to go back someday!"



# Help Us Grant Local Wishes Today

A large majority of Make-A-Wish alumni, parents, and medical providers overwhelmingly agree that wishes:

- Reduce anxiety and depression
- Improve compliance with medical treatment
- Relieve traumatic stress
- Act as a coping mechanism
- Bring families together
- Strengthen relationships with loved ones
- Augment the child's emotional well-being
- Provide self-esteem and confidence



Help us grant a wish at [idaho.wish.org](http://idaho.wish.org) or via the QR code



*I wish to have  
a golf cart*

Thomas, 15  
genetic disorder



*I wish to go  
to Hawaii*

Victoria, 15  
nervous system disorder

"In the spring, Tommy's wish for a golf cart came true. This golf cart is Make-A-Wish blue and is large enough to accommodate Tommy as he grows. There are very few things that Tommy can get out and do, so his golf cart has been a real blessing, as now, he will grab us by any limb, lead us to his golf cart and ask to go for a fun spin. The golf cart also helps him get out more, and he gets more exercise which has, no doubt, benefitted him tenfold."

- Laura, wish mom

"We cannot thank you enough for Victoria's awesome trip to Hawaii! She has wanted to experience warm ocean water since she was little, and you made her dreams come true. From the first phone call sharing the great news to the flight home, Victoria felt so special. We experienced once-in-a-lifetime excursions that we will never forget. The reality of therapy and doctors appointments felt so far away during our time in paradise, and we can't thank you enough for giving us this."

- Shauna, wish mom

# Become A Volunteer



Join a caring community of volunteers who transform lives. Together, we can make countless wishes come true.

Your time and unique talents are critical to bringing strength and hope to wish kids when they need it the most. In fact, our volunteers are at the heart of every wish experience.

Make-A-Wish volunteers consider their work impactful and meaningful. And, their efforts are rewarded—not in dollars or cents, but in the incredible difference they make in the lives of our wish kids. Volunteers even have the freedom to choose when and how they would like to help transform lives in our community.



Learn more at [wish.org/idaho/volunteer](https://www.wish.org/idaho/volunteer)

or email Matt Dahlgran  
[mdahlgran@idaho.wish.org](mailto:mdahlgran@idaho.wish.org)

# OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

## Planned Giving

A planned gift, such as a bequest in your will or trust, life insurance designations, or stock donation ensures your support for the children we serve well into the future. You'll do more than help grant wishes, you'll create a legacy that will impact our wish kids for years to come.

## Securities Donations

If you have appreciated capital assets you've held for more than a year, such as stocks, there may be advantages to donating those directly to Make-A-Wish Idaho instead of selling them and paying tax first and then donating the net proceeds.

## Retirement Distributions

You can turn the required distribution from your IRA into a gift that creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. If you are 70 ½ or older, you can contribute up to \$100,000 from your IRA tax-free (\$200,000 for qualifying married couples).

contact Janie Best at [jbest@idaho.wish.org](mailto:jbest@idaho.wish.org) for more information

# UPCOMING EVENTS

May 11, 2024

TWIN FALLS, IDAHO  
TWIN FALLS VISITOR CENTER

Make-A-Wish®

**WALK**  
**FOR WISHES**®  
MAGIC VALLEY

Make-A-Wish®

**WALK**  
**FOR WISHES**®  
NORTH IDAHO

June 1, 2024

COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO  
RIVERSTONE PARK

Make-A-Wish®

June 8, 2024

IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO  
RUSS FREEMAN PARK

**WALK**  
**FOR WISHES**®  
EAST IDAHO



October 18, 2024

BOISE, IDAHO  
CENTRE ON THE GROVE

# Adopt-A-Wish

The Adopt-A-Wish program provides you with the opportunity to sponsor a child's wish and share in the joy of wish granting. Every unforgettable wish we grant is funded by organizations and people just like you.

These life-changing wishes replace fear with confidence, sadness with joy, and anxiety with hope—helping children with critical illnesses see the impossible as possible. By sponsoring a wish, you provide much-needed funding that will be used to grant the wishes of children with critical illnesses while rallying a team of heroes in the community to make a positive impact.

## Next Steps

- Fill out and return Corporate Adopt-A-Wish Form
- Make payment
- Choose 2 team members to become Wish Pals
- Work together as a team monthly to determine what will be done for the wish kid to keep him or her excited about their wish

## Benefits

- Receive a story about a wish child
- Recognition on chapter website and social media
- Possible opportunity for personal engagement with wish family
- Alignment with the Make-A-Wish name
- Companies enjoy enhanced employee engagement, boosted morale, and build brand loyalty

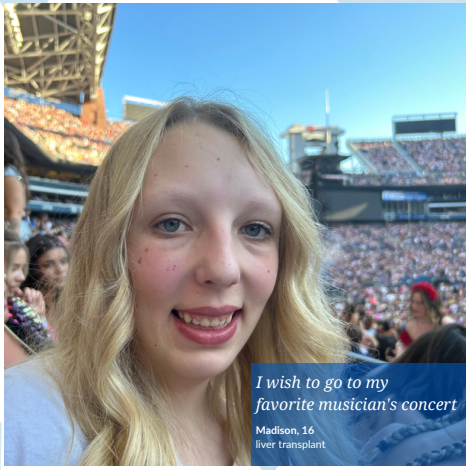


Make-A-Wish  
IDAHO

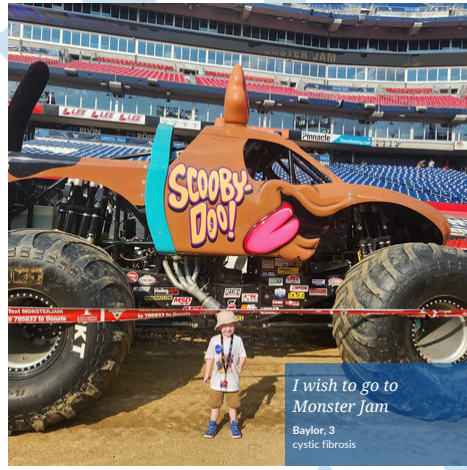
### ADOPT-A-WISH

*I wish to go  
to Disney World*

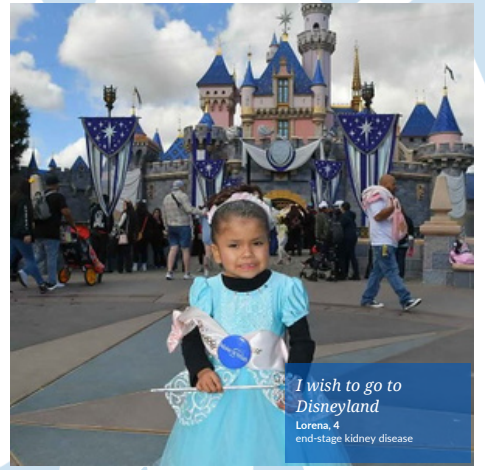
Ella, 8  
cancer



*I wish to go to my favorite musician's concert*  
Madison, 16  
liver transplant



*I wish to go to Monster Jam*  
Baylor, 3  
cystic fibrosis



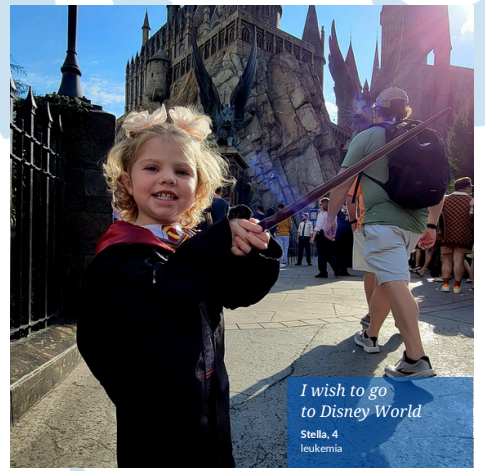
*I wish to go to Disneyland*  
Lorena, 4  
end-stage kidney disease



*I wish to go to Disney World*  
Benson, 10  
leukemia



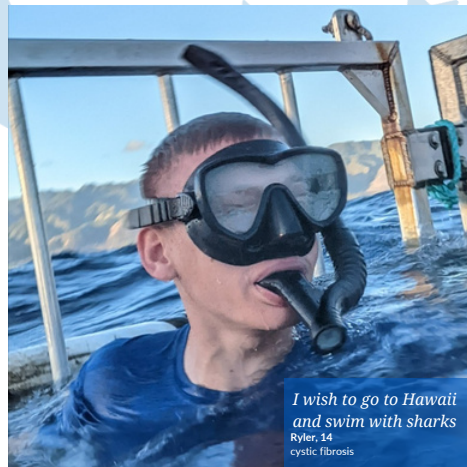
*I wish to go to Hawaii*  
Isla, 6  
leukemia



*I wish to go to Disney World*  
Stella, 4  
leukemia



*I wish to go to New York City*  
Bronson, 13  
lymphoma



*I wish to go to Hawaii and swim with sharks*  
Ryder, 14  
cystic fibrosis



*I wish to go to Disney World*  
Jane, 13  
lymphoma



*I wish to have a shopping spree*  
Rodrigo, 13  
cancer



*I wish to meet Inside the NBA*  
Kace, 19  
nervous system disorder



*I wish to go to Alaska*  
Caden, 20  
congenital heart disease