



*I wish to go to Walt
Disney World*

Callie, 7
heart transplant

Make-A-Wish[®]
SOUTH CAROLINA



JOY REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2024



A Note From Our President & CEO

As we reflect on the accomplishments of fiscal year 2024, we are filled with gratitude for the impact our Make-A-Wish South Carolina family has achieved together. This year, we granted 237 wishes to children across South Carolina, bringing hope, joy, and resilience to families facing the challenges of critical illness. From powerful wish send-offs to inspiring community events, these life-changing experiences reach far beyond the wish kids themselves, uplifting their families, friends, and communities in lasting ways.

This success would not be possible without the dedication of our partners, volunteers, donors, and supporters across the state. Their generosity and compassion fuel our mission and enable us to provide life-changing experiences at no cost to the families we serve. This year, our signature events, community-led campaigns, and individual donors rallied together to bring countless wishes to life. This outpouring of support from every corner of South Carolina shows that, together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of children and their families.

We also celebrated unique and powerful wish stories this year, including a memorable ESPN "My Wish" feature highlighting Gunnar's wish to meet Freddie Freeman, and Adaleigh's wish to be a ballerina. Wishes like these serve as a reminder of the transformative power of a wish—not only for the wish kids but for their families and communities as well.

Another remarkable achievement from this year was when our very own Anthony Giudice was recognized as the Suzie Allen Volunteer of the Year, a prestigious national accolade awarded by Make-A-Wish America! Anthony's unwavering dedication to our wish kids and their families reminds us that our volunteers truly are the heartbeat of our mission.

In 2025 we celebrate 40 years of wish granting in South Carolina, and more than 4,500 wishes granted. Looking ahead, we remain laser focused on expanding our reach to serve more children each year. In the short-term, we are working to sustainably grant 250+ wishes annually. And together, our staff and board are making decisions to invest in new programs and capacity-building initiatives that will have a transformative impact on our chapter over the next 40 years and beyond.

Thank you for your steadfast support, generosity, and partnership. Together, we're transforming lives—one wish at a time!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Misty Farmer



237

WISHES GRANTED

September 2023 - August 2024

THE IMPACT OF FY24

This year, Make-A-Wish South Carolina proudly granted 237 life-changing wishes to children with critical illnesses, bringing hope, joy, and strength to families across the state. Each wish represents a powerful moment in a child's journey, offering a spark of light during a difficult time. These wishes do more than create joyful memories—they renew hope for the future and strengthen the resilience needed to face life's challenges. The impact of a wish goes beyond the child, creating ripples of joy and unity that uplift families, friends, and communities.

OUR VISION

To grant the wish of every eligible child in South Carolina.

OUR VALUES

CHILD FOCUS - We always put wish kids first.

INTEGRITY - We are honest, transparent, and respectful.

IMPACT - We deliver life-changing work.

INNOVATION - We are bold, imaginative, and creative.

COMMUNITY - We are a diverse group of people working together toward a common goal.

WHAT WE DO

At Make-A-Wish South Carolina, we grant life-changing wishes to children battling critical illnesses. We believe that wishes are more than just a moment of happiness; they're a vital part of a child's fight against a life-threatening condition. Wishes bring tangible joy, renewed hope for tomorrow, and the strength to keep fighting harder. We strive to create a lasting impact with each wish, building resilience and empowering wish kids and their families.

WHO WE SERVE

We serve children between the ages of 2.5 and 18 at the time of their referral who are battling illnesses defined as critical, whether malignant, degenerative, or progressive. Each child's eligibility is assessed according to Make-A-Wish guidelines and in consultation with their treating physician to ensure that we reach those most in need.

WHERE WE SERVE

We proudly serve families across all 46 counties of South Carolina, uniting communities statewide in support of life-changing wishes.

In fiscal year 2024, we continued our commitment to our vision and to upholding our values, ensuring that every child in South Carolina who qualifies for a wish experiences the life-changing power it brings.

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A Note From Our Board Chair

As we close another impactful year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been part of our mission. This past year, we granted 237 wishes to children in South Carolina, each one a testament to the power of hope and the strength of community. From donors to volunteers, every individual who supports Make-A-Wish South Carolina is vital to creating these life-changing experiences.

Together, we are building a legacy of hope and joy, ensuring that every eligible child in our state can experience the lasting impact of a wish. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to transforming lives. I look forward to all we will achieve together in the coming year.

*With gratitude,
Tom Pate*



An incredibly fun (and messy) day learning how to make biscuits with wish kids & Callie's Hot Little Biscuit!



GUNNAR'S WISH

Gunnar, an 11-year-old from Rock Hill, SC, has faced the challenges of living with cystic fibrosis with remarkable strength and determination. A devoted baseball fan, Gunnar found inspiration in LA Dodgers first baseman Freddie Freeman, whose skill and character motivated him through difficult times. Thanks to Make-A-Wish South Carolina, Gunnar's dream to meet his hero came true in an extraordinary day at Dodger Stadium, captured and shared on ESPN's "My Wish" series.

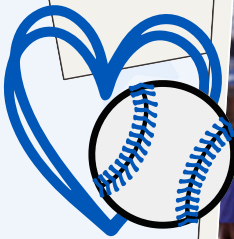
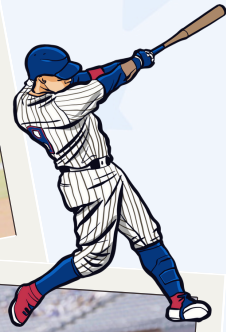
On that special day, Gunnar stepped onto the field to meet Freddie Freeman, play catch, and share stories with his idol. From exploring the dugout to bonding with the team, every moment was tailored to make Gunnar feel like a true MVP.

This experience was transformative—not only fulfilling Gunnar's dream but also instilling in him a newfound confidence.

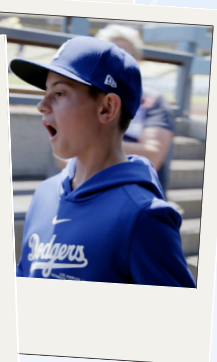
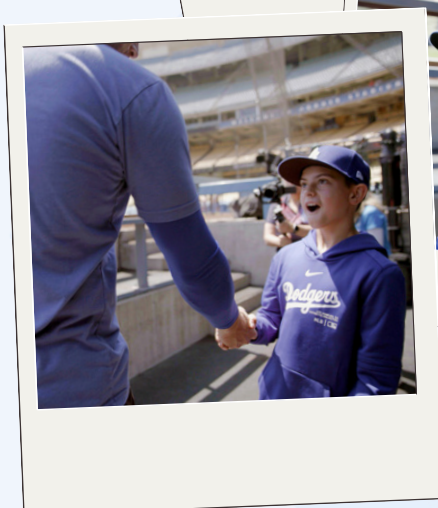
According to his mom, the wish gave Gunnar the courage to be more open about his illness and to share his journey with others. **Meeting Freddie and being celebrated for his strength allowed Gunnar to feel seen and supported,** showing him the power of his story to inspire others.

Gunnar's wish wasn't just about meeting his hero—it was a defining moment that renewed his sense of self-worth and empowered him to embrace his identity as a fighter and baseball enthusiast. His mom shared that **this experience has helped Gunnar feel proud of his resilience and more willing to talk about the challenges he faces.** The wish continues to inspire Gunnar and his family, reminding them of the strength of community and the life-changing power of a dream realized.

Scan for a special message from Gunnar!



*I wish to meet LA Dodger's player
Freddie Freeman*
Gunnar, 11
cystic fibrosis



CELEBRATING FY24:

A Year of Wishes, A Legacy of Joy

As we close the chapter on another incredible year at Make-A-Wish South Carolina, we reflect on the milestones, moments, and memories that have shaped our journey from September 2023 to August 2024. This year, 237 children across South Carolina experienced the life-changing power of a wish, bringing hope, joy, and strength to families navigating critical illnesses.

Our Signature Events—including Trailblaze Challenge, Wish Night, and the W.I.S.H. Societies—raised more than \$1.6 million to fuel our mission, a testament to the unwavering generosity of our supporters.

Corporate and community partnerships also played a vital role in making wishes come true. Walgreens, Anderson Brothers Bank, Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of SC, Culver's, and TD SYNEX's Share the Magic event provided substantial support, expanding our reach to even more children. BNI of the Midlands continued their legacy as the top Trailblaze Fundraising Team, contributing over \$106,000, while the Daniel Island Kids' "Flocking for Wishes" campaign honored wish kid Charlie Peary's memory, raising vital funds and awareness.



★ CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WISHES ★

Fiscal year 2025 will be particularly special as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Make-A-Wish South Carolina. Since granting our very first wish in 1984 to a five-year-old named Louis, who wished to see a "big-time football game," we have granted over 4,500 wishes across the state. This milestone is not just a celebration of the past—it is a promise for the future, a commitment to every child still waiting for their wish to come true.

"As we celebrate 40 years of granting wishes, we are reminded of the impact our work has on the lives of children and their families. Each wish is a testament to the incredible support we receive from our community partners and volunteers," said Misty Farmer, President & CEO of Make-A-Wish South Carolina.

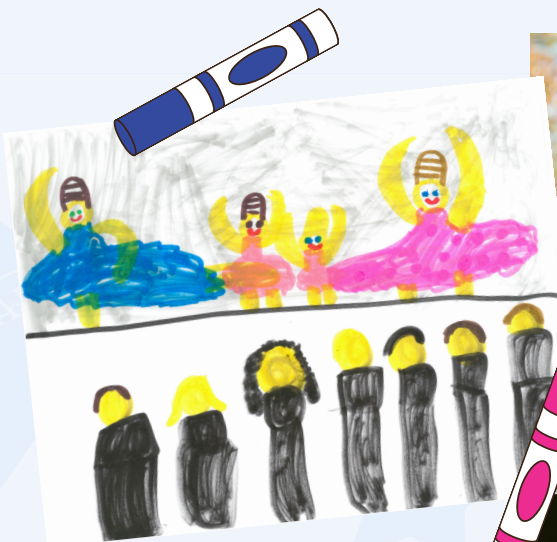


ADALEIGH'S WISH

At just 6 years old, Adaleigh has faced a journey filled with challenges, including three open-heart surgeries and countless therapies. Despite these struggles, her bright spirit and love for dance remained unwavering.

When given the chance to have a wish granted, Adaleigh knew exactly what she wanted: **to be a ballerina for a day**. With the help of Ballet Spartanburg and Make-A-Wish, her dream became a dazzling reality. Dressed in a sparkling tutu, she danced alongside her sister Brenna and professional ballerinas, twirling and leaping with pure joy.

For her family, this wish was a precious escape from the daily weight of medical routines. **It was a chance to see Adaleigh as more than her illness—simply a little girl living out her dream.** Her mother described the experience as recapturing moments they feared were lost, replacing "what ifs" with memories they will cherish forever. Adaleigh's wish was a powerful reminder of the hope and joy that can shine through even the darkest times, creating a lasting impact for her and her loved ones.



"Thank you for helping Adaleigh and our family feel hopeful when so often we don't know what's coming. Thank you for restoring our hope in the unknown and helping us on our journey!" -Wish Mom



CELEBRATING FY24:

The Impact of Our Signature Events

TRAILBLAZE CHALLENGE

Our Trailblaze Challenge is a physical and fundraising challenge that invites participants to complete a one-day, 20+ mile hike. This year, hikers from across the state came together to support our mission, raising over \$700,000. Trailblaze is more than a hike; it's a journey shared by a community dedicated to empowering wish kids and their families. Every mile hiked represents a step toward a brighter future for the children we serve.



WISH NIGHT GALA

The annual Wish Night Gala is a celebration of our mission, bringing together wish families, community leaders, and dedicated supporters. This year's gala was a powerful evening filled with inspiring stories and unforgettable moments, including a live wish reveal. Thanks to the generosity of our attendees, the gala raised over a record-breaking \$720,000—funds that will go directly toward fulfilling the wishes of children across South Carolina. Wish Night continues to be a highlight of the year, embodying the hope and joy that a wish provides.



W.I.S.H. SOCIETIES

The Women Inspiring Strength & Hope (W.I.S.H.) Societies bring together extraordinary women committed to raising funds for life-changing wishes. This year, our Upstate and Lowcountry W.I.S.H. Societies collectively raised over \$225,000, demonstrating the powerful impact of women supporting one another and our mission. Through their individual fundraising efforts, W.I.S.H. Society members have shown how one person's dedication can spark hope and resilience in the lives of many.



TOGETHER, WE CREATE LASTING JOY

Our signature events are more than fundraisers; they are celebrations of resilience, generosity, and community. This year's achievements are a testament to the commitment of everyone who supports Make-A-Wish South Carolina. As we look back on FY24, we are inspired by the unity and compassion shown by our supporters, and we look forward to creating even more unforgettable moments together in the year ahead.



FISCAL
YEAR
2024

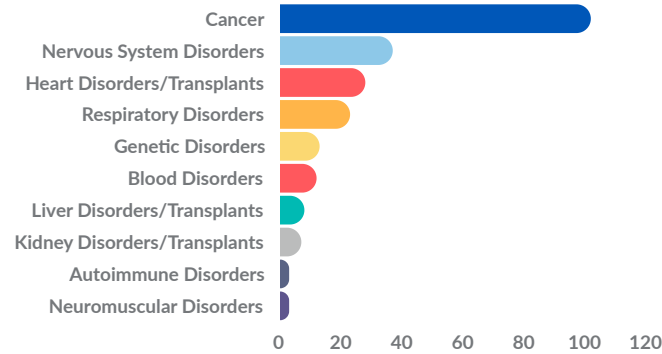
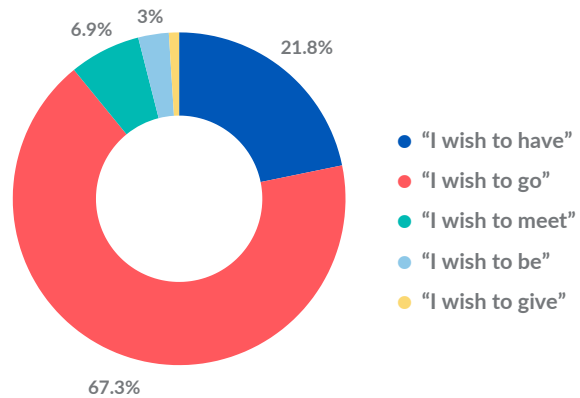
237

WISHES GRANTED

This past year, **Make-A-Wish® South Carolina** sparked hope and gave strength to 237 children battling critical illnesses.

WISH TYPES

Wishes are as unique as the child making the request but typically fall within five categories: "I wish to have", "I wish to go", "I wish to meet", "I wish to be" and "I wish to give".

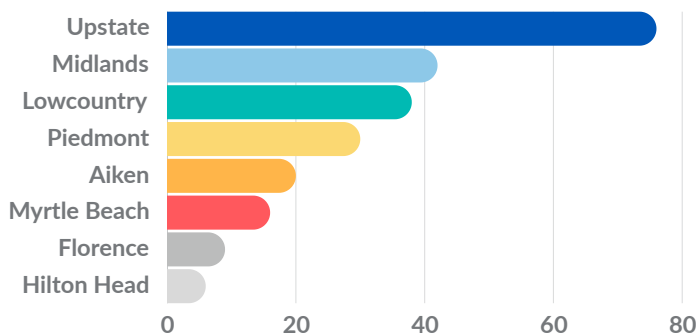


WISHES BY CONDITION

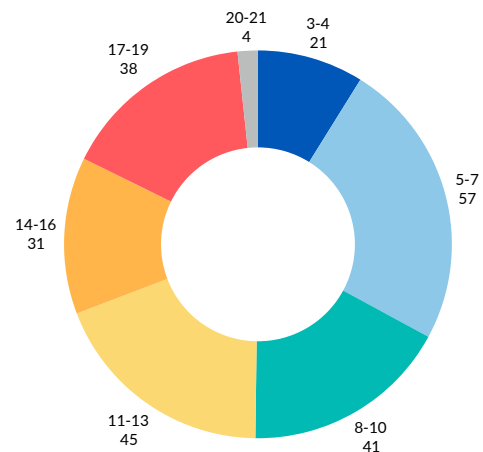
Wishes are granted to serve as a **catalyst for renewed strength and encouragement** to children with illnesses defined as malignant, degenerative, or progressive.

WISHES BY REGION

Our chapter serves the **entire state** of South Carolina. Wish families are your friends, neighbors and relatives.



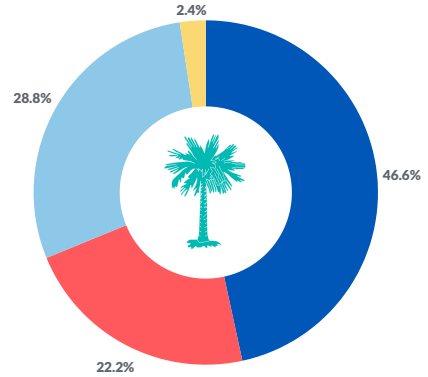
WISHES BY AGE



FISCAL
YEAR
2024

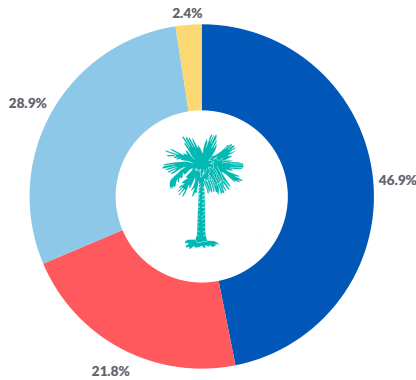
TOTAL REVENUE

- Public Support Cash - \$2,517,714
- Public Support In Kind - \$1,117,077
- Internal Special Events - \$1,445,781
- Grants - \$123,393



TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT - \$5,203,965

*Total Net Assets - \$3,920,105



TOTAL EXPENSES

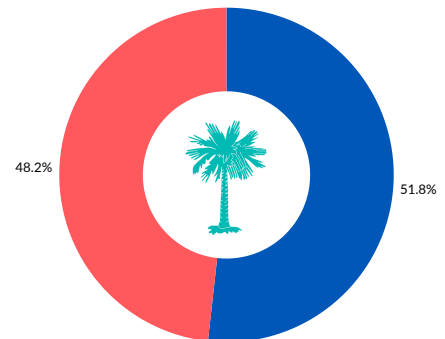
- Direct Wish Expense - \$3,485,862
- Fundraising - \$1,078,793
- Management & General - \$401,431

TOTAL EXPENSES - \$4,966,086

AVERAGE WISH COST

- Avg Wish Cost, Cash - \$5,516
- Avg Wish Cost, In Kind - \$5,139

AVG TOTAL WISH COST - \$10,655



*I wish to be
a Marine*

Trent, 12
congenital heart
disease

#1
Most Trusted Nonprofit
Operating Locally
Across 50 States

MAKE-A-WISH®

MORNING CONSULT™
2024

**“Thank you for making a little boy who has gone through so much, since birth, so happy. He is the sweetest most loving little boy and deserves the world”
- Wish Mom**



**“This wish experience was greatly appreciated and my family is truly thankful. We all had a great time and was at peace.”
-Wish Mom**

**“Your sacrifice blessed our family with a phenomenal experience that will be part of our memories forever.”
-Wish Mom**



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Anthony Guidice has dedicated more than two decades to Make-A-Wish, transforming the lives of children with critical illnesses through his unwavering commitment to volunteerism. Inspired by the wish journey of his nephew Shawn, Anthony began his service with the Make-A-Wish Hudson Valley chapter, where he helped grant 78 wishes before moving to South Carolina. Since then, he has played an instrumental role in granting over 120 wishes with Make-A-Wish South Carolina, contributing more than \$31,000 in personal donations. Serving as a wish granter, Volunteer Leader, and event volunteer, Anthony often drives hours to ensure wish kids and their families experience the full impact of a wish. His dedication extends beyond state lines, as he continues to reach families nationwide through virtual volunteering, demonstrating his innovative approach to making every wish possible.

In recognition of his extraordinary efforts, Anthony was honored as the 2023 recipient of the Suzie Allen Volunteer of the Year Award, a prestigious national accolade awarded by Make-A-Wish America. Co-nominated by both the South Carolina and Hudson Valley chapters, Anthony embodies the spirit of volunteerism, inspiring fellow volunteers, wish families, and staff alike. His passion and selflessness have left an indelible mark on the organization, proving that one person's dedication can create a ripple effect of hope and joy.

**“In a world that is not always kind, it is unbelievably uplifting to know that there are people, like you, who care so much about a person you have never even met.”
- Wish Mom**



**“Thank you for making it possible for a young man to experience the trip of a lifetime and feel like a MVP, all while forgetting for just a little about his health challenges.”
-Wish Mom**



**“To be born with half a heart, he has the biggest heart I’ve ever known.” -
Wish Dad**






special thanks

TO OUR TOP DONORS

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Applebee's Mid-Atlantic
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Austin and Mercedes Stone
Ben and Liz Walker
Bill and Connie Williamson
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Wheels for Wishes
Women Giving For Spartanburg





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★ CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WISHES ★

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