

Wish Maker

*I wish
to be an
Atlanta
Braves
baseball
player!*

Kabrien **12** *Cancer*
Kabrien's wish was a true homerun!




Together,

**WE CREATE LIFE-CHANGING WISHES
FOR CHILDREN WITH CRITICAL ILLNESSES.**

Who We Are and Who We Serve

Since Make-A-Wish Mississippi's inception in 1984, more than 2,634 children with critical illnesses have experienced life-changing wishes. We serve children in the 65 southern most counties in the state, spanning every socioeconomic factor and ethnic background. We've never turned away a child eligible for a wish. A family's financial status, race or religion has no bearing on whether a child will receive a wish.



Hope begins with us. Each and every one of us has the power to be a light of hope for a child as they battle a critical illness, bringing transformation and joy to the child and their family when they need it most. Wishes increase hope, strength, joy, confidence, self-esteem, quality of life and well-being. Make-A-Wish Mississippi is celebrating the 134 life-changing wishes you made possible in fiscal year 2023. As you read through the information in the annual report, please remember how important you are to all the progress we have made ... and all that is yet to come. Your impact is profound and meaningful.

Thank you for your commitment to our organization and the precious lives we transform each year.

OUR STAFF



Allison Tyler
President & CEO



Nikki Smith
Finance & Operations Director



Lynette McBrayer
Donor Relations Manager



Rachael Keyes
Senior Director
of Development



Micah Uline
Development Director,
MS Delta & Golden Triangle



Shellie Moses
Development Director,
MS Gulf Coast



Alex Jordan
Development Manager



Jane Walsh
Kids for Wish Kids
Coordinator



Stacy Craig
Wish Manager



Mechelle Smith
Wish Assistant



601.366.9474
800-819-4072



ms.wish.org



[/mswish](https://www.facebook.com/mswish)



[@makeawishms](https://www.instagram.com/makeawishms)



[@MakeAWishMS](https://twitter.com/MakeAWishMS)



[Make-A-Wish Mississippi](https://www.linkedin.com/company/make-a-wish-mississippi)



[Make-A-Wish Mississippi](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Letter from Board Chair

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as board chair of Make-A-Wish Mississippi this past year. We have an outstanding group of people amongst our staff and our board.

Our mission is to grant every eligible child's one true wish. In accomplishing our mission, we bring joy and hope to our wish kids and their families. Witnessing wish reveals in person is almost indescribable. The impact of a wish goes beyond the receipt of the wish. Every wish family that I have met talks about the joy and hope that the wish brought to their child and to their family. Thanks to all of our supporters, once again we have experienced a record year in granting 134 wishes.

To our wish families, thank you for allowing us to be a part of your lives and to grant your child's wish. To our supporters, I cannot thank you enough for your generosity and continued support.

To my fellow board members and our staff, you have done and continue to do amazing work, and it is a pleasure to serve with you.



Michael V. Usher

Michael Usher, Board of Director's Chair



Board of Directors



Michael Adcock
VP, Population Health
Magnolia Health Plan



Landry Adkins
Retired HR Director



Benje Bailey
Member
Brunini Law Firm



Kirby Boteler
President & CEO
Align IT Group



Jeff Cox
Owner
Birdsong Construction



Jill Dale
Wish Mom



Sunny Desai
CEO
Desai Companies



Chris Espy
Attorney
Espy Law



Tondra Hall
HR Senior Manager
Nissan



Michael Hill
Managing Director
FORVIS, Inc.



Stephen Kennedy
Attorney
PKM Law Firm



Jay Knight
Owner
Soul Nutrition



Sophie Lampton
Member
Ergon Foundation



Lee Mitchell
EVP/Chief Real Estate
Officer
BankPlus



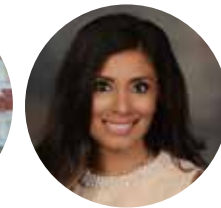
Jeremy Nelson
President
Element Wealth



Craig Peterhansen
Retired
Chevron Corporation



Michael Rozier
President
Rozier Construction



Dr. Jasmine Sandhu
Pediatric Physician
Mississippi Center for
Advanced Medicine



Josh Smith
Partner
Higginbotham Insurance



Jerry Sullivan
CEO/Senior Managing
Partner
Endeiro Capital Partners



Dr. Spencer Sullivan
President & CEO
Mississippi Center for
Advanced Medicine



Staci Tyler
Chief Accounting Officer
EastGroup Properties



Will Van Kirk
Founder
Van Kirk Wealth Advisors



Lindsay Varnadoe
Attorney
Morgan & Morgan

Medical Advisors



Dr. Davis Dereck
Children's of MS - Pediatric
Hematology Oncology



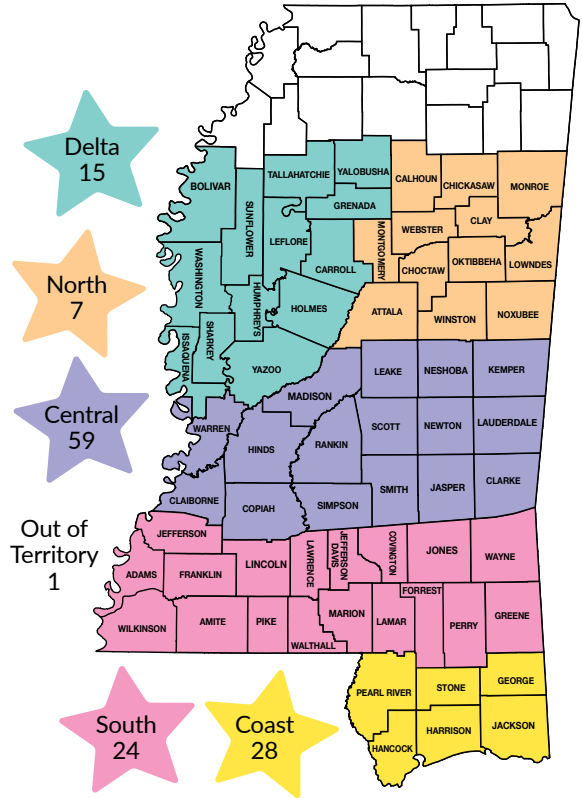
Dr. Marcus Lee
Children's of MS
Pediatric Neurology

FY 2023

Annual Report

Wishes by Category

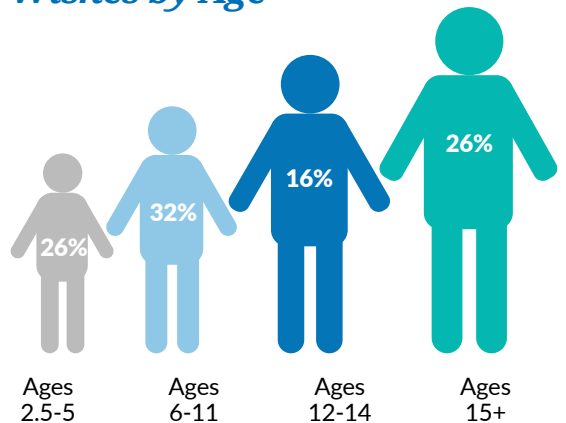
134 Wishes granted in FY23



Wishes by Diagnosis

Cancer	51%
Heart Condition (Heart Transplant, Congenital Heart Disease)	10%
Nervous System Disorder	11%
Blood Disorder	9%
Transplant (Bone Marrow, Kidney, Lung)	6%
Cystic Fibrosis	5%
Neuromuscular Disorder	4%
Respiratory Failure	2%
Genetic Disorder/Rare Disease	2%

Wishes by Age

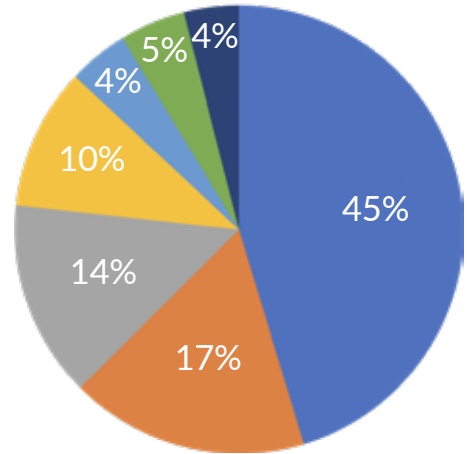


FY 2023

Financials

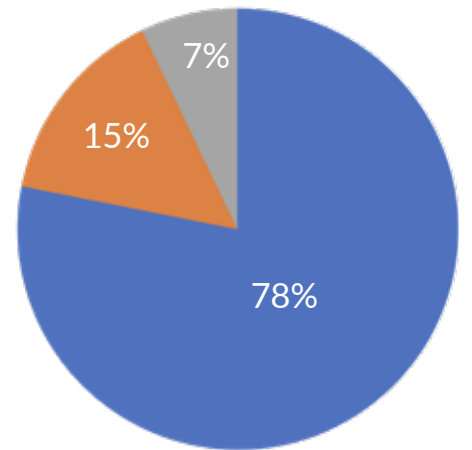


Special Events, Net	\$1,578,030	45%
In-Kind Gifts	\$598,558	17%
Major Gifts / Planned Giving	\$495,500	14%
Direct Public Support	\$355,814	10%
Grants	\$151,100	4%
Corporate Gifts	\$164,816	5%
Wish Relief and Other	\$137,916	4%



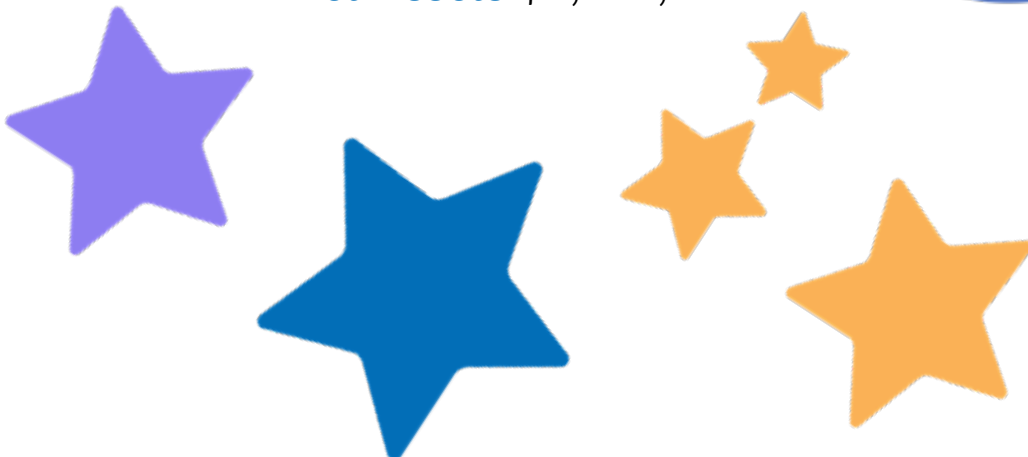
Revenue \$3,481,734

Program Expense	\$2,152,518	78%
Fundraising Expense	\$406,345	15%
Management & General	\$195,961	7%



Expense \$2,754,824

Net Assets \$3,430,933



Why Wishes Matter

Make-A-Wish Mississippi has the unique ability to transform a child and family's life during some of their most difficult trials. That's because a wish creates an opportunity for hope and the chance to experience life beyond illness.

In Mississippi, every 2.6 days, a wish is granted for a critically ill child. For these children, a wish can help them feel better and give them the strength they need to fight - and even overcome - an illness. A wish replaces a child's fear with confidence, sadness with joy and anxiety with hope. It's why health professionals use a wish as part of their treatment plan. It unites families in life-changing moments that help them cope and grow stronger. And it brings together caring communities of people who improve children's lives.

Thank you for believing in the power of a wish! Your support is opening the door to endless possibilities for kids and their families when they need it most.



I wish to have new gaming electronics!
Noah, 12
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy



I wish to have a sensory playroom!
Gracen, 5
Chronic Respiratory Failure



I wish to have a hot tub!
Aidan, 16
Epilepsy

Wish Kid Kabrien

On Valentines Day of 2022, Kabrien was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. In September of 2021, Kabrien's mom noticed that he was losing weight. He soon started complaining of back pain, eventually becoming nauseated and vomiting. His mom took him to the doctor. His blood work came back abnormal, and he was referred to a hematologist and a rheumatologist. At the rheumatologist's office visit he was diagnosed with swollen lymph nodes and a biopsy was performed. It was then that Kabrien found out that he had Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

In the blink of an eye, Kabrien went from a normal life of playing multiple sports to a life filled with doctor appointments and uncertainty. Even though life changed for Kabrien, "He never let cancer or treatment faze him. Unless we told you, you would have never known he was fighting for his life," said Kabrien's mom.

This summer Kabrien was granted his wish to be an Atlanta Braves player for a day. After arriving at Truist Park, Kabrien was greeted with a great big hug by Austin Riley and given an Acuna necklace. He then began his behind-the-scenes tour of the Braves locker room, where Kabrien was able to get in a little baseball drill time with Ron Washington. Next, Kabrien was presented a custom-made jersey from Acuna, his favorite player. After the locker room tour, Kabrien got to stand with the coaches as he watched batting practice. He really racked up on the autographs and got to meet Chipper Jones. After batting practice, Kabrien and his family were escorted to the Delta Club, where they feasted on an unlimited selection of food. Finally, they were escorted to their amazing seats, directly behind home plate. The Braves won the game, and it was followed by an amazing firework show. What a way to end the day! "Kabrien absolutely loved every second of his wish! It was the most amazing experience of his Life," said Kabrien's mom.

Now, Kabrien is nearly one year cancer free, full of energy, and always has a smile on his face.



Wish Kid Ames

Playing in the backyard, riding four wheelers and go carts, playing cops and robbers; these are the things that nine-year-old Ames Lee did on a normal day. On January 6, 2022, this all changed for Ames. Just one week after he had just killed his first deer, Ames was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. "Life was bad," Ames shared. "I was in the hospital for months getting chemo and being separated from my brothers. I didn't get to go to school or participate in any extra-curricular activities. I wasn't able to be around many people. Life was hard."

As part of Ames' treatment journey, he needed a bone marrow transplant. The family began searching for a match. They found their match in Ames' younger brother, Parker. So now, not only did the Lee's have one child undergoing medical procedures, they had two.

"I've worked in healthcare for the past twenty years and have seen many kids get their wishes granted. I never imagined I would have a child that would be on the receiving end of a Make-A-Wish,"

said Wendy Lee, Ames' mom. "Now as a parent having gone through this experience, I understand on a personal level, the mission."

The family began discussing and researching places they would like to visit. Because of Ames' love for the outdoors, nature, and wildlife they decided that Yellowstone would be the perfect place. "I got to see something incredible," said Ames. "It was so different than Mississippi. All the bison, coyotes, bears, and moose we got to see in real life were amazing. I even spotted a momma bear with two cubs playing and that was pretty cool!"

Now that the family has returned home, they are filled with fond memories of their trip. They are already talking about wanting to go again. "We made lots of memories on this trip and at least once a week someone in our family says that they are ready to go back to Yellowstone," said Wendy. "I would like to thank everyone who made this trip possible for our family. It has been such a gift for us. Make-A-Wish is so important for these kids who have a life-changing diagnosis," Wendy added. "Thank you again for making Ames' wish come true!"



Wishes

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

In the pages that follow, you'll see strength, hope, and transformation written on the faces of these wish kids as they have their life-changing wish come true.

We celebrate all 134 wishes granted from September 2022 to August 2023. Many of these wishes are highlighted on the following pages.



I wish to go to Hawaii!
Allie, 17

Hypoplastic Left Heart



I wish to go to New York City!
Ansley, 10

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia



I wish to go on a shopping spree!
Alexander, 17

Hodgkin Lymphoma



I wish to go to Disney World!
Asia, 5

Sickle Cell Disease



I wish to go to a Golden State Warriors NBA Basketball Game!
Elijah, 16

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy



*I wish to go to
Disney World!*
Autumn, 6

Wilm's Tumor



*I wish to have a
swimming pool!*
Brantley, 9

Cystic Fibrosis



*I wish to go to the
U.S. Virgin Islands!*
Eliot, 14

Aplastic Anemia



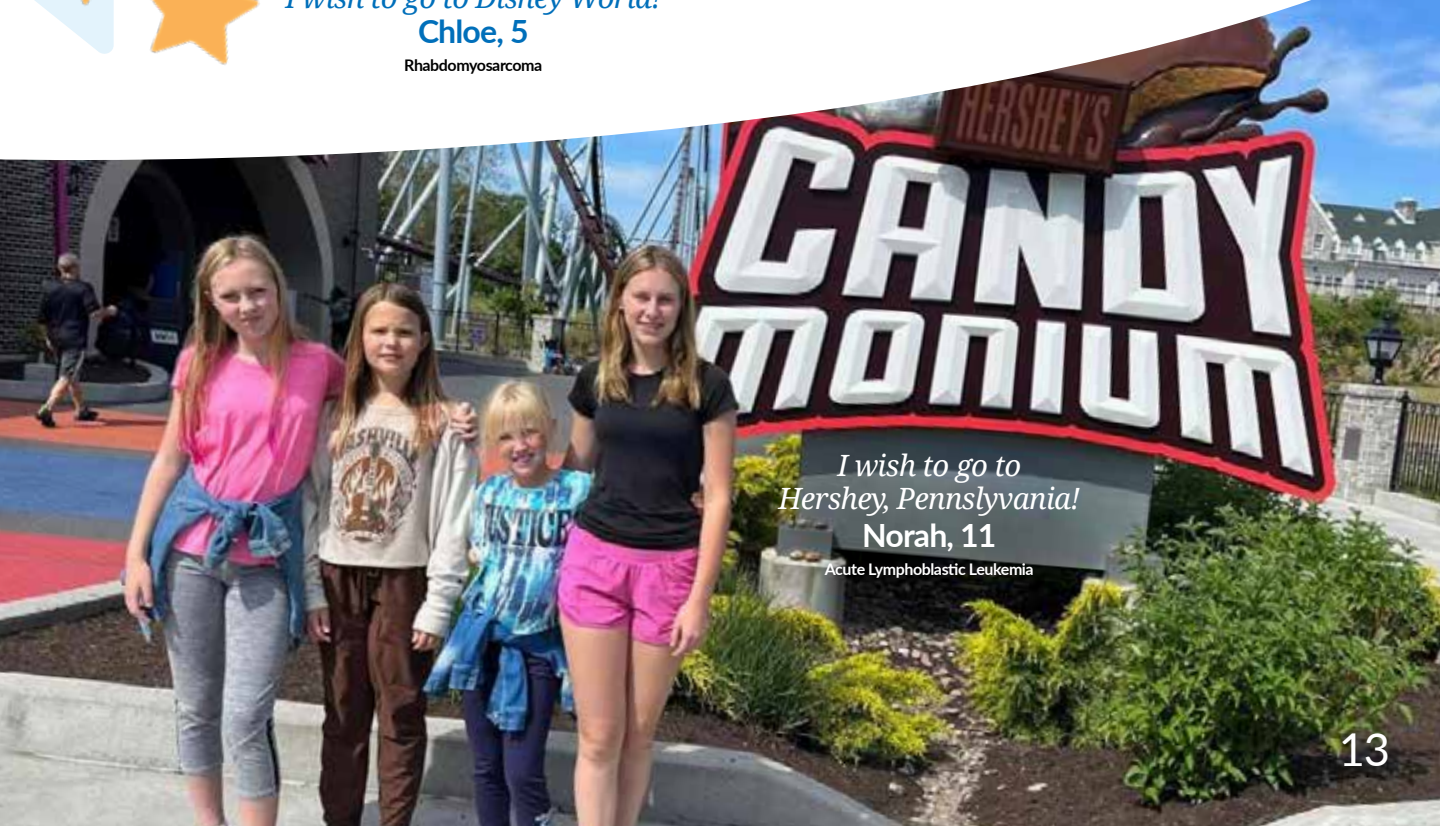
I wish to go to Disney World!
Chloe, 5

Rhabdomyosarcoma



I wish to go to Hawaii!
Ella, 12

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia



*I wish to go to
Hershey, Pennsylvania!*
Norah, 11

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia



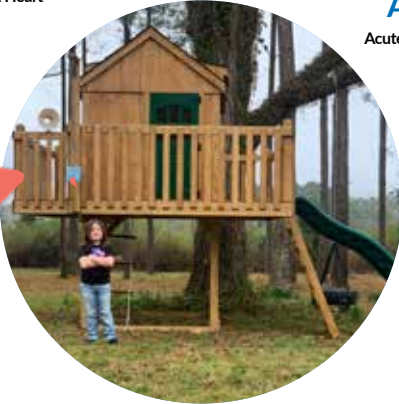
*I wish to go to
Disney World!*
Blake, 7

Hypoplastic Left Heart



*I wish to have a
Frozen playhouse!*
Arya, 5

Acute Lymphoblastic
Leukemia



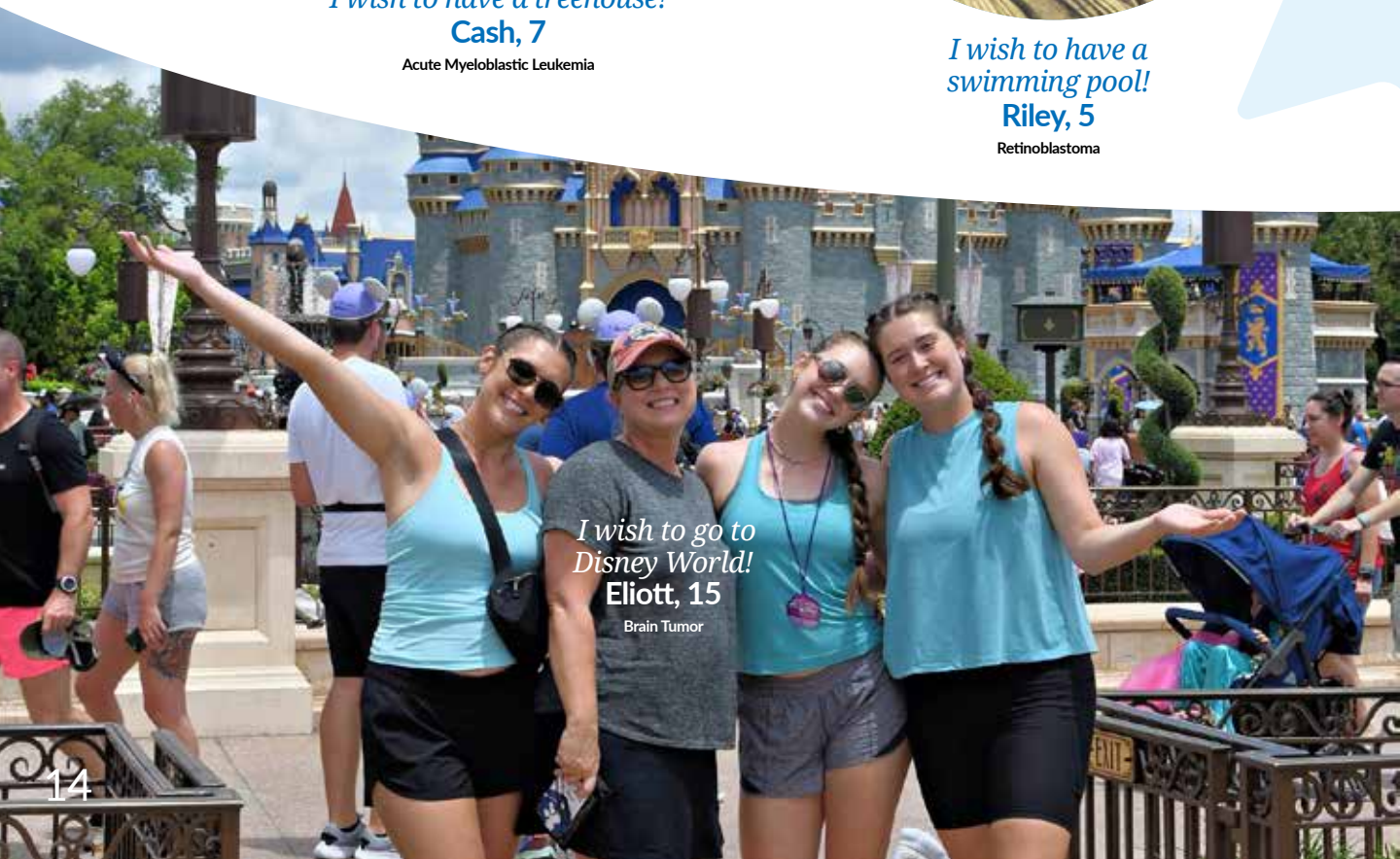
I wish to have a treehouse!
Cash, 7

Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia



*I wish to have a
swimming pool!*
Riley, 5

Retinoblastoma



*I wish to go to
Disney World!*
Elliott, 15

Brain Tumor



I wish to go to Disney World!
Parker, 5

Sarcoma



I wish to have a playset!
Lina, 5

Lennox-Gastaut syndrome



I wish to go to Disney World!
Cealey, 7

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia



I wish to have a room redo!
Quinn, 6

Hypoplastic Left Heart



I wish to have an online shopping spree!
Mohamad, 12

Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma



I wish to go to Disney World!
Isyania, 8

Sickle Cell Disease



I wish to go have a Honda Rancher 420 4-wheeler!
Sydney, 17
Hodgkin's Lymphoma



I wish to go to Pigeon Forge!
Logan, 8
Kidney Transplant



I wish to have a Miniature Schnauzer!
Payton, 9
Brain Tumor



I wish to go to Disney World!
Jace, 8
Neoplasm of Spinal Cord



I wish to go to Disney World!
Sean, 9
Tetralogy of Fallot





*I wish to go to
Disney World!*
Mary, 6

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia



*I wish to have a
wheelchair-accessible
playset!*
Mason, 15

Heart Condition



*I wish to go to the
Smokey Mountains!*
Sawyer, 5

Heart Condition



*I wish to go to
Disney World!*
Willie, 4

Aplastic Anemia



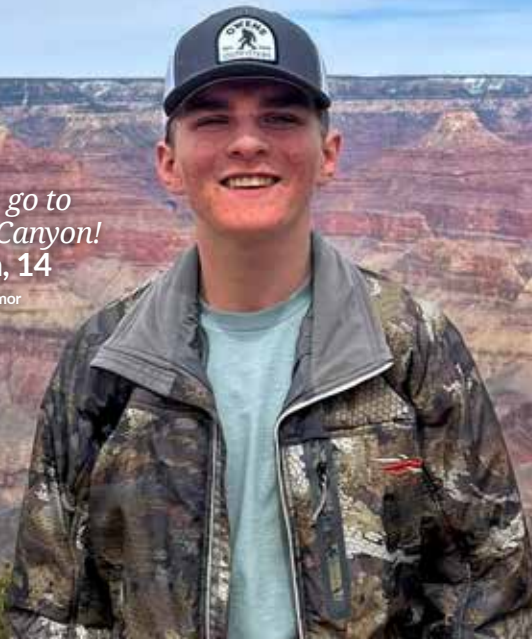
*I wish to go to
Disney World!*
John Hudson, 7

Hypoplastic Left Heart



*I wish to go to
the Grand Canyon!*
Griffen, 14

Brain Tumor



Contributions

We gratefully acknowledge the generous gifts given to Make-A-Wish Mississippi. Gifts included were given between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023.

Thank you for your generous support!

Wish Trustee \$50,000+

Anonymous
Asbury Foundation
of Hattiesburg, Inc.
Delia & Ben Wadlington
Ergon Foundation, Inc.
Larry and Michael Johnson
Family Foundation

Gulf Coast Automotive
Group, LLC.
Heather Smith
Horne
Jeff Cox
Kathy & Joe Sanderson
Loveland Products
Lynn & James Prude
Magnolia Cruisers
Magnolia Health Plan
Mark S. Jordan

Emily & Stuart Whitaker
Erin & Aaron Bischofberger
Farrah & Stephen Kennedy
Guaranty Bank
James Ceranti Nissan
Jerry Sullivan
Jimmy Jon Josey
Lynette & Kevin McBrayer
McRight Services, LLC
MDJAB Insurance
Solutions, LLC

Mary Ann & James Schnur
Nursing Management, Inc.
PACCAR Engine Company
Renee Bowman
RJ Young
Sarah & Donald Shirley
Sonia & Rav Bedi
Sunny Desai
The Steve and Melody
Golding Foundation

Jennifer & Chris Mathison
Kate & Michael Boerner
Katie & Gray Wallace
King and Associates
Cardiology
Kristina & Johnathan
Barnes
Laura & Rod Henderson
Lost Pizza Company
Mary Ann & Davis Richards
Mary Beth & William

Wish Visionary \$20,000+

Anonymous
Betsy & Wade Creekmore
Blue Cross & Blue Shield
of Mississippi
Bracken Construction
Company, Inc.
Chi Omega MSU
Cruisin' The Coast
Delta Regional Foundation
H.F. McCarty Jr.
Family Foundation
Keesler Federal
Credit Union
Mamie & Trey Herron
Mike Rozier Construction
Company, Inc.
Pinebelt Foundation
Shirley & Duffy McKenzie
Sloane & Josh Smith
Steel Dynamics
ZA Construction, LLC

Family Foundation
MGM Resorts Foundation
Mississippi Baptist
Medical Center
Mississippi Center
for Advanced Medicine
Mitchell Distributing
Pamela & Craig
Peterhansen
Patty & Shorty Sneed
Paul and Mary Utterback
Foundation
Paul Davis Restoration
of the Golden Triangle
Rosemary & Billy Atwood
Scarlet Pearl Casino Resort
Schudco Limited
SDI Bio Carbon Solutions
Shackleford Construction
Simmons Erosion Control,
Inc.
Southern Farm Bureau
Life Insurance Company
The Dusty Club
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Watkins Construction
& Roofing
Will Van Kirk
Winston Plywood & Veneer

Members Exchange
Credit Union
Mississippi Nurses
Foundation
Mississippi Sports Medicine
& Orthopaedic Center,
PLLC
Missy & Barry Bridgforth
Nancy E. Powell
Nicholas Air
Peggi & Michael Usher
Shorty Jones
Singing River Health System
Southern Farm Bureau
Casualty Insurance
Company
Southwest Distributors, Inc.
Staci & Brent Tyler
StorageMax
Tauzin Wealth Management
Towns Around Biloxi, PHC
Wendi & Dave Thomas

Wish Pacesetter \$2,500+

Ally & Hunter Shackelford
Angela & Norman Katool
Ashleigh & Todd Lamas
Audrey & Aafra Sellers
BACOT Foundation
BankFirst Financial Services
Bayer Company
Ben Nelson Golf
& Utility Vehicles, LLC
Beth Rose
Billy Howard
Bonnie & George Whitfield
Brenda Barron
C3 Construction Services, Inc.
Christina & Brian Johnson
Coast Aesthetics
Community Bank
Cyndi & Kyle McCoy
Cypress Lanes
D and G Services, LLC
D.N.P., Inc.
Dale & Michael Hill
Danielle & Lance Atchley
Deep South Heavy Haul, LLC
Doctors Diet Program
of Mississippi
Ellen & Eric Prince
Enterprise Holdings
Foundation
First South Farm Credit
Ford Vision Center
GCM Insurance
Hancock Whitney
Hard Rock Casino & Resort
International Paper
J&A Investments, LLC
J. Carter and Company
Jasmine & Naveen Sandhu
Jay Fenton

Baldwin
McNeely Plastics
Miskelly Furniture
Mitchell Metal Products, Inc.
Morgan White Group
MS Physical Therapy
North American Coal MS
Lignite Mining Company
North Sunflower
Medical Center
Pilger Title Company
Portico Homes
Regions Bank
Rex Lumber Brookhaven, LLC
Rodney F. Triplett
Sarah & Nick Newcomb
Seven Cities Foundation
Sharon Ferguson
Shawn Browning
Sheila & Rett Crowder
Shelley & Patrick Gough
Silverleaf Construction, LLC
Sonja & Russ McReynolds
SoSo Strong Pediatric Brain
Tumor Foundation, Inc.
South Central Regional
Medical Center
Southern Insurance
Specialist, Inc.
Southern Ionics
Southwest Wholesale
Starkville Pediatric Clinic
Teresa & Andy Appel
Terri & Bill Iupe
The TatoNut Shop, Inc.
Thornton Construction
Company, Inc.
Trak Traders, Inc.
Veronica Carullo
& Mark Annunziata
Warren Paving
Waste Pro
William Hilburn

Wish Benefactor \$10,000+

BankPlus
Birdsong Construction
Co., Inc.
Car Donation Foundation
Century Club Charities, Inc.
Desai Companies
Express Employment
Professionals
Favre 4 Hope Foundation
Feild Co-Operative
Association, Inc.
Fleetway Market

Wish Maker \$6,500+

Abby & John Ross
McCartney
All Creatures
Veterinary Services
Anonymous
Benchmark Engineering
and Surveying, LLC
Bruce Warren
Charlie Stephenson
City of Vicksburg
EastGroup Properties

Wish Innovator \$5,000+

Amanda Dixon
Ashley & Mark Willson
Chi Omega -
Epsilon Delta Chapter
Customized Distribution, LLC
Dana & Charlie Stephenson
Dean Wingo
Deborah & Stanley Hill
Dickerson Petroleum
Howard Technology
Solutions, Inc.
Island View Casino
and Resort
Jeri & Jonathan Krebs
John David Crow
Kim & Danny Chancellor
Kimberly Chambers

Wish Friends \$1,000+

501st - Mississippi Rancor Raiders Garrison
Alexine & Mike Covington
Alfred Rankins
Alicia & Louie Palmisano
All State Septic Tank Service Inc.
Allen Beverages
Ally Purvis
AMWINS
Amy & Louis Elias
Amy & Steven Cole
Andy Dixon
Ann & Michael Lamb
Ann Claire & Steven Kelly
Anna & Jay Stroble
Anna & Tony Frey
Antione Anderson
April Gossett
Arrow Exterminators
Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
Atmos Energy
ATV Adventures
Audrey & Rocky McBride
Austin Taylor
B & G Equipment
Balch & Bingham, LLP
Bank of Brookhaven
Baptist Memorial Hospital - Golden Triangle
Betsy & Preston Dowell
Better Business
Telecommunications
Beverly & Jason Janoush
Biloxi Pro Hockey, LLC
BPS Filing Solutions
Branning Law Firm, P.A.
Brighton Southern Homes
Brown, Langston & Taylor, PLLC
Bruce Blaise
Burr & Forman, LLP
Cadence Bank
Candie Simmons
Carl Hogan Toyota
Carnival Association of Long Beach, Inc.
Cassidy & Matthew Majure
Cathy & Guy Martin
Cathy M. Denman
Central Electric Power Association
Charles Haley
Charlotte & Aubrey Corley
Cherilon Stevens
Chi Omega
- Chi Delta Chapter

Christine N. Davis

Chucks Paint & Body Shop
Clancy & Lee Mitchell
Clark Beverage Group, Inc. MS
Coast Electric Power Association
Coby Parker
Converged Technologies, LLC
Copiah Bank
Cory Waldrop
Courtney & Chris Wiseman
CSpire
Dana & Joe Dazet
David Hancock
Deigratia Charitable Foundation
Derrin Green
Design Precast, Inc.
Dixie Waldrop
Donald J. Rafferty
Duane & Jo Ann Raanes
Dunn Utility Products
Ed Grantham & Associates
Eden Wallace
Eliza & Rick Garraway
Elizabeth & Greg Buyan
Elizabeth Fanslow
Elizabeth Smith Hall
Elery & Justin Jones
Elton G. Beebe
Emry Oxford Foundation
Eric Wahlen
Erin Hederman
Eutaw Construction
Faye & Landry Adkins
Felisha & Matt Haley
First Commercial Bank
FORVIS, LLP
Frances & Billy Ware
Franks Chevrolet Buick GMC
Friends of Brent Anderson
Garner Nichols Dental
Gayle & E.P. Lutken
Ginger Burks
Ginny & Marcello DeHart
GreenPoint Foundation, Inc.
Greenville Steel Sales
Hailey & Justin Thompson
Haley & Clint Shackelford
Hannah & Sam Waller
Harold Parks
Harrah's Gulf Coast
Hercules, Inc.
Higginbotham Insurance Agency
Hillary & Chesley James
Hillier & Anthony Burks
Hollis Shoemaker, Inc.
Home-Land Title
Independent Insurance

Agents of Mississippi

Irby Construction Company
Iron Order of Mississippi
Jacqueline & Frank Bordeaux
Jamie & Carl Jones
Jane Michie & Jason Cotton
Jean & Jack Denton
Jeffry Jarboe
Jennifer Jenkins
Jennifer Laxson
Jennifer Willis
Jill & David Dale
Jo Reed
Joe & Ann McDaniel
John Bernardi
John F. Waits, III
John Fair
John Lewis
John Lucas State Farm
John Stevens
Julie Darty
Justin Chancellor
Justin S. Haydel
Kassie & Lee Penton
Katie & Jake Banks
Katie & Jeremy Nelson
Katie & Joseph Varino
Katie & Sam Sandoz
Katy & Keith Kelly
Katie Howard
Keesler Spouses Club
Keith White Ford Lincoln
Kenneth Daniels
Kirk Satterfield
KPMG
Krista & J. Forrest Rhemann
Krystal & Jeremy Minor
Larry Clark Chevrolet
La'Verne Edney
Lee Carson Construction
Lee Plumbing
Lemon Mohler Insurance
Leslie & Jamie Hunt
Lindsay & Todd Vanlandingham
Lisa Ross
Louisville Rotary Club
LPK Architects, P.A.
Magnolia Charitable Foundation
Mallorie & Greg Bonds
Mandy & Donald Baker
Manny Vanegas
Marie & Brian Sanderson
Maron Marvel Bradley
Anderson & Tardy, LLC
Mary & Michael Sunderman
Mary Ann & Ryan Little
Mary Bradley
Material Girls, LLC

Mathew G. Huff

Matthew Young
Mechelle & Win Smith
Melanie & Jamey Burrow
Melanie Ward
Melinda & Thomas Lewakowski
Meredith & James Creekmore
Michael A. Powell
Michael Allen
Michelle & Andy Gillich
Mississippi Federal Credit Union
Mississippi Power Company
Mississippi Title Group, LLC
Mitchell Eye Care
MMC Materials, Inc.
Mona & Ryan McBride
N.L. Carson Construction Company
Nan & Mike Sanders
Neil Scrimshire
Neshoba County General Hospital
New Yorker's Sunday School Class, Christ United Methodist Church
Nucor Steel Jackson, Inc.
Nutrien Ag Solution
OGASI
Owen Stratton
Patricia A. Jenkins
Paula & Billy Hewes
Phelps Dunbar, LLP
Plum Creek Environmental Technologies, LLC
Precision Pools and Construction, LLC
Prestige Concrete
Prince Oil Company
PriorityOne Bank
Rachael & Franklin Keyes
Rachel & Scott Leggitt
Renasant Bank
Renasant Insurance
Restoration 1 of Jackson
Richard McKissack
Rick Shepherd
Rob Love
Rob Stinson
Robert Eisiminger
Royal Trucking Company
Sallie & Michael Dier
Sally Roberts
Samuel Jon Pointer
Sarah Walker Studios
Schwartz, Orgler & Jordan, PLLC
Serena Gillich
ServPro of NE Delta Lands

Shannon P. Patterson

Sheila Bossier
Sheri & Chris Jans
Sonia Hawkins
Sqwincher
St. Dominic Hospital
Stephanie & Craig Busbea
Steven Adams
Steven Howard
Steven Williams
Sue & Peter Keyes
Summit Consulting, LLC
Summit Wealth Group
Tammy & Todd Boolos
Tanya Dinning
Tellus Operating Group, LLC
Tennessee Valley Authority
Terri & John Tomsik
TGM Land Company, LLC
The Citizens Bank
The First
The Greenville Clinic
The Leonard W. and Betty Phillips Foundation
The Little Wine Shoppe
The McGinnis Lumber Company, Inc.
The Troxler Group
Thelma Davis
Thomas S. Elmore Foundation
Tiffany & Austin Watts
Timothy Usey
Tish Gammill
Tondra & John Hall
Treasure Bay Hotel & Casino
Tress & Andy Johnson
Trustmark
Turf & Aquatic Specialties
Ud Gosselin Family Foundation
United HealthCare Services
Van Kirk Wealth Advisors
Village Animal Hospital
W. G. Yates & Sons Construction Company
Waggoner Engineering
Wells Fargo Advisors of Meridian
Weyerhaeuser NR Company
Wilkinson, Williams, Bosio & Sessums, PLLC
Winston White
Wise, Carter, Child & Carraway
Wulf Hirschfeld
Yancy & Eli Popic

Wish Makers

“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.”

- Deann Hollis

Volunteers are at the heart of every wish experience. You can help bring HOPE to wish kids by becoming a local volunteer!

If interested, or want more information about becoming a wish granter volunteer, please email us at admin@ms.wish.org.





Evening of Wishes Gala

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2023

THE COUNTRY CLUB OF JACKSON

Presented by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi

On July 22, 2023, we hosted Make-A-Wish Mississippi's signature event, The Evening of Wishes Gala at the Country Club of Jackson. The event started with a cocktail hour and an exclusive reception to celebrate our top donors. Special remarks were given by board member Jeff Cox and the Cook Family, whose daughter, Merritt, had her wish granted in December of 2022.

During the gala, guests enjoyed live music while bidding on silent auction items and previewing the live auction items highlighted during the event program. While enjoying their seated dinner, guests heard from Cecilia Shaffette, a wish kid with a touching story, whose one true wish was a trip to Hawaii with her family. Cecilia was able to "wish it forward" to her new friend, Kennedy, who learned that in the coming days, he would be New York City bound!

The generosity and support of all those in attendance that night raised over \$420,000 to immediately fund over 60 wishes throughout Mississippi! To sponsors, guests, steering committee, volunteers, in-kind donors, and vendors, we thank you sincerely for your commitment to the Make-A-Wish mission and your dedication to granting life-changing wishes for kids living with critical illnesses in Mississippi!





Presenting Sponsor



Game Changer Sponsors

Josh & Sloane Smith

Hope Sponsors



**Your Friends
for Life.**
FARM BUREAU
SOUTHERN FARM BUREAU
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Technology Sponsors



Strength Sponsors



Wish Hero Sponsors



**Danny & Kim
Chancellor**

THANK YOU EVENING OF WISHES SPONSORS!

Joy Sponsors



**Dr. Veronica Carullo
& Mr. Mark Annunziata**



Shooting Star Sponsors

**Phelps Dunbar, LLP
Jasmine and Naveen Sandhu
Dunn Utility Products
Community Bank**

**FORVIS
Mandy and Donald Baker
Maron Marvel Bradley Anderson & Tardy
Wise Carter Child and Caraway
Sarah Walker Studios**

18th Annual Martini Shakedown

The 19th Annual Martini Shakedown was held on July 15th at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Mississippi. Guests enjoyed a fabulous array of food, magnificent martinis, and danced the night away with entertainment by Category 6 all while coming together for the true purpose of the evening—celebrating our amazing wish kids and families and raising funds to grant even more wishes. We are already dreaming about Summer 2024, so make plans to join us for the 20th Martini Shakedown on Saturday, July 13th.



Make-A-Wish®

MISSISSIPPI

19th Annual MARTINI SHAKEDOWN



**THANK YOU FOR
MAKING WISHES
COME TRUE!**

To our sponsors, board, committee, volunteers, and everyone who attended or participated in the 19th Annual Martini Shakedown, you will help make a difference in the lives of children with critical illness.

We thank you and they thank you!!!

www.wish.org/ms

presenting sponsor



glass sponsor



diamond'tini



platinum'tini



gold'tini





Starkville Evening of Wishes

The 4th Annual Starkville Evening of Wishes, presented by Bracken Construction, was an extraordinary event that left a lasting impact on all attendees. The evening commenced with a cocktail hour enhanced by refreshing beverages provided by Clark Beverage and Commadore Bob's. Guests enjoyed bidding on a wide array of silent auction items generously donated by local businesses.

The program continued with dinner, followed by captivating entertainment presented by Emmie Perkins, Miss Mississippi, courtesy of Steel Dynamics. Skillfully emceed by Dr. Paul Ruff from Starkville Pediatric Group, the program showcased the incredible stories of wish recipients and those eagerly awaiting their wish. The heartfelt narratives were provided by Craig Peterhansen, a dedicated board member, wish granter, and committee member. The excitement continued to build with a spirited live auction conducted by the talented Colin Krieger. The transformative power of a granted wish was beautifully portrayed through the moving testimony of Melanie, Griffen's mom, while Griffen himself inspired the audience by "wishing it forward" and revealing the wish of three-year-old Hadley, who will soon embark on a memorable beach trip. The event was a joyous celebration of the profound impact wishes have on children and their families. In total, \$190,000 was raised to grant more wishes to Mississippi children with critical illnesses.



PACCAR ENGINES



WINSTON
PLYWOOD & VENEER

BankPlus

LANCE AND DANIELLE ATCHLEY FAMILY



PAUDAVIS
RECOVER • RECONSTRUCT • RESTORE



BROWN, LANGSTON, & TAYLOR, PLLC
Attorneys and Counselors At Law



Mugshots
Hometown Realty
Frank Chiles
Bank First
Tabor Management
Starkville Properties
The Cotton District

Prestige Rentals
State Floral
Clark Beverage
Hair of the Dog
Commadore Bob's
Dr. Paul Ruff - Emcee
Robert Lewis - Photography
Keats Lewis - Graphic Designer
Colin Krieger - Auctioneer
Popsy by Kate
Worker Bees

Delta Evening of Wishes

Delta Evening of Wishes 2022 was held on November 10, 2022, at Harlow's Casino Resort and Spa and raised over \$80,000.

The 200+ attendees experienced Wish moments throughout the evening as the power of a wish was shared by our Delta wish kids, Lizzy Campbell of French Camp and Ellen Miller of Greenwood.

Attendees also had the chance to win unique and exciting packages through the carefully curated live auction and wine pull. The event featured musicians from Delta Musical Institute at Delta State and was emceed by Anne Martin Vetrano, committee member and author of *Delta Hot Tamales: History, Stories, and Recipes*.

However, the pinnacle of the night arrived when Jayden Smith of Greenville, one of the wish kids eagerly waiting for their wish to come true, took center stage. Jayden helped Emcee Anne Martin Vetrano read an "auction item," only to discover that he was reading his very own wish. His face lit up as he realized that his wish for all the gaming electronics had been granted, and he could take them home.

In the end, the Delta Evening of Wishes proved to be an unforgettable night filled with generosity, inspiration, and the heartwarming fulfillment of a wish. It highlighted the incredible work of Make-A-Wish Mississippi and the unwavering support of the Delta community in bringing hope and joy to children with critical illnesses.



★ PRESENTING SPONSORS ★

Harlow's
Casino Resort & Spa

DELTA REGIONAL FOUNDATION



★ JOY SPONSORS ★

Prime Care
NURSING

★ STRENGTH SPONSORS ★



★ INSPIRE SPONSORS ★



★ SHOOTING STAR SPONSORS ★



Jackson, Braswell, Mullins, and Bailey

Jitter and Jug

Cleveland Board of Realtors



★ IN-KIND SPONSORS ★



John Keen Photography

★ FRIENDS OF MAKE-A-WISH ★



WMB

2022 W.I.S.H. Society Central Mississippi

W.I.S.H. is an acronym for Women Inspiring Strength & Hope. The W.I.S.H. Society is a unique opportunity for women to not only network with other incredible individuals, but to inspire women in our community to make a difference in the lives of local children who have been diagnosed with a critical illness. W.I.S.H. Society honorees infuse the lives of wish kids with hope, strength, and joy at a time they truly need it the most.

The 3rd Annual W.I.S.H. Society of Central Mississippi honored 23 outstanding women in the Jackson Metro areas for their career success, their significant contributions to the community, and their personal passion and commitment to Make-A-Wish Mississippi.

This campaign took place in August–October 2022 and was led by Chair Melanie Burrow, who not only recruited and motivated this wonderful group of ladies to raise a minimum of \$3,500 each, but was an honoree, herself, in 2021.



Millie Baker



Heather Bennett



Tameika Bennett



Lorraine Boykin



Katie Browning



Ginny DeHart



LaVerne Edney



Tanya Ellis



Whitney Foster



Kathleen Grigsby



Sue Grisham



Tondra Hall



Kye Handy



Mamie Herron



Wendy Lewis



Mona McBride



Mary McNeely



Krystal Minor



Susan Murphy



Swayze Pentecost



Amy Ramsey



Liz Walker



Chianti Woodfork



Melanie Burrow, Chair



2022 W.I.S.H. Society Hattiesburg

The 2nd Annual W.I.S.H. Society of Hattiesburg honored 24 outstanding women in the Hattiesburg/Pine Belt areas for their career success, their significant contributions to the community, and their personal passion and commitment to Make-A-Wish Mississippi. This campaign took place in

February – April 2023 and was led by co-chairs Jeri Krebs and Katie Waldrop, who have not only recruited and motivated this wonderful group of ladies to raise a minimum of \$3,500 each, but were also honorees, themselves, during the inaugural year.



Hilleri Burks



Dana Calderone



Jean Denton



Angie Nance



Katie Guist



Anne Harmon



Sachia Hester



Erin Jackson



Connie Keene



Ann Claire Kelly



Hallie Krebs



Lacey Miller



Elizabeth Morris



Audriena Newell



Kim Nguyen



Margaret Nichols



Susan Olmsted



Katie Love Owen



Yancy Popic



Brittany Price



Christen Raanes



Elizabeth Rose



Haley Tutor



Jennifer Willis



Katie Waldrop,
Co-Chair



Jeri Krebs,
Co-Chair



KiDS FOR WISH KIDS®

Kids for Wish Kids

Our Kids for Wish Kids program allows students K-12 to partner with Make-A-Wish Mississippi to grant life-changing wishes to children in our state with critical illnesses. During FY23, we had over 40 schools participate in our Kids for Wish Kids program, raising over \$95,000.

Our top 10 schools raising a combined \$50,000 are:

- Pisgah High School
- Petal High School
- Rosa Scott School
- Northshore Elementary
- Brandon High School
- Sacred Heart Catholic School
- Madison Central High School
- Brandon Middle School
- Raleigh Elementary
- South Pontotoc Attendance Center



Golf Tournaments

Each year, Make-A-Wish Mississippi hosts three golf tournaments throughout the state. In the spring, we host **Tee It Up For Wishes** at Deerfield Golf Club in Canton, MS, and each fall, we host the **Make-A-Wish Golf Classic at Old Waverly** in West Point, MS, and the **Ricky Peden Memorial Golf Tournament** at Fallen Oak in Biloxi, MS. These three tournaments cumulatively have taken place for nearly 30 years and raise over \$200,000, annually.



Granting wishes is something we all have the power to do!

Our heartfelt gratitude to our generous event and fundraiser organizers and participants across the state who support our mission.



Touchdowns for Wishes



The Tucker Golf Tournament
Brookhaven, MS



The Dusty Club 5K Run



Towns Around Biloxi



Cruisin' for a Wish





Cruisin' the Coast



Magnolia Cruisers



Laurel Jazz & Wishes



Cleveland Wine & Wishes



Wish Upon A Par
Philadelphia, MS



Lucedale Wine & Wishes



The Giving Pump



Make-A-Wish Mississippi Referral Eligibility

For children with critical illnesses, a wish can help them feel better and give them the hope and strength they need to fight – and even overcome – an illness. It unites families in life-changing moments that help them cope and grow stronger. Your referral is opening the door to endless possibilities for children and their families when they need it most.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A WISH?

A child with a critical illness who has reached age 2½ and is younger than 18 at the time of referral is potentially eligible for a wish. After a child is referred, Make-A-Wish Mississippi will work with the treating physician to determine the child’s medical eligibility for a wish.

WHO CAN REFER A CHILD?

Make-A-Wish Mississippi accepts referrals from:

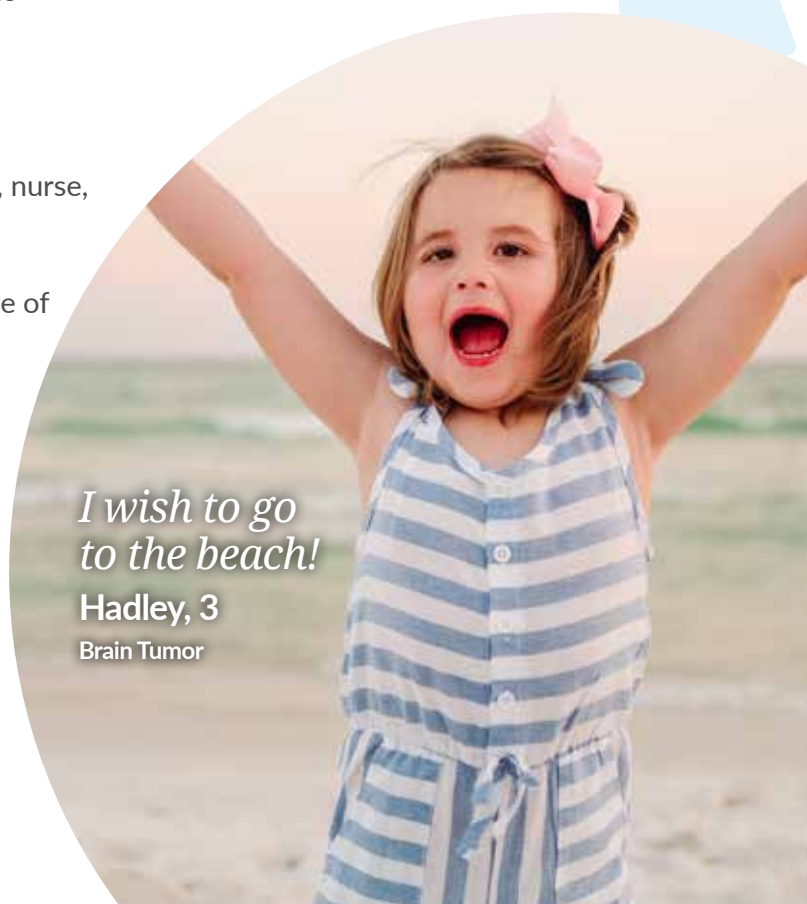
- ☆ Children being treated for a critical illness
- ☆ Parents or legal guardians
- ☆ Medical professionals (typically a doctor, nurse, social worker or child-life specialist)
- ☆ Family members with detailed knowledge of the child’s medical condition

Our vision is to grant the wish of every eligible child. Your referral and support is crucial to us achieving this vision.

***Together, we’ll transform lives,
one wish at a time.***

*I wish to go
to the beach!*

Hadley, 3
Brain Tumor



About Make-A-Wish®

Make-A-Wish America traces its inspiration back to 7-year-old Chris Greicius, a child with leukemia who wished to be a police officer. In 1980, a group of caring individuals came together and made his wish come true. The impact of Chris' wish was felt throughout his community and was the inspiration for what is now Make-A-Wish. Little did he know that his wish would create a movement that would transform millions of lives.

As the largest wish-granting organization in the country, Make-A-Wish has granted hundreds of thousands of wishes to children battling critical illnesses. Wishes replace a child's fear with confidence, sadness with joy, and anxiety with hope. Wishes give children renewed energy and strength, bring families closer together and unite communities.



About Make-A-Wish Mississippi

Make-A-Wish® Mississippi was founded in 1984 in memory of a little girl who lived in Gulfport. After she was diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition, a group of caring individuals raised funds to send her, along with her mother and grandmother, to Walt Disney World® Resort.

The family and others, moved by the generosity of those who contributed their time and money, felt compelled to reach out to other families facing similar circumstances. Through their efforts, Make-A-Wish® Mississippi became the 36th chapter chartered by Make-A-Wish America.

Make-A-Wish Mississippi By the Numbers



2,634

wishes granted since inception in 1984



134

wishes granted last year



2.6 days

the number of days, on average, a wish in Mississippi is granted



250+

volunteers statewide who help us raise funds and grant wishes each year



120

wish kids in our pipeline waiting on their one true wish



607 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 100
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157

Our vision is to grant the wish
of every eligible child in Mississippi.

Join us to make more wishes come true.

ms.wish.org

*I wish to go to
New York City*

Ansley, age 10
cancer

