

*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

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

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Vicki White, Vice Chair - Retired
Abby Black, Immediate Past Chair - Retired
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Allie Isaacson, Treasurer - Community Volunteer
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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 40th 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



WISHES BY REGION



*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. “

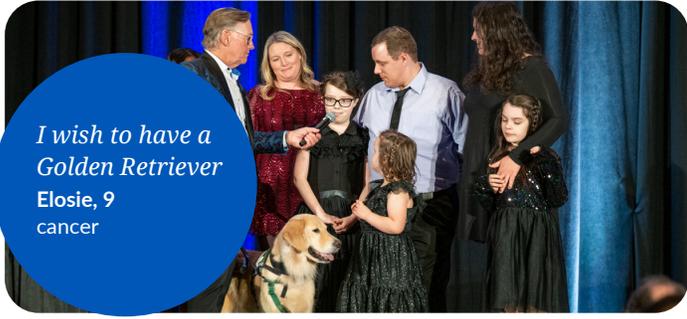
“Thank you, Make-A-Wish,” wrote wish dad Martin. “Eloise had such a wonderful time at the event and was truly surprised when Emerald was brought out. She has been loving on her so much and has been smiling so much more. Thank you for making her wish come true.”



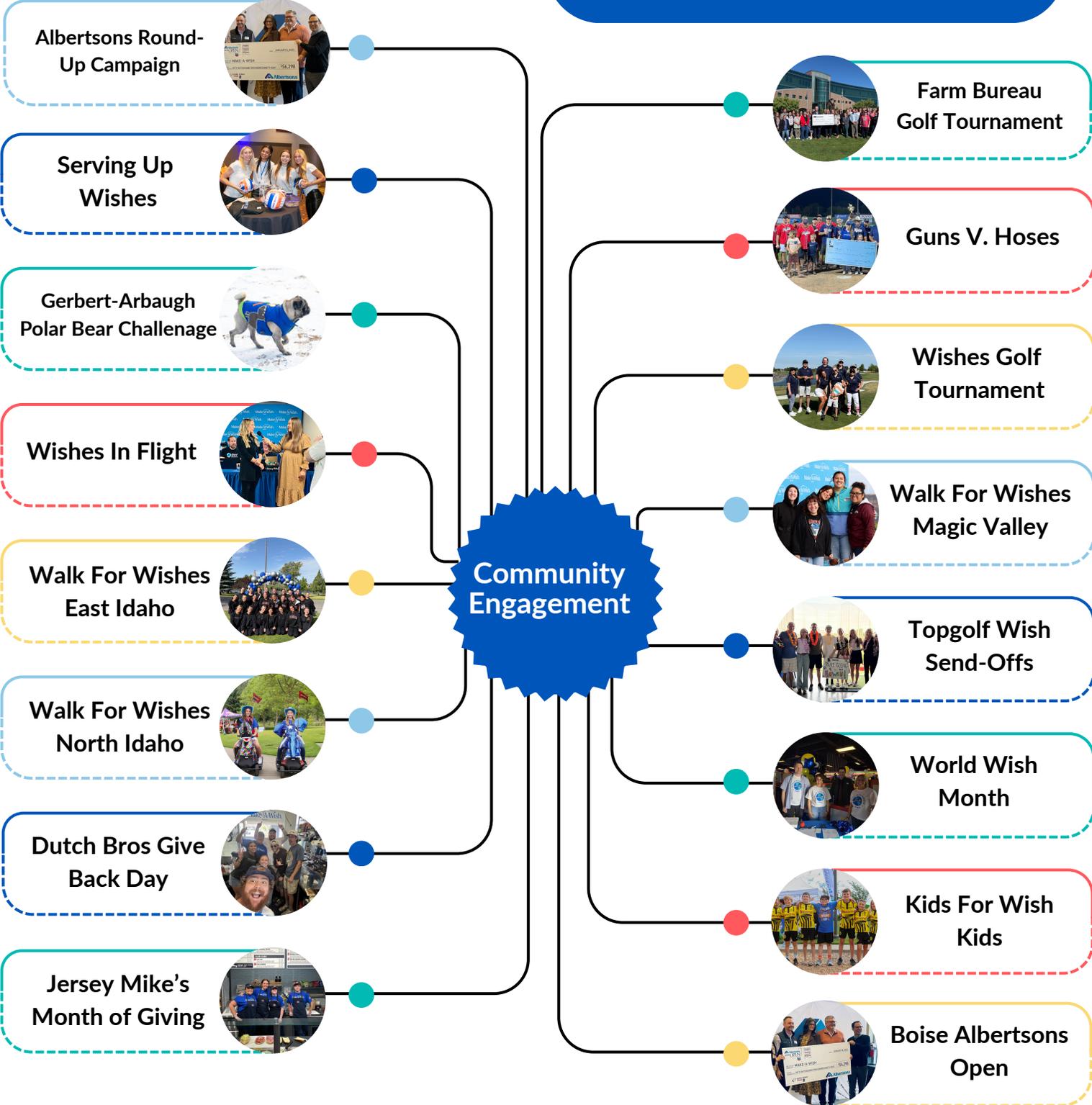
I wish to have a golden retriever

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.



Total Revenue: \$3,053,572
 Total expenses: \$2,790,666
 Program: \$2,136,402
 Management and General: \$214,780
 Fundraising: \$439,484
 Ending Net Assets: \$3,568,299

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



Make A Wish
WISHES IN FLIGHT
IDAHO

JANUARY, 2027



Goody-Attingham Polar Bear Challenge
Make A Wish

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR

MAY 30



Make A Wish
WALK FOR WISHES
MAGIC VALLEY

OCTOBER 13



Make A Wish
SERVING UP WISHES

MAY 30



Make A Wish
WALK FOR WISHES
NORTH IDAHO

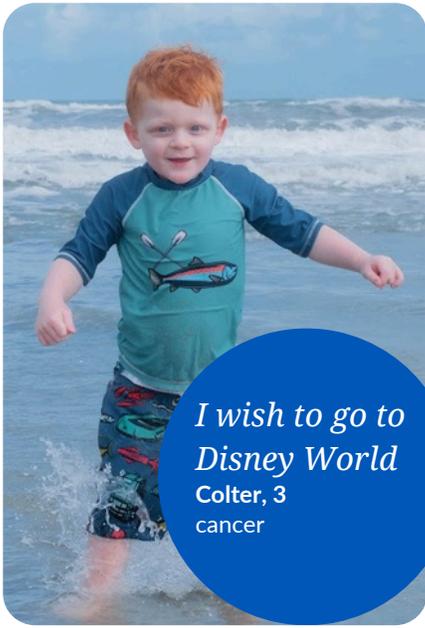
JUNE 13



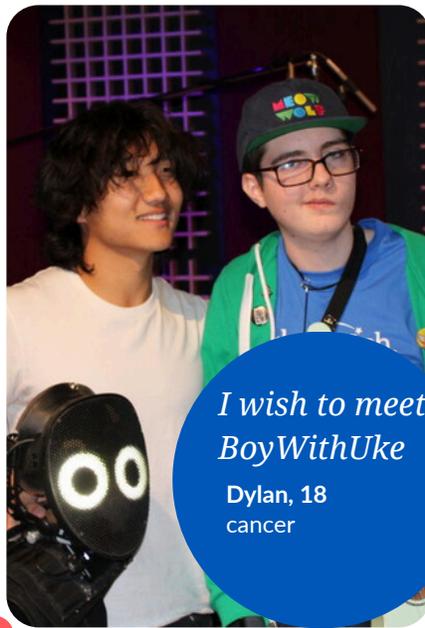
Make A Wish
WALK FOR WISHES
EAST IDAHO

THE COMMUNITY MAKES WISHES POSSIBLE





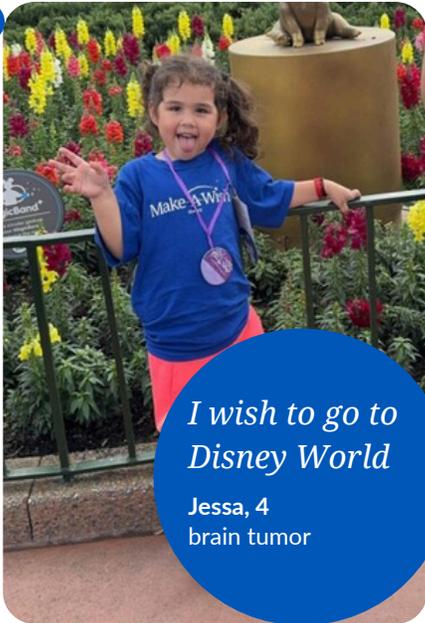
I wish to go to Disney World
Colter, 3
cancer



I wish to meet BoyWithUke
Dylan, 18
cancer



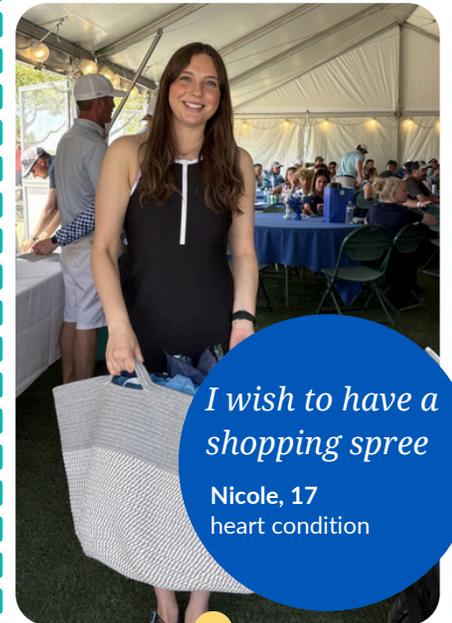
I wish to go to the San Diego Zoo
Kenzley, 5
genetic disorder



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