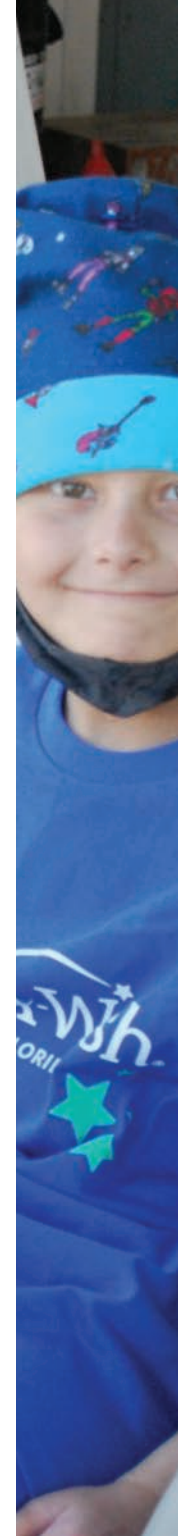


40

YEARS OF WISHES

MAKE-A-WISH® SOUTHERN FLORIDA





*I wish to go  
to the Florida  
beaches*

Andrew, 4  
neuroblastoma



Dear Friends,

It's an exciting time in our **40-year history** to be a part of the Make-A-Wish® Southern Florida family! As we look back on fiscal year 2023, we have a lot to be proud of. Thanks to our supporters, it was our most successful fundraising year ever. We are also nearing a huge accomplishment - the opening of the **Finker-Frenkel Wish House**, which will be our permanent home and a beacon of hope for our community.

We granted **553** life-changing wishes, plus **257** wish assists when wish kids came to our territory to experience their heartfelt wishes. That means wishes are in full swing for the first time since COVID, as we touched more than **800** families with our wish-granting mission. Each wish that we grant is special; however, Charlie's wish to have a custom golf cart is even more memorable as it is our **14,000th** wish! We also recruited **107** new volunteers including **65** trained wish granters that will play an instrumental role in guiding wish families through their wish journeys.

We are confident that with your support, we can continue on the incredible quest to grant the wish of every medically-eligible child in our communities. It is only because of your generosity that we can continue to forever change the lives of courageous children facing critical illnesses.



*Laura Zebersky*

**Laura Zebersky**  
*Chair of the Board of Directors*



*Norman Wedderburn*

**Norman Wedderburn**  
*President/CEO*

# Charlie Cruises Around Town

Battling leukemia is an arduous road of hospitalizations, infusions and aggressive rounds of chemotherapy but **Charlie** is a fighter. His greatest wish was to have a golf cart, just like his grandparents have, so that he could ride it to kindergarten just a few blocks away.

Blindfolded and surrounded by loved ones at the local park for the big unveiling, Charlie had no idea that his favorite Nintendo characters, who help distract and entertain him during his medical battle, would be the theme of his new ride. He celebrated with pizza and cupcakes, while taking turns cruising around with his friends and family.

*Wish Granters: Fran Garfunkel & Jessica Rivera  
Referred by Bryan Maloney, his father  
Wish adopted by UBS Financial Services*



“This wish is hope for the future. It’s him getting to be a normal kid and doing a lot of the stuff that he missed out on. It’s just fun that he needs because he’s five.

–Charlie’s mother

*I wish to have a custom golf cart*

Charlie, 5  
leukemia

“Today’s not about pills, chemo, needles, doctor appointments and hospitalizations. It’s just him enjoying himself, having a good time, and not thinking about anything else. It’s heartwarming to see him smiling and happy where there are a lot of days when he is not.”

–Charlie’s mother



*I wish to  
see snow*

Deon, 8  
bone marrow transplant





## Deon's Snowball Fight

Ever since he was diagnosed as an infant, **Deon** has fought an intense battle that culminated in rounds of chemo and a bone marrow transplant. After all, he has endured and survived, it was time to celebrate with his wish to see snow. Deon embarked on a winter wonderland of activities in Vermont. He bundled up in hats, scarves and heavy coats that he'd never need in South Florida. There were snow angels and sled rides, but the highlight was a huge snowball fight.

As Deon and his family reached the top of a snowy hill, he was very excited. He got a little nervous when he and his family saw the dozens of kids and adults waiting for him in the freezing cold, holding signs of encouragement and cheering for him. Deon was blown away that people he did not know were there for him. Before long, there was nothing but smiles, laughter and flying snow everywhere.

*Wish Granters: Karen Mullins & Jennifer Sorokowski  
Referred by his mother  
Wish adopted by the Davidowitz Family*

**“This wish was an adventure to celebrate him being ‘normal.’ The snowball fight was one of the most amazing moments I’ve ever witnessed. I was in tears – it was so beautiful.” – Deon’s mother**

**“It meant a lot to me that people came to cheer me on for beating my blood disorder and being healthier.” – Deon’s mother**



“I remember watching Team USA on TV when I was younger and my mom saying to me ‘that could be you one day’ – and here I am... Hanging out with the team and the coaches.”  
–Kaydence



“Team USA truly made me feel like a part of the family – they are incredible.” – Kaydence



*I wish to meet  
the U.S. Women’s  
National Softball  
Team*

Kaydence, 16  
nervous system disorder



# Kaydence Swings BIG

**Kaydence** lives and breathes softball because she makes friends, satisfies her competitive side and has fun sliding and diving on the field. She keeps her medical struggles in perspective, and instead focuses on working hard for what she wants. Her wish came true when she travelled from Kansas to attend the U.S. Women's Fast Pitch Camp Jackie Robinson Training Complex in Vero Beach.

She relished every moment of the two days of intense softball practices, the opportunity to be the bat girl, and chatting with the team off the field. The highlight of Kaydence's wish experience was when Cat Osterman, her favorite athlete, presented her with an autographed Olympic softball jersey. Kaydence described that grand slam feeling, "That was truly something I never thought would happen. I can't stop crying because of how happy I am."

*Wish granted in collaboration with Make-A-Wish Missouri & Kansas*



# Sebastian Digs Dinosaurs

**Sebastian's** passion for dinosaurs is what helps him mentally escape from his medical challenges so his greatest wish was to be a paleontologist. After a limousine ride to the USF Science Center in Tampa, Sebastian was welcomed with open arms by Dr. Ryan Carney, a National Geographic Explorer and Assistant Professor of Integrative Biology at USF. He was gifted with a lab coat before embarking on a behind-the-scenes tour of the lab.

Sebastian examined fossils, scanned replicas of dinosaur skulls, and analyzed mummified skin under a microscope. The future paleontologist used x-ray imaging and computer animation to uncover details about prehistoric creatures. Sebastian even 3D printed a "Sebastianosaurus" based on a Brachiosaurus skull, his favorite dinosaur.

*Wish Granters: Jessica Carmen & Erin Harris*

*Referred by his father*

*Wish adopted by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Whitney*



**“It’s absolutely wonderful to see the look of joy on his face. Fulfilling his wish is a very fulfilling experience. It puts things in perspective. We are fortunate to study what we are passionate about. Being able to share that experience with Sebastian is just wonderful.” – Dr. Carney**

**“I’m so happy for him, especially because it opens his mind for what he’s interested in. Seeing that everything that he can wish or dream for can come true. It’s not impossible. Never give up.” – Sebastian’s father**

*I wish to be a  
paleontologist*

Sebastian, 7  
cancer

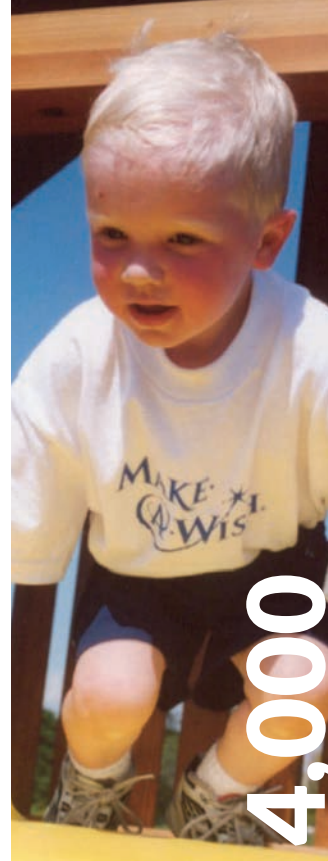




1<sup>st</sup> Wish



2,000



4,000



6,000



1,000



3,000



5,000



7,000



8,000



9,000



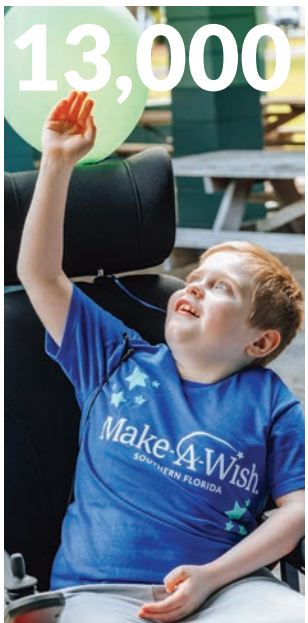
10,000



11,000



12,000



13,000

40 years  
of moments like *these*.



14,000

# Make-A-Wish® Southern



*Chris Greicius  
inspires the  
creation of  
Make-A-Wish*



*We hired our  
first staff member*



*Norman Wedderburn  
is named our  
President/CEO*

1980

1983

1988

2000

2006



*Make-A-Wish Southern Florida  
becomes the 17<sup>th</sup> Make-A-Wish  
chapter and grants its first wish*



*Make-A-Wish now  
serves every U.S.  
community*



*Our territory expanded  
to include Highlands,  
Indian River, Okeechobee  
and St. Lucie counties*



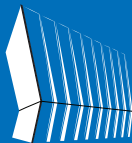
# Florida Through the Years



*The InterContinental® Miami Make-A-Wish Ball raised \$1.5 million, becoming the 1<sup>st</sup> event in our history to raise more than \$1 million*



*10,000<sup>th</sup> Wish: Luke wishes to have a lighthouse themed man cave*



*Finker-Frenkel Wish House Grand Opening Celebration*



*First wish to give back: Joshua wishes to grant another kid's wish (to meet Dwyane Wade)*



*Our territory expanded to include Tampa Bay and Suncoast regions*

# A *New Era* of Granting Wishes

“As we near the grand opening of the Finker-Frenkel Wish House, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported this visionary endeavor. We are so very fortunate to live in such a generous and philanthropic community.”

Shareef M. Malnik, Chairman of the Capital & Endowment Campaign

“What started as a dream a decade ago is now becoming reality. Our wish kids and families have remained our north star every step of the way. The Wish House will be our permanent home and a beacon of hope for our community. Most importantly, it will transform the wish experience for our wish kids.”

Norman Wedderburn, President/CEO



# Finker-Frenkel Wish House

343 NW 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33136

*Grand Opening*

September 2024





**Ernie & Yvette Garateix**, along with their company Heritage Insurance, have supported Make-A-Wish in the Tampa Bay region since 2016. They sponsor and participate in Walk For Wishes, Dishes and Wishes and the Wishmaker's Ball. The Garateixes adopted their first life-changing wish in 2018, and together with Heritage, have adopted 17 since then. In all, their tremendous support has raised \$173,960 to grant the heartwarming wishes of children battling critical illnesses in the Tampa Bay region.

**“Make-A Wish is an organization that makes a meaningful and lasting impact on local children and their families in our community. Make-A-Wish is naturally synergistic because they unite so many organizations and people toward a common goal. Our Heritage Insurance family is united in helping to provide once-in-a-lifetime experiences for children and families experiencing medical crises. The greatest reward is getting to see joy filling the eyes of a child when their wish is granted.”**  
— Ernie & Yvette Garateix

**The Arthur S. Karp Family Foundation** partners with Make-A-Wish Southern Florida because both missions focus on helping individuals in need. Beginning in 2017, the Foundation sponsored Cooking For Wishes and has continued to increase their sponsorship commitment year after year. Several members of the Karp Family have personally dedicated their time and efforts as Make-A-Wish Ambassadors to help grow Cooking For Wishes and positively impact even more wish kids' lives.

**“The impact of Make-A-Wish is astounding! We are thrilled to help facilitate the granting of wishes. Make-A-Wish is about spreading hope, joy and peace. We take great pride in knowing that our support helped a child and their family find comfort and joy in the most challenging time of their life. Indeed, that support may have changed the course of their destiny. If we can facilitate that child in their fight and potentially change the outcome, well, that's a huge check in the win column.”**

— Arthur S. Karp Family Foundation, Inc.





More than 13 years ago, **Richard and Robin Weissman** were first introduced to Make-A-Wish and have been steadfast supporters of events and adopting wishes ever since. Their pride in giving back to Make-A-Wish carries over to their company, The Learning Experience, which now supports Make-A-Wish throughout the country. Over the years, more than \$8.5 million has been raised to grant wishes, while also setting the foundation for TLE's young students to understand the importance of serving others.

**“When my family or my company grants wishes, I feel an immense sense of gratitude to be fortunate enough to support these children and their families. It also brings a sense of pride for our schools and our students who have truly joined the Make-A-Wish community. Granting a wish is a gift for our souls. The impact a single wish has is far reaching and delivers everlasting memories. It creates a domino effect for all involved, from the wish child and their family—to the wish granter and the sponsor—to the fundraiser and the donor—all forever connected by this experience and Make-A-Wish.” – Richard Weissman**

**First Horizon** has generously supported Make-A-Wish Southern Florida in Southwest Florida through our Wishmaker's Party. They partnered with us as the Presenting Sponsor for several years, and always are happy to engage their employees and clients. Their team has also participated in our Walk For Wishes and the Mac & Cheese Challenge. In all, First Horizon has raised enough funds to grant more than 20 wishes.

**“Make-A-Wish is...necessary. Knowing that a wish is the light they need to fight their battle and to see the joy and hope a wish brings to an entire family is indescribable. Make-A-Wish is inspirational. The First Horizon team can feel the impact and it encourages us to do better. It uncovers a different perspective of ‘happiness.’ We want to give back to our local community in a meaningful way and Make-A-Wish allows us to do just that. Make-A-Wish is a blessing.” – Pam Blackwell**



# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

*Make-A-Wish Southern Florida has adopted a bold, new vision to establish an endowment so that no child's wish ever goes ungranted and to build a Wish House to further enhance an already incredible wish experience for each wish child and family.*

*We are eternally grateful to the visionary supporters of our Endowment and Capital Campaign. Through their remarkable contributions, these philanthropic individuals and foundations are investing in the future of our great organization.*

Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation	Jeffrey & Lianne Caruso
Stuart Miller	Arthur L. Diskin, M.D.
Peter & Tatiana Cancro	Brian & Ksenia Exelbert
The Malnik Family	Mary Alice Fortin Foundation
Dennis, Paige & Nicollette Crowley	Taylor & Lisa Gang
Judd & Laura Zebersky	Brent & Nicollette Hagey
Drs. Roger & Virginia Medel	Alan & Janine Mandel
The Perez Family	Susan Grune Meister
Richard & Robin Weissman/The Learning Experience	Sadaka Family Charitable Fund
Overtown CRA	Scherr Family Fund
Shareef M. Malnik & Gabrielle Anwar	Vecchitto Family Charitable Foundation
Robert & Alysia Press	Harold Burnett & JoAnn Jeffrey McCants
Stanley & Gala Cohen	Norman Wedderburn
The Looby Foundation	Sandy & Joe Gallaher and Courtney & Jeremy Larkin
The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation	Murray H. Goodman
The Batchelor Foundation	Scott Helms & Jorge Alonso
James K. & Susan Oppenheimer Family Foundation	Stacey & Josh Mandel Family Foundation
Bonnie E. Eletz	Jack & Jennifer Barnes
The William & Mildred Lasdon Foundation	Greg & Brenda Baty
Brett & Jerry Rose-Gutierrez	Wasim Shomar
Poon Chi Keung	Greenberg Traurig, P.A.
Anthony R. Abraham Foundation	Arquitectonica
Ortega Foundation	Transwestern
Mayte Fernandez & Rolando and Carlos Benitez	Angie & Carlos Valdes
Jody, Joshua, and Riley Kaminsky	Sheila Cesarano
Andrew & Tatsiana Ansin	Mark & Kimberly Tribus
Sherri & Jorge Gutierrez	Rick & Jackie Fernandez
Gal & Kali Bensaadon	Jodi Siravo
Bob & Sharon Bond	



*I wish to meet  
Dustin Poirier*

Alden, 17  
diffuse large B-cell  
lymphoma

# CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE SOCIETY

*Members of the Chairman's Challenge Society are generous philanthropists dedicated to making the InterContinental® Miami Make-A-Wish® Ball a success. Led by our Chair, Shareef Malnik, these supporters underwrite the cost of the Ball so that more funds can go directly toward making children's wishes come true.*

Shareef M. Malnik & Gabrielle Anwar

Stuart Miller

The Lennar Foundation, Marshall Ames

Richard Polidori

Todd & Kim Glaser

Geert-Jan & Joyce Bakker

Jim & Sue Oppenheimer

Eugene & Brooke Frenkel

Dennis Crowley

Missy & Barry Skolnick

Andrew & Tatsiana Ansin

Alan Mruvka, StorageBlue

Felipe Lafratta, AssociatesMD

Anonymous

Nick & Adriana Ayala

Michael & Caroline Parrish



# CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

The Make-A-Wish Cornerstone Society provides caring individuals the opportunity to know that they personally have made wishes come true. By making a five-year pledge at a minimum of \$1,000 per year, these philanthropists have helped ensure that the magic of Make-A-Wish will continue.

## VISIONARY LEVEL (\$100,000 PLEDGE\*\*)

Mr. & Mrs. Bob &  
Sharon Bond  
Dr. Bianca Ferrari  
JAS Family Foundation  
**Levitetz Family Foundation**

## HERO LEVEL (\$50,000 PLEDGE\*\*)

Jeffrey & Lianne Caruso  
Dr. Arthur L. Diskin  
Todd P. Linden  
**Stacey and Josh Mandel  
Family Foundation**  
**Vecchitto Family Charitable  
Foundation**

## JOY LEVEL (\$25,000 PLEDGE\*\*)

**Brenda Yester Baty and  
Greg Baty**  
**Tom & Margarita  
Castellanos**  
**Gary & Barbara Davis**  
**Steve & Emily Demar**  
**Ben & Edie Eisenberg**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Marcus &  
Lauren Fernandez**  
**Mr. & Mrs. John W.  
Fisher III**  
Jeff Flegel  
The Gonzalez Family  
Foundation

Dr. Angela LaFace &  
Mr. Chris LaFace  
Mark & Suzanne Levitats  
**David & Louise Kingsley**  
Theresa Mandell  
Matthew F. Sacco  
Greg & Yvonne Salsburg  
Michael & Alison Simon  
Chuck Stauffer &  
Tracey Rippon  
**Mr. & Mrs. James Vogt**  
Emily Ziegler

**STRENGTH LEVEL  
(\$10,000 PLEDGE\*\*)**  
Anonymous in Memory of  
the Hamilton Family  
**Cesar & Barbara Barada**

Jennifer Barnes &  
Jack K. Barnes  
Mike & Amanda Beauvais  
**Boyers Law Group**  
**Sheila M. Cesarano**  
Greg DeChurch  
**Michelle & Jeffrey  
Eisenberg**  
**Richard Eisenberg**  
**Amy L. Federman**  
Brent Goldman  
Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Joseph  
Julie Katz  
**Richard & Pauline Kelly  
and Family**  
**Ms. Mala Murthy**  
Daniel Pacheco

**Terrie Rosenthal**  
Capt. Julie Schumacher,  
USMC & Mr. Casey  
Schumacher - in memory  
of Emily Sutker  
**Norm Wedderburn**

## HOPE LEVEL (\$5,000 PLEDGE\*\*)

**Jeff & Lisa Andrews**  
Ralph & Janine Balkin  
**Walter O. & Shari Byrd**  
**Robby Elias**  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim & Lois Farrell  
Joseph M. Ferrio  
Bryan Fetherston  
Yale Fishman  
**John & Jericho Flinn**  
**Ruth & Randy Friedlander**  
Barclay Gang  
Gary & Amber Godsey  
**Vita & Dan Goldberg**  
Ms. Lisa Gruenloh - in  
honor of Kennedy Burger  
Jose & Mary Holt  
Mason & Beth Jackson  
**Bruce & Tamar Jacobs**  
**Frank & Marie Jacobs**  
Michael & Terri Klauber  
Michel & Erika Koopman  
Jeanette M. Lombardi  
in loving memory of Alan  
G. Martinez  
Andrew & Lisa Mandala  
Taylor Marini

Michael W. Marrero  
**C.J. & Lindsey Mintrone**  
Mokarren Properties, LLC  
Ms. Christina Murray  
Augusto Ocana  
**Larry & Stephanie Ordet**  
Danielle Gonzalez-  
Rubinstein  
**Christopher & Asia Rux**  
**Jonathan Sard**  
Storch Family Fund  
Mr. & Mrs. Rich & Teresa  
Thompson  
Dr. Deborah White &  
Mr. David Pearlman  
**Jerry & Susan Wolf**  
Ms. Dorlene Zaslow  
Matthew & Kari Zipay

*The names listed in bold indicate members who have committed to support Make-A-Wish through our Cornerstone Society more than once and represent multi-year commitments.*

*\*\*pledges are fulfilled over 5 years*



*I wish to meet  
the cast of MJ the  
Musical in NYC*

Barbara, 10  
acute lymphoblastic  
leukemia

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Coming from a multitude of professional backgrounds and diverse in geographic representation, our Board of Directors is a driving force in our mission to grant the wish of every eligible child in our territory. Members are elected to three-year terms and assist in all phases of Make-A-Wish Southern Florida's efforts. From financial planning to wish granting, our Board of Directors provides the leadership and guidance that propels us forward.

## Laura Zebersky

Board Chair  
Jazwares

## Eugene Frenkel

Vice Chair  
Legacy Wealth Group

## Karen Ford

Treasurer  
Community Volunteer

## Jennifer Barnes

Medtronic

## Caitlin Beck Stella

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital

## Gal Bensaadon

Red Door Construction

## Tatiana Cancro

Jersey Mike's

## Lianne Caruso

Caruso Homes

## Justin Clinger

IT'SUGAR

## Dennis Crowley

Doctor's Choice Pharmacy

## Brian R. Exelbert

Morgan Stanley

## Marcus Fernandez

Kinney, Fernandez and Boire, PA

## Mayte Fernandez

CGI

## Damon Ficklin

Polen Capital

## Taylor Gang

Evensky & Katz/Foldes Wealth  
Management

## Domini Gibbs-Sorey

City of Miami

## Sherri Gutierrez

Arquitectonica

## L. Scott Helms

Helms Development

## Kristin Johnson

Hotwire Communications

## Terry Jove

Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits

## Lani Kane-Hanan

ONE Company

## Shareef M. Malnik

Chairman of the Board Emeritus  
Sonrisa Rum, Inc

## Drew Mandala

Stillwater Structured Finance LLC

## C.J. Mintrone

PNC Bank

## Michael Parrish

Marsh McLennan

## Joe Perez

Zerep Holdings

## Danielle Rubinstein

Greenberg Traurig

## Barry Skolnick

BLS Asset Management Corporation

## Sean Tolkin

World Travel Holdings

## Richard Weissman

Immediate Past Chair  
The Learning Experience

# TAMPA BAY ADVISORY BOARD

Members of our Tampa Bay Advisory Board are committed to sharing their time and talents to advance our wish-granting mission in the Tampa Bay community. The following Tampa Bay Advisory Board members are determined to help us reach the vision of granting the wish of every eligible child.

**Frank Musolino Jr.**

Chair

TD Industries

**John Flinn**

RIPA & Associates

**Mala Murthy**

United Healthcare

**Ted Abrams**

Joffrey's Coffee & Tea Company

**Steven Gillis**

Transportation Control Systems, Inc.

**Anthony Pedicini**

Strategic Image Management

**Amanda Beauvais**

L'Oreal USA

**Gary Godsey**

Immediate Past Chair

Stream Realty

**Chris Rux**

Cherry Bekaert

**Amber Caraballo**

Community Volunteer

**Greg Grabau**

Monin Gourmet Flavorings

**Rich Thompson**

The Baldwin Group

**Taylor Ferguson**

Google

**Susan Meister**

Heritage Insurance

**Jim Vogt**

AGPM, LLC

**Marcus Fernandez**

Kinney, Fernandez and Boire, PA

**C.J. Mintrone**

PNC Bank

**Matt Zipay**

Northern Trust

**Kimberly Ficocelli-Rademacher**

MaxHealth

# SUNCOAST ADVISORY BOARD

Members of our Suncoast Advisory Board bring exceptional knowledge and skills to help further our wish-granting mission in the region. The following Suncoast Advisory Board members have committed themselves to granting life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

**Sherra Fritz**

WWSB ABC 7

**Phil Mancini**

Michael's On East

**Renee Phinney**

Palm Printing

**Terri Klauber**

Michael's On East

**Luke Nicholas**

Mariner Wealth Advisors

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ADVISORY BOARD

Members of our Southwest Florida Advisory Board offer their leadership and professional expertise to help further our wish-granting mission. The following community members have devoted themselves to making every eligible child's wish come true.

## **Rick Gallo**

*Chair*

Rick Gallo Auctioneer

## **Chuck Stauffer**

*Vice Chair*

Hotwire Communications

## **Pam Blackwell**

First Horizon

## **Lianne Caruso**

Caruso Homes

## **Mike Dal Lago**

Dal Lago Law

## **Erin Dever**

*Immediate Past Chair*

Office of U.S. Senator Rick Scott

## **Amy Frith**

Golisano Children's Hospital of  
Southwest Florida

## **Jenny Gezella**

Naples Princess

## **Megan Kohan**

Suffolk Construction

## **Stephanie LeDuff**

Zoll Cardiac Management Solutions

## **Jason Rundorff**

Naples Global Advisors

# MEDICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meet the members of our Medical Advisory Council who bring their expertise to our mission and help us to grant the wish of every eligible child.

## **Dr. Brian Cauff, M.D.**

*Pediatric Hematology/Oncology*

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital

## **Dr. Laura D'Addese, M.D.**

*Pediatric Cardiology*

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital

## **Dr. Joanna Davis, M.D.**

*Pediatric Hematology/Oncology*

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer  
Center/University of Miami Health  
System

## **Dr. Maggie Fader, M.D.**

*Pediatric Hematology/Oncology*

Nicklaus Children's Hospital/Kidz  
Medical Group

## **Mrs. Maria Pilar Gennaro, APRN**

*Pediatric Neurology*

Nicklaus Children's Hospital

## **Dr. J. Blaine John, M.D.**

*Pediatric Cardiology*

St. Joseph's Children's Hospital/  
Pediatrix Cardiology Associates

## **Mrs. Michele King, B.S., CCLS**

*Child Advocacy Programs*

Golisano Children's Hospital of  
Southwest Florida

## **Dr. Paula Schleifer, M.D.**

*Pediatric Neurology*

Nicklaus Children's Hospital

## **Dr. Ginger T. Medel**

*Honorary Medical Advisor*



*I wish to ride  
a horse on  
the beach*

Dakota, 8  
Wilms' Tumor

# The Impact of a Wish



## Trauma Relief

**9 out of 10 wish kids**

reported that the wish experience relieved them from traumatic stress.

**9 out of 10 wish parents**

said the wish experience helped relieve their family from traumatic stress.

**9 out of 10 medical providers**

observed the wish experience helped relieve a family from traumatic stress.



## Emotional & Mental Well-Being

**8 out of 10 wish kids**

reported that the wish experience helped them overcome hopelessness, depression and loneliness.

**9 out of 10 wish parents**

saw their child's emotional well-being improve with their wish.

**100% of medical providers**

report that the wish experience improves a child's - and their own - emotional well-being.



## Turning Point

**9 out of 10 wish kids**

reported that they felt more joyful, confident and hopeful for their future.

**8 out of 10 wish parents**

saw that the wish experience gave their child a stronger sense of empowerment.

**9 out of 10 medical providers**

say a wish increases compliance with treatment.



## Strength to Fight

**8 out of 10 wish kids**

report that their wish gave them the strength to fight their critical illness.

**8 out of 10 wish parents**

say a child's wish experience serves as a coping mechanism during treatment.

**8 out of 10 medical providers**

reported that a wish is a necessary part of a child's treatment journey.



## Long-Term Impact

**7 out of 10 wish kids**

report that their wish improved their odds and gave them a better chance of surviving.

**9 out of 10 wish parents**

reported that their child's wish experience strengthened their relationship with their loved ones.

**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.



## DISCOVER OUR WORLD OF WISHES

The **World of Wishes** podcast will give you an insider's perspective on how wishes are granted and **those that play a signature role** in granting them.

Listen today at [worldofwishespodcast.org](http://worldofwishespodcast.org)



 Podcasts  Spotify  wistia  iHeartRADIO



# MAKE-A-WISH STAFF

*Make-A-Wish provides a spark of hope that can be a game-changer in the life of a child with a critical illness. This belief guides and inspires every person who joins our staff to grant wishes that change the lives of the kids we serve.*

**Norman Wedderburn**  
President/CEO

**Richard Kelly**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Karen Mullins**  
Vice-President of Mission  
Delivery

**Marla Selva**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Lisa Andrews**  
Regional Director—Tampa Bay

**Julie Robbins**  
Director of Business Intelligence &  
Information Technology

**Taylor Marini**  
Regional Director—Suncoast &  
Southwest Florida

**Mary Holt**  
Director of Mission Resources

**Marissa Shea**  
Director of Mission Delivery

**Melanie Holley**  
Volunteer Program Manager

**Jackie Perl**  
Special Events Manager

**Elizabeth Erra**  
Manager of Mission Delivery

**Kristen Bladen**  
Development Manager—Tampa Bay

**Kevin Fantis**  
Development Manager

**Renee DePinto**  
Development Manager  
Southwest Florida

**Stephany Miranda**  
Accounting & HR Manager

**Jessica Rivera**  
Senior Community Development  
Coordinator

**Denae Ankele**  
Senior Brand Advancement  
Coordinator

**Patty Escobar**  
Senior Grants & Development  
Specialist

**Jessy Balbuena**  
Senior Wish Discovery Coordinator

**Megan McGee**  
Senior Volunteer Coordinator

**Patty Abreu**  
Senior Medical & Community  
Outreach Coordinator

**Marina Deluca**  
Senior Creative Designer &  
Project Manager

**Katia Rodrigues**  
Senior Wish Discovery Coordinator

**Martha Carmen**  
Wish Coordinator

# MAKE-A-WISH STAFF (...CONTINUED)

**Alex Lieberman**  
Wish Coordinator

**Jade Ferrada**  
Development Coordinator

**Tessa Dvorak**  
Medical and Community Outreach  
Coordinator—West Coast

**Katie Alexander**  
Special Events Coordinator  
Tampa Bay

**Kayla Scognamillo**  
Special Events Coordinator

**Caitlyn Shapiro**  
Special Events Coordinator

**Liv Mayrom**  
Brand Advancement Coordinator

**Jacqueline Alexander**  
Wish Assist Coordinator

**Miguel Medina**  
Special Events Coordinator  
Southwest Florida

**Klaida Martinez**  
Wish Coordinator

**Sydney Hanson**  
Wish Coordinator

**Lauren Srodka**  
Donor Care & Support Coordinator  
West Coast

**Lindsey Demarest**  
Community Engagement Coordinator  
Southwest Florida

**Reilley Nelson**  
Community Engagement Coordinator  
Tampa Bay

**Ariel Espinal**  
Wish Coordinator

**Christine Anderson**  
Accounting and HR Coordinator

**Emily Rickerson**  
Community Engagement Coordinator  
Suncoast

**Amy Beversluis**  
Wish Assist Coordinator

**Andrea Rosa Rojas**  
Wish Discovery Coordinator

**Jenna Bleich**  
Wish Coordinator

**Julia Bustamante**  
Mission Support Administrator



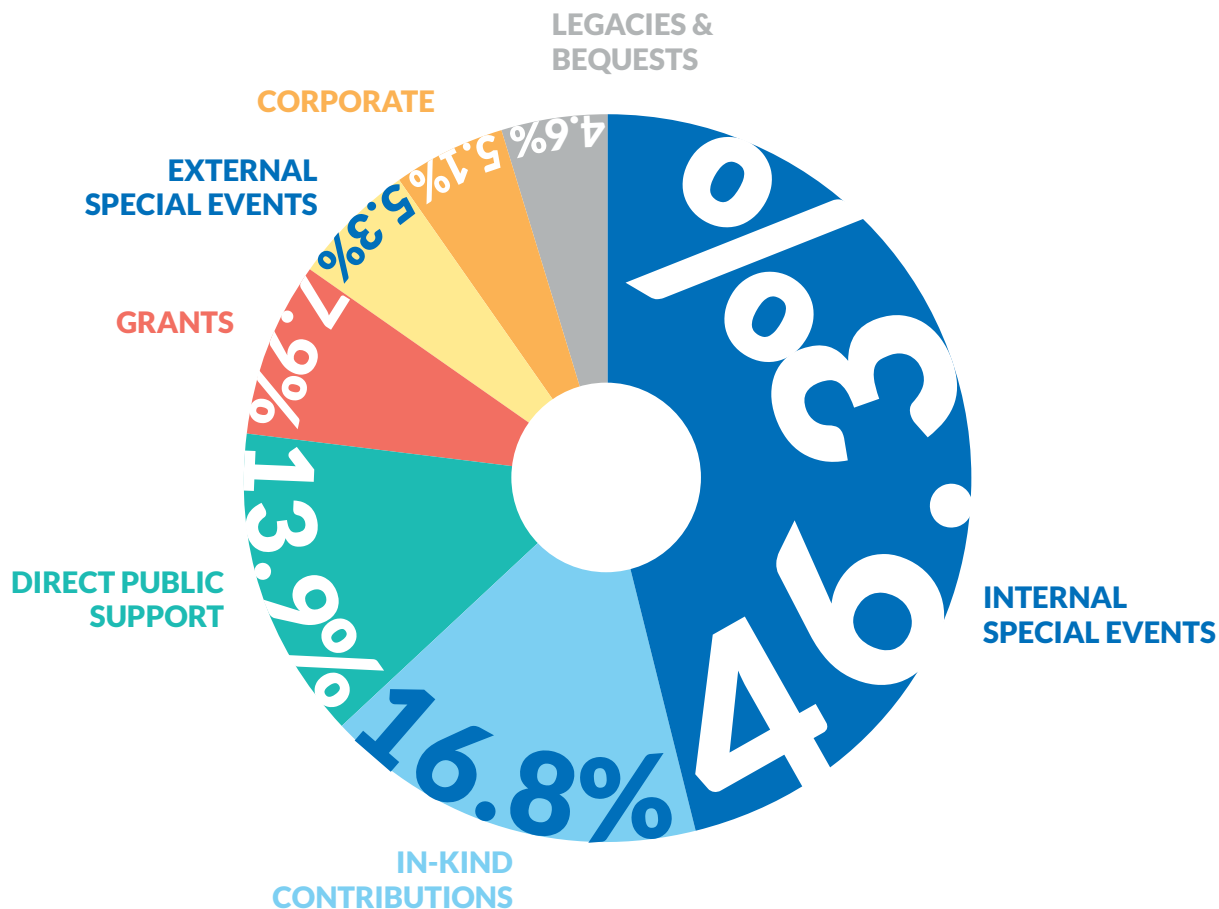
*I wish to go to  
St. Thomas and  
go ziplining*

Evan, 10  
autoimmune disorder

# FINANCIALS

Corporate sponsorships, special events, foundation grants and individual contributions make it possible for Make-A-Wish Southern Florida to deliver our wish-granting mission. All funds raised locally are used to grant the wishes of local children with critical illnesses. To provide our wish families with a stress-free experience, wish expenses including travel, hotel, meals, passes for attractions and spending money, are fully covered.

## WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM...



<b>STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION</b> August 31, 2023 and 2022	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$10,193,864	\$18,456,717
Investments	22,592,761	16,443,251
Contributions Receivable	5,855,252	6,852,948
Property and Equipment, Net	26,447,317	12,112,119
Other Assets	2,938,543	1,773,627
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$68,027,737</b>	<b>\$55,638,662</b>
Liabilities	\$7,184,075	\$2,258,749
Net Assets	60,843,662	53,379,913
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$68,027,737</b>	<b>\$55,638,662</b>

<b>STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES</b> Years Ended August 31, 2023 and 2022	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Operating Revenue</b>		
Public Support	\$19,538,113	\$17,310,197
Investment & Other Income	1,443,636	(1,765,801)
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>20,981,749</b>	<b>15,544,396</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Program Services	9,470,503	5,816,994
Fundraising	2,617,872	2,283,921
Management & General	1,254,014	1,625,208
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>13,342,389</b>	<b>9,726,123</b>
<b>Non-Operating Revenue</b>	<b>(175,611)</b>	<b>2,072,932</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$7,463,749</b>	<b>\$7,891,205</b>

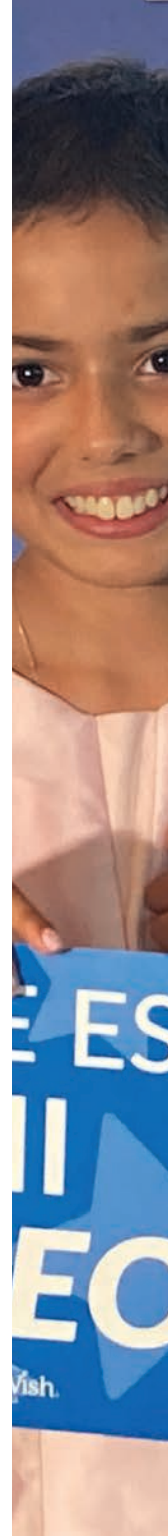
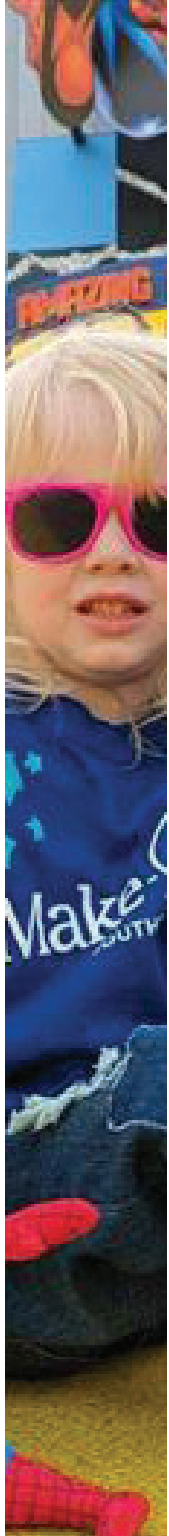
*Audited financial statements are available upon request.*



I AM  
A WISH KID  
& THIS IS MY WISH  
Make-A-Wish

AM  
WISH KID  
& THIS IS MY WISH  
Make-A-Wish

ke-A-Wish



Thank you to all of our donors for helping make wishes come true.

For a complete list of our donors, visit [makeawishdonors.org](https://makeawishdonors.org)



**Finker-Frenkel Wish House**  
343 NW 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Miami, FL 33136  
(305) 394-8474, Toll Free (888) 773-9474



**Southwest Florida Regional Office**  
3655 Bonita Beach Road, Suite 3  
Bonita Springs, FL 34134  
(239) 992-9474

**Make-A-Wish**  
SOUTHERN FLORIDA



**Tampa Bay Regional Office**  
1300 N. Westshore Blvd, #100  
Tampa, FL 33607  
(813) 288-2600



**Suncoast Regional Office**  
8126 Lakewood Main Street, Suite 202  
Sarasota, FL 34202  
(941) 378-9474

[wish.org/sfla](https://wish.org/sfla)



@makeawishsfla