


Make-A-Wish®
ORANGE COUNTY AND
THE INLAND EMPIRE

20
23



FISCAL YEAR 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



*I wish to go to
Disney World!*

Catalina, 6
cancer

Meet Catalina,

a brave 6-year-old from San Bernardino who successfully battled cancer. During her chemotherapy treatments, Catalina found comfort in watching her favorite movie, Aladdin, and singing along with her favorite princess, Jasmin. Inspired by these moments, she wishes to visit Walt Disney World Resort and spend time with all the princesses. Her wish came true at the inaugural Once Upon A Wish Party, where Catalina got to dance with Disney Princesses at the ball. This trip celebrated Catalina's incredible strength and her remission.

A Letter from the *Board Chair*

As we reflect on more than 40 years of transforming lives across Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties through the power of a wish, we remain committed to granting the wish of every eligible child, today and into the future. Your partnership is vital in creating life-changing wishes for local children with critical illnesses, and we want to thank you for your support. Together, we granted wishes for **240** local children last fiscal year!

As you read the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report, we hope you'll see the impact you've had on the lives of children like Gavin from Murrieta whose wish for an electric bike brought him hope during his final round of chemotherapy, or Catalina from San Bernardino, whose wish to go to Disney World provided a much-needed respite for her and her family after grueling treatments. We'll introduce you to some of the many community partners who play a pivotal role in granting life-changing wishes like these as we look toward the future.

We are incredibly fortunate to have supporters like you – donors, corporate partners, and volunteers – who champion the Make-A-Wish mission and help us grant transformative wishes for kiddos and families who need them most. Together, we can continue to transform lives, one wish at a time.



Komron Tarkeshian

Board Chair, Make-A-Wish®
Orange County and the Inland Empire

Mission

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

Vision

To grant the wish of every eligible child.

An Organization You Can Trust

We are proud to have achieved a 4-star rating on Charity Navigator and a Platinum Transparency Rating on GuideStar. These top ratings by America's largest independent charity evaluators reflect our chapter's strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

On a national scale, Make-A-Wish has maintained its strong position in the annual Morning Consult study of the Most Trusted Brands as the #1 Most Trusted Nonprofit Operating Locally Across 50 States in 2023.

"Since our founding in 1980, trust has always been at the heart of our mission. In fact, one of our core values is Integrity, and our chapters deliver our mission with compassion, transparency and respect every single day," said Leslie Motter, President and CEO of Make-A-Wish America. "Most mission delivery costs are covered by financial contributions from individual donors, and our supporters know that when they contribute to Make-A-Wish, they are having a direct and immediate impact on children with critical illnesses."



I wish to be a Zookeeper!

Emilio, 3
leukemia

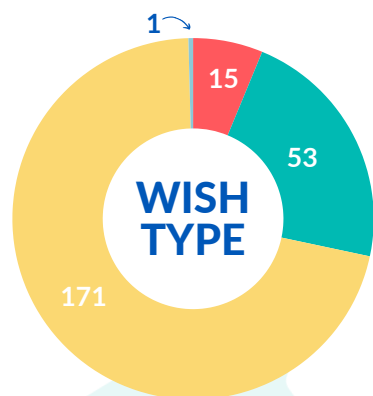
Meet Emilio,

a 3-year-old from Murrieta who loves the outdoors and going on adventures. When he was diagnosed with leukemia, he had to spend more time in the hospital than enjoying his favorite outdoor activities with his family. For his wish, Emilio wanted a hands-on experience with his favorite animals and wished to be a zookeeper! Emilio and his family embarked on an adventure in San Diego where he toured the Zoo, tended to animals, and fed giraffes!

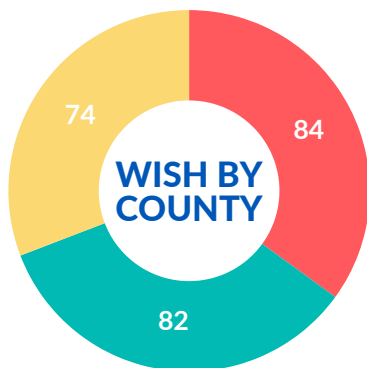
40 Years of Local Life-Changing *Wishes*



Throughout our 40 years, Make-A-Wish Orange County and the Inland Empire has granted **more than 8,000 wishes** to children with critical illnesses throughout Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties at no cost to the children's families. We are inspired by both the courage of each of those 8,000 kids and their families - as well as your courage to give even when times are tough. This year we reached **240 local children** and their families by granting their wishes.



- ★ To Go
- ★ To Have
- ★ To Meet
- ★ To Be
- ★ To Give



- ★ Orange
- ★ Riverside
- ★ San Bernardino

This Year, Local Kids *Wished For...*

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 111 Disney Destination | 12 Electronics | 3 Room Redecoration |
| 30 Domestic Travel | 7 Other | 1 Musical Instrument |
| 28 Hawaii Travel | 4 Animal | 1 Party/Celebration |
| 20 Shopping Spree | 3 Computer | 1 Swimming Pool |
| 14 Celebrity/Sporting Event | 3 Playset/Playhouse | 1 To Be |
| | | 1 Vehicle Customization |

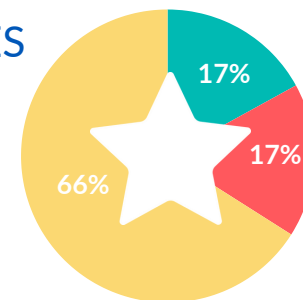
Fiscal Year 2023 *Finances*

Our funding comes from individuals, corporations, and grants. We rely on in-kind contributions to keep costs down to grant as many local wishes as possible. Local funds grant local wishes.

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

- ★ Program* **66%**
- ★ Fundraising **17%**
- ★ Management & General **17%**

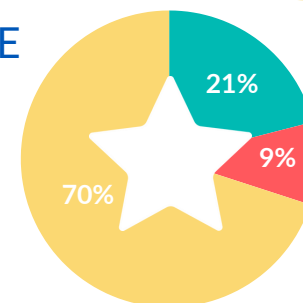
Total Functional Expenses
\$5,693,511



TOTAL REVENUE

- ★ Public Support **70%**
- ★ Special Events **21%**
- ★ Other **9%**

Total Revenue
\$5,246,603



*As some COVID-19 restrictions remained in place during this fiscal year, we were unable to grant certain types of wishes safely. Thus, our program ratio decreased from 72% pre-pandemic to 66%. However, we have implemented a recovery plan in place to increase our ratio as COVID-19 safety protocols are lifted, and we have already seen a program ratio increase in our current fiscal year.



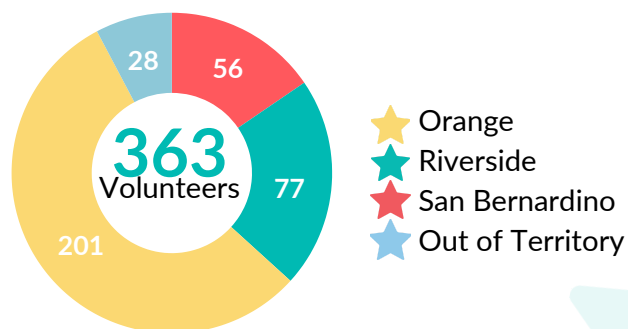
I wish to go to Disneyland!

Alfredo, 6
brain tumor

The Community Behind Wishes

At Make-A-Wish Orange County and the Inland Empire, we know the last 40 years would not have been possible without the creativity and commitment of countless donors, partners, and volunteers. This year we are humbled to have partnered with new supporters and to have continued our meaningful relationship with existing partners in our mission of creating life-changing wishes.

A wish begins with hope and hope begins with you.



Volunteer Spotlight

Shari Simmons goes the extra mile for our wish kids dedicating countless hours to raising funds, awareness, and hope within the community. Her initial involvement began as a donor, and she started volunteering after attending our gala in 2014. After becoming a wish granter in 2016 Shari said, "The more I've become involved with the organization, the more it's given back to me. To witness the power of a wish and the smiles it brings to not only the children's faces, but to the entire family is priceless." She added, "There is nothing better than the smile of a wish child when their wish is granted."

Shari took on progressively impactful roles, including chairing the Women's Circle of Wishes in 2017 and joining the Board of Directors in 2018. Shari's involvement has come full circle as she is committed to co-chairing the FY24 and FY25 Make-A-Wish Gala with her fiancé, Hank. We thank Shari Simmons for always going above and beyond for our wish kiddos!

Outstanding Youth Spotlight

Over the past two years, El Dorado High School (EDHS) student Ethan Yochum raised over \$23,000 by starting a Make-A-Wish Club on campus.

Ethan began his philanthropic journey by constructing cardboard donation collection boxes and placed them in over 80 classrooms at EDHS. He then inspired his classmates to promote Make-A-Wish's fundraising efforts and mission through all channels available to them including: social media, mass emails, flyers, and announcements. His success is a testament to the power of community, the ripple effect of kindness, and the magic of a wish.



Make-A-Wish
KIDS
FOR WISH KIDS®
ORANGE COUNTY AND
THE INLAND EMPIRE

Through the Kids For Wish Kids program, students restore hope and joy for wish kids while getting involved with the community. Learn more at wish.org/KFWK or call (714) 573-9474

Local Wishes Spark Joy

As the garage door rolled up, 15-year-old Gavin was greeted by a sea of cheering supporters who were there for the reveal of a matte black electric bike – Gavin's wish had come true! After months in and out of the hospital, Gavin's wish was the perfect spark of hope he needed to finish his last round of chemotherapy.

Gavin's health journey started out with fatigue and terrible migraines but progressed to full-body bruising and frequent nose bleeds. Gavin's mom, Stephanie, recounted the days leading to his diagnosis. "I just knew something wasn't right. So I took him to the closest emergency room." The following day, Gavin received the diagnosis of leukemia and immediately began the grueling regimen of daily chemotherapy treatments. After enduring painful lumbar punctures, surgeries, and a PICC line, Gavin's child-life specialist introduced them to Make-A-Wish.

With this new reality of living with leukemia, Gavin missed the thrill of riding his dirt bike and spending time outside. As he underwent treatment, he was limited in what he could do. "I am not able to control all the power [of a dirt bike] at this time," he explained to his wish granters, "the SUPER73-RX Mojave is a bike that reminds me of my dirt bike, but is an electric bike. This would fulfill the thrill of riding."

On his wish day, Gavin was surprised when his family arrived in Irvine at the electric bike company, SUPER73's headquarters in Irvine. Little did he know that his wish was coming true!

While Gavin finishes his final round of chemotherapy, Stephanie says that since Gavin's wish day, his outlook has never been better. "We have had these bikes one week and he rides every day, I'm so proud of him. These bikes have brought so much joy to us as we ride together as a family. We love the outdoors, and these bikes were exactly what we needed. We feel so thankful, blessed and filled with joy. Thank you isn't enough!"



Partner Spotlight



The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians graciously awarded \$375,000 to help expand our wish-granting capacity in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, where over two-thirds of our local wish kids reside. This federally recognized Indian tribe has made supporting non-profits a priority through their Giving Pillar, and we are so thankful that they have included Make-A-Wish in their contributions. Since the pandemic, our wish granting program has faced severe challenges, and this grant will help make the wishes of 50 children in the area a reality. Currently, over 300 children in Riverside and San Bernardino still await their wishes to be granted, and we are so grateful to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for supporting our local wish kids.

I wish to go to Hawaii!

Nicolina, 6
leukemia



Events that Rally the Community to *Celebrate*

A look back at fiscal year 2023 events and the impact that they made on the local wish community. We hosted four signature events: Journey Into Wishes, The Desert Underground, It's In The Bag, and Pickleball For Wishes.



Journey Into Wishes: 01/Dennis Kuhl, Chairman of Los Angeles Angels Baseball on the blue carpet, 02/Lara Rahib raises her paddle during the live auction, 03/Wish alum, Shane Cammon, shared about his wish to have professional DJ equipment as he DJ'd the Gala. **The Desert Underground:** 04/Karla Elder and guests pose in prohibition garb



It's In The Bag: 05/Carie Jernquist-Ferry and Amy Sullivan strut down the runway, 06/The 2023 Women's Circle of Wishes members **Pickleball For Wishes:** 07/Sponsor Z Supply Foundation poses on the courts

Thank You To Our FY23 Event Sponsors



Z SUPPLY FOUNDATION



SHARI SIMMONS
FAMILY & FRIENDS



HYATT
REGENCY
NORTHWESTERN BEACH
RESORT & SPA



ANTHONY & CARIE
FERRY foundation

LAURA VANDERHOOK



AGUA CALIENTE
BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

AtriCure

TORKLAW
REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE



Upcoming Events:

Pickleball For Wishes – August 3, 2024

The Tennis and Pickleball Club at Newport Beach

Gather your friends or colleagues to enjoy the sport of pickleball and help raise funds to grant children's wishes!

The Make-A-Wish Gala: A Parisian Masquerade – October 19, 2024
Balboa Bay Resort

Revel in a night of opulence and mystique, where elegant masks and Parisian charm transport you to an unforgettable evening of one of the world's most iconic destinations.

Top Chef – April 6, 2025

Irvine Marriott

The best chefs, wineries, and restaurants join together to benefit Make-A-Wish Orange County and the Inland Empire.

It's In The Bag – April 27, 2025

The Waterfront Beach Resort

This highly anticipated luncheon features an auction of luxury new designer handbags including Versace, Gucci, Prada, Coach, Kate Spade, Chloe, Chanel, Fendi and more!

*I wish to go to
Great Wolf Lodge!*

Laiyah, 5
blood disorder



*I wish to meet
Patrick Mahomes!*

Emma, 10
heart condition



Meet Emma,

a resilient 10-year old from Menifee who has undergone four open-heart surgeries and wears a leg brace. Despite her health challenges, Emma is a spunky kid who loves dogs and is a Kansas City Chief fanatic. She wished to meet her favorite quarterback, Patrick Mahomes! On her wish day, Emma got to know Patrick Mahomes on a personal level and asked about his dogs and learned that his favorite candy is Jolly Ranchers. She even beat the football star in Jenga and Connect Four! After, Emma toured Arrowhead Stadium, tried on players helmets, and a Super Bowl ring!

FISCAL YEAR 2024 Board of Directors

Komron Tarkeshian

BOARD CHAIR

Senior Vice President, Divisional
Manager, Origin Point

Jeff Lewis

VICE CHAIR

Senior Vice President, US Bank

Michael L. Zemetra

TREASURER CHAIR

Executive Vice President, Chief Financial
Officer & Treasurer, Veritone

Mark Carlos, ASLA

SECRETARY/GOVERNANCE CHAIR

Landscape Architect, Kimley-Horn

Dr. Joffre Olaya

CHAIR - MEDICAL ADVISORY

CHOC Pediatric Neurosurgeon

Andy Nickerson

CHAIR - COMMUNITY/INDIVIDUAL ENGAGEMENT

President, HdL Companies, Inc.

Mike Colonna

CHAIR - MISSION DELIVERY

NORMS Restaurant President & CEO

Whit Batchelor

IMMEDIATE PAST BOARD CHAIR

Senior Vice President,
Whittier Trust

Jesse Chang

Senior Business Systems Analyst,
Capital Group

Corey Donaldson

Owner, Avalon Properties

Jonathan Hallstead

Divisional President, Golden
State Mortgage

Carie Jernquist-Ferry

Community Philanthropist

Joone Kim-Lopez

General Manager, Moulton
Niguel Water District

Jason Lantgen

Senior Vice President, JLL

Harriet Lehman

Philanthropist

Dolores Salman

Global Head of Environmental,
Health & Safety, Netflix Inc.

Shari Simmons

Philanthropist

Joel Sprague

Robert R. Sprague Foundation

Kris Theiler

Vice President, Disneyland Park

Kimberly J. Worsnop

Philanthropist



Make-A-Wish®

ORANGE COUNTY AND
THE INLAND EMPIRE

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

Connect With Us!



wish.org/ocie

Orange County

714-573-9474

3230 El Camino Real, Suite 100
Irvine, CA 92602

Inland Empire

951-321-0179

1700 Iowa Ave, Suite 110
Riverside, CA 92507

Make-A-Wish Orange County and the Inland Empire is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization Tax ID 33-0036556