

*I wish to be a  
paleontologist*

Syler, 14  
genetic disorder



24-25  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

Make-A-Wish®  
IDAHO



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WISHES



[idaho.wish.org](http://idaho.wish.org)

# Our People

## Staff

Janie Best, President and CEO  
Mo Bagley, Senior Wish Coordinator  
Renee Beal, Director of Operations  
Michelle John, North Idaho Regional Manager  
Matt Dahlgran, Director of Mission Delivery  
Josh Peterson, Communications Manager  
Kaitlyn Picard, Special Events Coordinator  
Shawn Reilly, Director of Development  
Julie Thomas, Regional Director, East Idaho

## Board of Directors

Grant Porter, Chair - Bluebird Home Loans  
Vicki White, Vice Chair - Retired  
Abby Black, Immediate Past Chair - Retired  
Jason Hover, Secretary - InfoStrategy Consulting  
Allie Isaacson, Treasurer - Community Volunteer  
Scott Alexander, Alexander Hoffman Orthodontics  
Tim Brown, Wells Fargo  
Stu Draper, Startups with Stu  
Jackie Garrison, Alaska Airlines  
Neil Gulley, CBIP Services  
Wendi Lete, Kount  
Mark McGuire, Retired  
Breanne Simplot Gerhard, J.R. Simplot Company  
Becki Woodbury, CLM Marketing and Advertising  
Jonathan Young, Edward Jones

## The Mission

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



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

## Connect with us

For all the latest news about Idaho wishes and events.



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Janie Best  
President and CEO

This year, we're celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During those four wonderful decades, we've granted over 2,250 wishes, bringing hope, joy, and strength to families during a difficult time. The most popular wish by far is still the wish to go to a Disney destination. We've granted 1,009 of those (and by the time you read this, the number will be higher even). Other popular wishes include 267 shopping spree wishes and 142 wishes to go to Hawaii.

Some of the unique wishes include a wish to be the referee at a Boise State football game, a wish to reenact a Civil War battle, a wish to be a garbageman, a wish to have a miniature cow, and a wish to fly in a navy jet.

Several high water marks in the chapter's history have included a record-setting 140 wishes granted during its 2023-2024 fiscal year, opening an office in Post Falls in 2023, and winning a Wish Innovation Award from Make-A-Wish America in 2014 for granting a wish for a robotic dragon. This fiscal year, Make-A-Wish Idaho won two awards for leadership and fundraising, and each year, we have become better at what we do.

However, one of the largest challenges that the Make-A-Wish enterprise faces is a misconception about who our organization serves. Initially the organization was created to grant wishes for children with terminal illnesses. That was over 45 years ago. Since then, medical science has improved and Make-A-Wish expanded its program to focus on children with life-threatening illnesses.

More than 80% of wish children are expected to survive their qualifying illnesses. Wishes are an important part of the recovery process because they help reduce traumatic stress that can lead to long-term mental health issues like anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, learning problems, and so on. However, the public as well as many medical professionals still believe that Make-A-Wish is for children with terminal illnesses only. This has been a persistent **MYTH** across the enterprise, and it's estimated that for every wish that our organization grants, there are two eligible children who are never referred to Make-A-Wish. Those children deserve wishes. And it is our goal, as we look towards the future, to grant every eligible wish through outreach, education, and communication.



Grant Porter  
Board Chair

# WISHES GRANTED BY TYPE



## WISHES BY CATEGORY







*I wish to go to  
Disney World*

**Faith, 6**  
cancer

“Faith still talks about Florida and wanting to go back to be special. She’s happier, and anytime we see a Disney commercial she says ‘I met them in real life.’ She feels invincible, and we look forward to going back to volunteer and to remember the special week we spent forgetting about all the pain and sadness we endured to get there.”

- wish mom Teresa

“When we got back, her attitude had completely changed. She was excited to go back to physical therapy. She said, “let’s try to walk.” If she hadn’t gone on this trip, I don’t know if she’d have the drive. Now, she’s able to take a few steps here and there. If she keeps at it, the doctors think she can regain 80-90% of her mobility.”

- wish mom TaNesha



*I wish to go to  
San Diego*

**Berkeley, 6**  
brain tumor



*I wish to go to  
Hawaii*

Paislee, 9  
respiratory disorder

"For the first time, I felt like a normal kid. I didn't have to worry about what appointments I had, school work, or my respiratory disorder. I got to go on vacation and do my treatments in Hawaii, which felt less like a chore. I got to go out to eat whenever I wanted; my parents said yes to almost everything, and I got to experience things that I wouldn't have been able to at home," Paislee said.

"He feels very loved," wish mom Alicia said. "Miles said that they gave me a pergola because 'everyone loves me.' I think it helps his whole worldview. He sees everyone as kind and nice and knows that there are good people on this earth who God will send to help. That lesson has hit for him."



*I wish to have a  
pergola*

Miles, 6  
leukemia



*I wish to have a  
clubhouse*

Taibree, 8  
cancer

"It did definitely uplift her attitude," her dad, Jeremiah, said. "It's been a challenge for her to sit and look out the door and just watch as it went up. There's been a lot of anticipation for it. That's been a good positive thing for her."

"Thank you, Make-A-Wish," wrote wish dad Martin. "Eloise had such a wonderful time at the event and was truly surprised when Emerald was brought out. She has been loving on her so much and has been smiling so much more. Thank you for making her wish come true."



*I wish to have a  
golden retriever*

Eloise, 9  
cancer



# 2024-2025 EVENTS



Make-A-Wish Idaho held many meaningful events during the 2024-2025 fiscal year, each helping raise support and awareness for local wish kids. These gatherings strengthened community connections and fueled the mission to bring hope, joy, and life-changing wishes to children across Idaho.

Albertsons Round-Up Campaign



Serving Up Wishes



Gerbert-Arbaugh Polar Bear Challenge



Wishes In Flight



Walk For Wishes East Idaho



Walk For Wishes North Idaho



Dutch Bros Give Back Day



Jersey Mike's Month of Giving



Community Engagement

Farm Bureau Golf Tournament



Guns V. Hoses



Wishes Golf Tournament



Walk For Wishes Magic Valley



Topgolf Wish Send-Offs



World Wish Month



Kids For Wish Kids



Boise Albertsons Open





REVENUES: \$3,568.299  
EXPENSES: \$3,259.271  
NET INCOME: \$309,028  
NET ASSETS: \$3,305,393

## 2024-2025 FINANCIALS



THANK YOU,  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS



# THE POWER OF A WISH



## Trauma Relief

**9 out of 10 wish parents**

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



## Emotional & Mental Well-Being

**9 out of 10 wish parents**

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



## Turning Point

**8 out of 10 wish parents**

saw that their child's wish gave them a stronger sense of empowerment.



## Strength to Fight

**8 out of 10 wish parents**

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



## Long-Term Impact

**9 out of 10 wish parents**

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

*I wish to go to  
Disney World*

Otto, 11  
cancer

"There was one point where we were watching fireworks at Epcot and they do the fireworks so close to where you are. Otto could see them, and that was a big deal for a kid who hadn't been able to experience that for awhile. It was amazing to be together as a family and have our focus be fun. We weren't going to appointments. We weren't getting scan results. We were having fun."

-Shauna, wish mom





# OTHER WAYS TO GIVE



## Planned Giving

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



## Security Donations

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



Make-A-Wish  
WALK  
FOR WISHES

## Retirement Distributions

You can turn the required distribution from your IRA into a gift that creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. If you are 70 ½ or older, you can contribute up to \$105,000 from your IRA tax-free (\$210,000 for qualifying married couples).



Make-A-Wish  
WALK  
FOR WISHES



Reduce Anxiety  
and Depression

Relieve Traumatic Stress

Bring Families Together

Augment The Child's  
Emotional Well-Being

WISHES  
CAN

Improve Compliance With  
Medical Treatment

Act As A Coping Mechanism

Strengthen Relationships  
With Loved Ones

Provide Self-Esteem And  
Confidence

(EIN): 82-0408150



IT'S YOUR SUPPORT THAT  
MAKES LIFE-CHANGING  
WISHES POSSIBLE

*I wish to go to  
Hawaii*

Tayla, 14  
cancer



"Our whole family LOVED our Hawaii vacation. Turtle Bay was amazing and just what we needed to relax. The North Shore was so fun! Tayla's favorite things were para-sailing and relaxing at the pool. We can't thank Make-A-Wish enough for giving this experience to our family!"

—Wish Mom, Katie

*I wish to go to  
Hawaii*

Miles, 7  
cancer



"This year has been one that wore us down, completely. Hearing those words - that your child has cancer, is something that no parent should ever have to endure. We have been so exhausted and depleted, and this trip was so good for filling our empty cups. I pray you know that what you give to these families is invaluable. The work you do, and with so much detail is beyond amazing. You are all a gift from God, and I know we could never thank you enough. Miles' wish, was a wish come true."

—Wish Mom, Laura

*I wish to go to  
Disney World*

Garrett, 18  
lymphoma



"A big thank you to Make-A-Wish Idaho and everyone who has been through it with us for the past two years! Garrett has been looking forward to this wish as a chance to get away from everything."

—Wish Mom, Rachelle

APRIL 8



JANUARY, 2027



MAY 30



OCTOBER 13



MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR

MAY 30



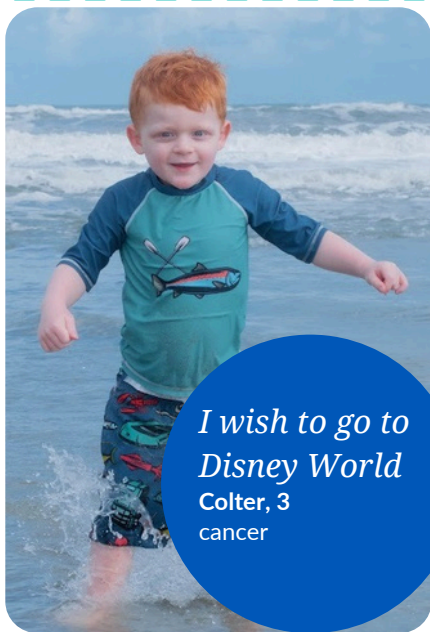
JUNE 13



THE COMMUNITY MAKES WISHES POSSIBLE







*I wish to go to  
Disney World*  
Colter, 3  
cancer



*I wish to meet  
BoyWithUke*  
Dylan, 18  
cancer



*I wish to go to  
the San Diego Zoo*  
Kenzley, 5  
genetic disorder



*I wish to go to  
Disney World*  
Jessa, 4  
brain tumor



*I wish to meet  
Nathan Sawaya*  
Caleb, 10  
blood disorder



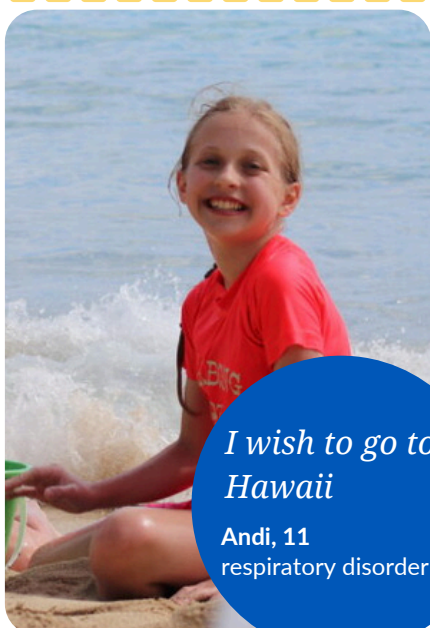
*I wish to have a  
shopping spree*  
Nicole, 17  
heart condition



*I wish to have a  
pergola and swing*  
Beckham, 16  
nervous system disorder



*I wish to meet  
Pat Maholmes*  
Aiden, 9  
congenital heart disease



*I wish to go to  
Hawaii*  
Andi, 11  
respiratory disorder