



*I wish to be a
mermaid*

Journey, 6
blood disorder



Make-A-Wish®
SOUTH CAROLINA

★ CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WISHES ★

JOY REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2025

JOURNEY'S BIG SPLASH: A Mermaid Wish Come True

Journey, a vibrant 6-year-old from Pawleys Island, South Carolina, is living with a rare blood disorder. Her heartfelt wish was **“to be a mermaid,”** and that dream was brought to life in a way she'll never forget.

Journey's life has been shaped by frequent hospital visits and difficult treatments. Even in the hardest moments, her determination shines through. Her mom shared, “There's nothing worse than seeing your child in pain, screaming, crying, ‘Oh my god, I can't take it.’ And in the same breath say, **‘I'm going to be brave.’** She has so much courage and so much strength. I look up to her, and she doesn't even know it.”

Journey's wish was granted on her birthday, making the celebration even more extraordinary. After a full mermaid makeover, she stepped into a world designed just for her. Journey arrived at Ripley's Aquarium in Myrtle Beach to a bubble-filled blue carpet, greeted by cheering friends, family,

and volunteers. From shimmering tails to sparkling smiles, every detail reflected her imagination.

Her mom reflected, “It really means the world that she has so many supporters. And so many people that love her. Honestly, I cannot imagine going through this alone.” Journey, glowing with happiness, shared, **“I love you all because you can be a mermaid, too.”**

This wish was more than a party. It was a day of hope and healing that brought a community together and gave Journey the chance to feel strong and celebrated. Her story reminds us that wishes replace fear with confidence, sadness with joy, and anxiety with hope.

Scan or [CLICK HERE](#) to watch Journey's wish come true!





Dear Friends & Supporters of Make-A-Wish South Carolina,

As we reflect on fiscal year 2025, one milestone rises above all others: Make-A-Wish South Carolina celebrated 40 years of creating life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. What began in 1984 with our very first wish for a young boy named Louis, who dreamed of going to a “big-time football game” at The Citadel, has grown into a statewide movement that has delivered hope, strength and joy to more than 4,700 wish kids and their families.

Honoring this legacy made our 40th anniversary celebration especially meaningful. We returned to the very place Louis’s wish came true – The Citadel homecoming game – to celebrate four decades of impact. In a full-circle moment, we invited wish kid Andy onto the field and announced his wish was being granted. Watching the crowd rise to its feet in support was a powerful reminder of how a wish doesn’t just touch one child. It brings families closer together and unites entire communities around compassion and hope.

This year was historic for another reason: we granted a record-breaking 258 wishes, more than ever before in our chapter’s history. Each wish represents a child who replaced fear with confidence, sadness with joy and anxiety with hope. Across South Carolina, wish kids felt the transformational impact that research shows can improve emotional and physical well-being as part of their medical journey.

These achievements were made possible because of you. Our volunteers, donors, partners and supporters showed extraordinary commitment this year. Your generosity fuels the wish journeys that give children renewed strength to fight critical illnesses – and ensures these experiences come at no cost to their families. Together, you helped bring to life wishes like Journey’s wish to be a mermaid, a radiant reminder of the imagination, resilience and joy that live within every child.

Fiscal year 2025 was also a year of remarkable momentum for our mission, as the Trailblaze Challenge celebrated its 10th anniversary by surpassing \$7 million raised and engaging more than 2,000 hikers statewide, and Wish Night brought supporters together for one of our strongest galas ever, achieving the second-highest total in our chapter’s history.

These milestones reflect the heart of our mission: a wish is not just a moment. It is a journey – one that strengthens families, empowers children and rallies communities to transform lives. As we look ahead, our vision remains bold: to reach more eligible children each year and work toward a future where every child who qualifies receives the hope-filled power of a wish. Our staff and board are investing in sustainable growth, innovative programs and capacity-building efforts that will shape the next 40 years of Make-A-Wish South Carolina.

Thank you for your unwavering support, your belief in our mission and your partnership in transforming lives – one wish at a time.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Misty Farmer

President & CEO
Make-A-Wish South Carolina

Tom Pate

Board Chair
Make-A-Wish South Carolina

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fiscal Year 2025

- ★ **Tom Pate - Chair**
V.P. Business Services, Blackbaud
- ★ **Lane Lewis - Vice Chair**
Ret., Global Technology Executive
- ★ **Ben Walker - Treasurer**
Private Investor
- ★ **Megan Huebner - Secretary**
V.P. Development Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of SC
- ★ **Steve Carr**
General Manager, Dave & Buster's Myrtle Beach
- ★ **Chad Dial**
Wish Dad, Member at Dial, Grimm & Rupert
- ★ **Chris Lovorn**
Ret., VP Sales - Project Management
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- ★ **Hart Peary**
Wish Mom, Community Volunteer
- ★ **Carmen Scott**
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Director of Golf, Musgrove Mill Golf Club
- ★ **Caitlin Townsend**
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- ★ **Debbie Tucker**
V.P. Talent, Inclusion & Communications, Hubbell Incorporated
- ★ **Tammy Whaley**
Asst. V.P. for Advancement & Alumni Relations – Carolinas Campus & Executive Director for S.C. Osteopathic Medical Society
- ★ **Denise Reisner - Medical Advisor**
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Prisma Health BILO Charities Children's Cancer Center





THE IMPACT

In fiscal year 2025, Make-A-Wish South Carolina granted a record-breaking 258 life-changing wishes, each one bringing renewed hope, joy, and strength to children with critical illnesses and their families. Every wish marked a turning point in a child's journey, offering encouragement at a time it was needed most. These wish journeys do more than create meaningful memories—they help build the emotional and physical resilience children need to face their medical challenges. And the impact extends far beyond each wish kid, inspiring families, volunteers, medical partners, and entire communities across South Carolina to come together in powerful, uplifting ways.

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.



A Year in Wishes



I wish to go to Walt Disney World®

Kensley, 8
autoimmune disorder



I wish to meet the New York Yankees

Easton, 5
autoimmune disorder



I wish to go fishing in the Florida Keys

Zachary, 14
leukemia



I wish to meet my favorite band

Ella Grace, 16
nervous system disorder



I wish to have a pool chair lift

Caiden, 10
nervous system disorder



I wish to have a backyard playset

Kendrick, 5
leukemia



I wish to have a riding lawn mower

Jackie, 14
respiratory disorder



I wish to go to Nickelodeon Universe

Ava, 7
respiratory disorder



I wish to go on a shopping spree in NYC

Brianna, 14
lymphoma



I wish to be a cowboy on a dude ranch

Jase, 6
respiratory disorder



I wish to have a long-haired dachshund puppy

Charlsie, 15
cancer



I wish to have a rainbow-colored golf cart

Janiyah, 7
cancer

FISCAL
YEAR
2025

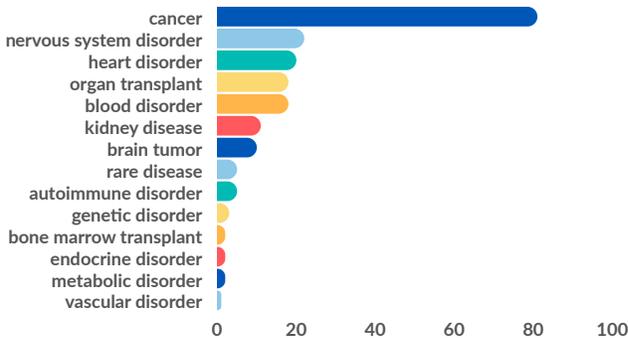
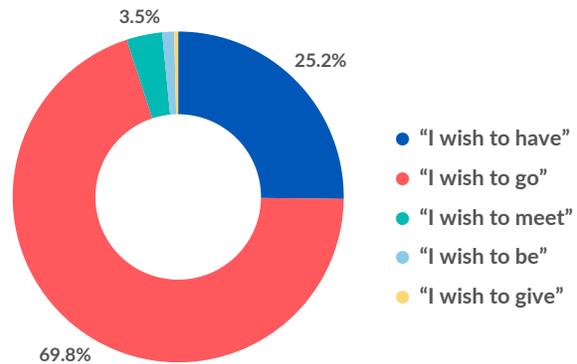
258

WISHES GRANTED

This past year, our chapter sparked hope and gave strength to a **record-breaking** number of 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"*.

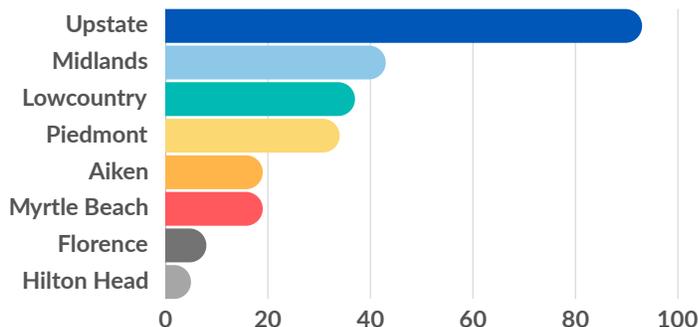


WISHES BY CONDITION

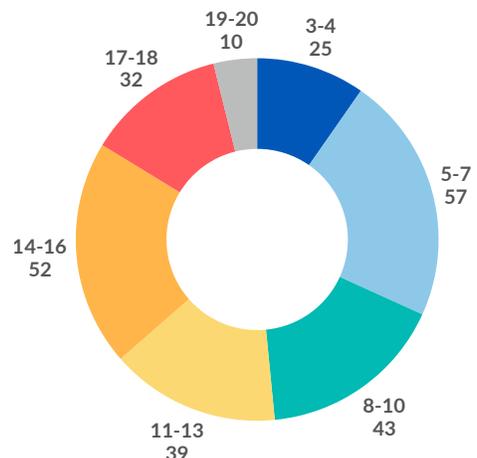
Wishes are granted to serve as a *catalyst for renewed strength and encouragement* to children with illnesses defined as malignant, degenerative, or progressive.

WISHES BY REGION

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



WISHES BY AGE



A Year in Wishes



I wish to go to TaylorMade HQ at The Kingdom

Jameson, 19
heart transplant



I wish to go to Walt Disney World®

Robert, 4
kidney transplant



I wish to go on a lake house family vacation

Jeremiah, 17
leukemia



I wish to go to Disneyland

Lorelei, 7
respiratory disorder



I wish to have a golf cart

Yohan, 14
kidney transplant



I wish to have a shopping spree

Jayden, 12
respiratory disorder



I wish to have a game room with a pool table

Matthew, 19
leukemia



I wish to go to Walt Disney World®

Rowan, 4
respiratory disorder



I wish to have a gaming computer

Eli, 15
respiratory disorder



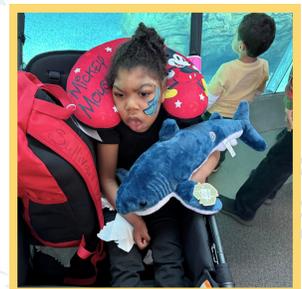
I wish to go on a Caribbean cruise

Avery, 17
congenital heart disease



I wish to meet the Buffalo Bills

Kayden, 16
congenital heart disease



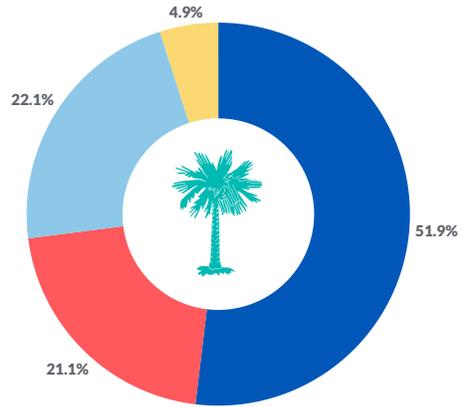
I wish to go to the Aquarium of the Pacific

Ashton, 5
nervous system disorder

FISCAL
YEAR
2025

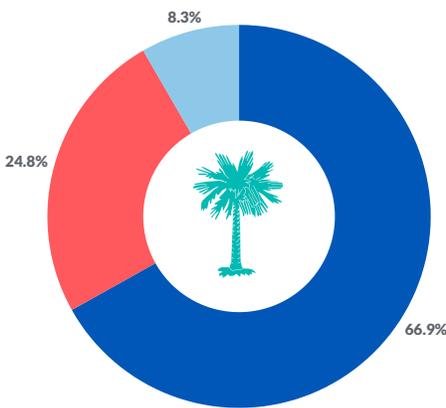
TOTAL REVENUE

- Public Support Cash - \$2,880,337
- Public Support In-Kind - \$1,169,649
- Internal Special Events - \$1,225,661
- Grants - \$273,632



TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT - \$5,549,279

*Total Net Assets - \$3,912,272



TOTAL EXPENSES

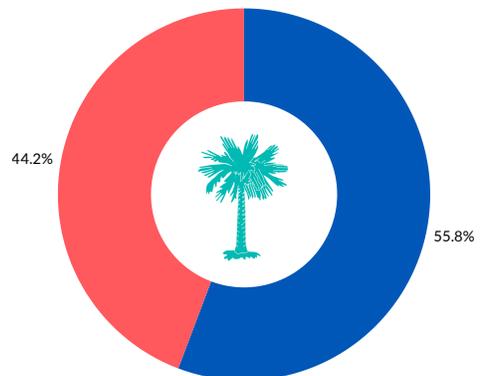
- Wish Granting - \$3,706,333
- Fundraising - \$1,373,753
- Management & General - \$462,144

TOTAL EXPENSES - \$5,542,230

AVERAGE WISH COST

- Avg Wish Cost, Cash - \$5,901
- Avg Wish Cost, In Kind - \$4,683

AVG TOTAL WISH COST - \$10,584





CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF WISHES

A Homecoming to Remember

On November 9, 2024, Make-A-Wish South Carolina marked a powerful milestone during the Citadel homecoming game, celebrating 40 years of life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. The moment carried extraordinary significance. It unfolded on the very same field where the chapter's first wish was granted in 1984, bringing the story of our beginning full circle and honoring the thousands of wish journeys that have followed.

The celebration paid tribute to Louis, the first wish kid whose courage helped spark a movement that continues to transform lives today. At just five years old, Louis was facing a brain tumor when he wished to experience a "big-time football game." The Citadel made that wish come true, inviting him to run onto the field in his own uniform while the crowd cheered him on. Louis exceeded every prognosis, living 36 more years before passing away in 2020. His legacy continues to shine as a reminder of the strength and hope a wish can inspire.



During the anniversary ceremony, the families of Louis and Chuck Dawley, one of the original board members who helped bring that first wish to life, were honored. A tribute video shared Louis's story and celebrated the chapter's four decades of impact, highlighting more than 4,500 wishes granted for children across South Carolina. Each one represents renewed strength, joyful memories and communities coming together to stand with wish kids and their families.



The celebration also looked toward the future. Nine-year-old Andy, who lives with congenital heart disease and has undergone four heart surgeries, was welcomed onto the field with his family. In a moving moment that echoed Louis's first wish, Andy learned that his wish to visit Walt Disney World would be granted. The announcement offered his family a chance to breathe, reconnect and experience the joy and strength at the heart of every wish journey.



"This was more than a celebration of our 40-year legacy. It was a look toward our future as we continue to make dreams come true for children who need hope, strength and joy to face their challenges," said Misty Farmer, President and CEO of Make-A-Wish South Carolina. "Louis's wish sparked a movement, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported us on this journey, from our founding families to our newest volunteers, donors and community partners."

Every day, more than 70 children across the country are diagnosed with a critical illness, and each one needs a wish to help build the emotional and physical strength they need to keep fighting. As Make-A-Wish South Carolina reflected on 40 years of impact, the anniversary at the Citadel reinforced a powerful truth. A wish has the ability to change lives. With the continued support of our community, we will ensure that every eligible child in South Carolina experiences the life-affirming power of a wish for generations to come.





Make-A-Wish
SOUTH CAROLINA
**TRAILBLAZE
CHALLENGE**



10 YEARS OF GRIT, HEART, AND LIFE-CHANGING IMPACT

For a decade, the Trailblaze Challenge has stood as one of the most powerful expressions of community, resilience and hope in Make-A-Wish South Carolina's history. What began as a bold idea—to invite hikers to push their limits for wish kids—has grown into a statewide force for good that has transformed lives and inspired countless supporters.

In 2025, Trailblaze celebrated its 10th anniversary, marking a milestone defined by extraordinary generosity and unwavering commitment. Since its inception, more than **3,000 hikers** have stepped onto the trail, collectively raising over **\$7.5 million** and helping grant **over 1,000 wishes** for children across South Carolina. Each mile represents something bigger: a step toward healing, joy and renewed strength for wish kids facing the hardest moments of their lives.

A Decade on South Carolina's Most Iconic Trails

Trailblazers have traversed some of our state's most breathtaking landscapes—from the rugged ridgelines of the Foothills Trail to the sweeping coastal stretches of the Palmetto Trail. These journeys have carried our mission from mountains to marshes, raising life-changing awareness and mission support in communities across all 46 counties.

Trailblaze is more than a hike; it is an act of endurance, heart and purpose—a movement of people refusing to let wish kids fight alone.

LEGENDS OF THE TRAIL: OUR GOLD SHIRT HIKERS

The Trailblaze Challenge has been shaped by remarkable leaders whose dedication has raised the bar for what's possible.

Bill Strickland - Trailblaze legend, mentor and all-time leading fundraiser - has completed 11 consecutive fall hikes, beginning at age 76. Now 87, Bill has personally raised over **\$300,000**, earning his place as a founding member of the coveted Gold Shirt Club. His commitment embodies what Trailblaze is all about: resilience, community and heart.

Brian Taylor joined the Gold Shirt ranks after surpassing **\$100,000** raised, fueled by his signature Midlands event, Wishful Shuckers, an oyster roast and auction that has become a cornerstone of local Trailblaze support.

Through his long-running Wine for Wishes fundraiser, **Andrew DeHoll** also crossed the **\$100,000** threshold, earning his Gold Shirt through creativity, dedication and a desire to ensure every wish kid experiences hope and healing.



A Year of Overcoming

FALL 2024: RISING AFTER HURRICANE HELENE

When Hurricane Helene devastated trails across Western NC and Upstate SC, the fall hike was initially cancelled. Trailblazers refused to give up, and the event was rebuilt as an early winter hike. Participants braved sub-freezing temperatures and raised more than **\$300,000** for wish kids.



Trailblaze Steps into Disaster Relief

In the days and weeks after the storm, Trailblaze became a lifeline for affected communities. Dozens of hikers gathered on the original hike weekend to deliver supplies, even while managing damage in their own homes. Volunteers continued supporting recovery efforts by packing and distributing essentials, clearing debris and helping neighbors across the hardest hit areas. Several tons of critical supplies were flown into remote sections of Western NC by a group of private pilots led by Make-A-Wish South Carolina wish kid alum Corey Cassel.



At the request of the Foothills Trail Conservancy, an elite scout team of Trailblaze Coordinators and select Trailblaze Alumni completed information-gathering hikes into the most severely damaged sections of the Foothills Trail. Their findings helped the Conservancy create an accurate and effective recovery plan. Their leadership reflected the spirit of the program. When the trail needs help, Trailblazers step forward.



SPRING 2025: STRENGTH THROUGH THE TABLE ROCK COMPLEX FIRES

When the Table Rock Complex Fires disrupted training hikes and threatened homes across the Upstate, the Trailblaze community stepped forward once again. Some hikers protected their own homes and businesses, including Trailblaze Challenge Coordinator Michelle Owens, who kept the season moving even while under mandatory evacuation. Two Trailblaze Red Shirts served on frontline suppression teams, and many others delivered supplies, assisted emergency crews and supported fire-impacted families.



Despite weeks of uncertainty, the Spring 2025 season completed three successful hike weekends across the state and raised **\$352,296** to support wish journeys. It was a powerful reminder that Trailblaze is driven by commitment and community spirit, not by conditions. When the trail needs help, Trailblazers step forward.



Make-A-Wish
SOUTH CAROLINA

WISH Night

presented by

The Cox Group

A Journey Through Wishes



Wish Night 2025: A Journey Through Wishes

In March, more than 300 guests gathered at Wild Dunes Resort for an evening dedicated to the strength, joy and resilience of South Carolina wish kids. This year's Wish Night Gala honored a milestone moment, celebrating 40 years of Make-A-Wish South Carolina and the thousands of life-changing wish journeys that have shaped our chapter's history. The event raised an extraordinary \$635,000, ensuring more children across the state will experience the hope and healing of a wish.

Presented for the second year by **The Cox Group**, Wish Night invited guests to step into an immersive celebration of stories, impact and community.

An Evening Filled With Hope, Heart & Unforgettable Moments

The night's energy was powered by the voices and talents of our incredible wish kids.

- Wish kid Lila co-emceed the program with confidence and joy.
- Wish kid Steven took the stage as co-auctioneer, encouraging guests to give generously.
- Wish kid Adaleigh and her sister captivated the room with a whimsical dance alongside a unicorn, symbolizing the joy and imagination their wish journey sparked.
- Wish kid Kamden auctioned his custom-designed Greenville Triumph soccer jersey, inspiring enthusiastic bidding and heartfelt support.
- In a surprise moment, Ripley's Aquarium mermaids announced that Journey's wish was being granted, creating an emotional highlight that brought the room to its feet.

These unforgettable moments reminded guests why their support matters. Every wish tells a story of resilience. Every wish creates renewed strength.



A Celebration of Community and Impact

Scan or [CLICK HERE](#) to watch!

Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed elevated cuisine, a full-service bar, meaningful interactions with wish families and both live and silent auctions featuring exclusive experiences. Most importantly, Wish Night highlighted the life-changing impact of wishes and the urgent need to reach more children who are waiting.

Because of the generosity demonstrated at this year's gala, Make-A-Wish South Carolina will be able to deliver more wish journeys that help children replace fear with confidence, sadness with joy and anxiety with hope.

FEATURED GUESTS



Adaleigh
Wish Kid Alumni



Kamden
Wish Kid Alumni



Journey
Wish Kid Alumni



Lila
Wish Kid Alumni



Steven
Wish Kid Alumni



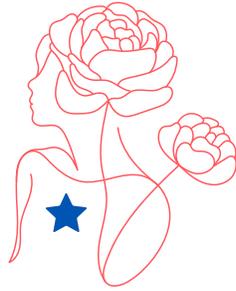
Brooke Ryan
Charleston Radio
Group
Co-Emcee



Erin Kenzle
Giving 4 Good Events
Auctioneer



W.I.S.H. SOCIETY



Women Inspiring Strength and Hope



UPSTATE W.I.S.H. SOCIETY

Honorees Raise \$73,000 for Life-Changing Wishes

In May 2025, Make-A-Wish South Carolina proudly celebrated its Upstate W.I.S.H. Society honorees during A Toast to Wishes, an uplifting brunch at City Club of Greenville. Together, this dynamic group of women raised **more than \$73,000**, helping grant transformative wish journeys for children across the Upstate.

The program honored women who lead with purpose and rally others to support wish kids during some of the hardest moments of their lives. This year's **Upstate Woman of the Year, Susan Fox**, raised more than **\$12,000** and was recognized for her passion for the mission and her unwavering commitment to wish families.

During the brunch, guests heard from wish dad Brian Mattison, who shared how his daughter Callie's wish to go to Walt Disney World brought healing and joy to their family as she navigated a critical heart condition.

Keynote speaker Katie Van Gieson Harrison, founder of KVH and the Women in Business Summit, inspired the room with a message on purpose-driven leadership and the profound ripple effects created when women unite to support a meaningful mission.

2025 Upstate Honorees

- Ava Braatz • Susan Fox • Heather Frechette • Brandee Justus • Elizabeth Lapidus • Kendra Lovingood • Judy Lofurno • Kaci Magyar • Katlyn Middleton • Anna Poole • Lauren Midkirk • Carol Panusuk • Macy Scoggins • Stephanie Truesdail • Susanne McGee

"These women are a driving force behind the hope we deliver," said Amanda Osborne, Chief Development Officer for Make-A-Wish South Carolina. "Their fundraising, their advocacy and their heart have made a lasting impact on local wish families, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment."





LOWCOUNTRY W.I.S.H. SOCIETY

Record-Breaking \$125,000 Raised for Wishes

In Charleston, the 2025 Lowcountry W.I.S.H. Society made history by raising nearly \$125,000, setting a new record and helping grant wishes for children across the region.

The Lowcountry W.I.S.H. Society honors women who use their talents and circles of influence to fuel our mission and bring hope to children at a time when they need it most. Their efforts create moments of joy, connection and resilience for families facing overwhelming challenges.

The **Lowcountry Woman of the Year, Stephanie Postell**, raised nearly \$34,000 and was inspired to join the Make-A-Wish South Carolina Board of Directors.



Guests were moved by Hart Peary, wish mom and current Make-A-Wish South Carolina board member, who shared her son Charlie's wish story. Charliepalooza, a joyful celebration of friendship created during his wish journey, continues to inspire families and supporters throughout the Lowcountry.



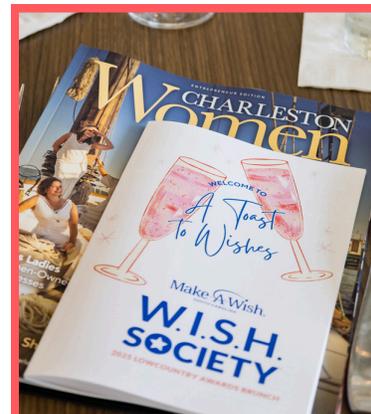
Keynote speaker Sarah Irvin, founder of Quick Tan Sunless and the EmpowHER Women's Conference, delivered a message on resilience, reinvention and the importance of showing up for others with purpose.



2025 Lowcountry Honorees

Ashley Daly • Ashley Jackson • Erin Diehl • Grace Swink • Juliette Walker, MD • Linda Ryan • Ronneca Watkins • Sarah Kassouf • Stephanie Postell • Summer Huechtker

"These women are a force of compassion, connection and action," said Shannon Rice, Community Engagement Manager.



Corporate Partners



When companies join our mission, they help create moments that transform a child's experience of a critical illness. Their partnership strengthens entire communities and brings more wishes to life. We are grateful for their generosity and heart.



SUBARU SHARE THE LOVE

Hadwin-White Subaru and AutoNation Subaru Hilton Head selected Make-A-Wish South Carolina as their Hometown Charity during the 2024-2025 Subaru Share the Love Event, helping raise more than **\$45,000** to support local wish journeys. Their partnership extended far beyond fundraising, with both retailers providing in-kind support and hosting heartfelt wish celebrations that created meaningful moments for wish families. Their involvement helped families feel valued and uplifted throughout the wish journey, reinforcing the community of support surrounding each child. Make-A-Wish South Carolina is deeply grateful for the continued commitment of Subaru retailers across the state and their dedication to bringing hope, strength and joy to wish kids.



TD SYNEXX SHARE THE MAGIC GREENVILLE

TD SYNEXX Share the Magic Greenville has been Make-A-Wish South Carolina's **largest corporate partner** since the partnership began in 2011, helping fund more than 40 wishes each year for local wish kids. Through community and private events like Day at the Drive, their annual golf tournament and Celebration at Fluor Field, the organization raised more than **\$277,000** in 2024 and continues to uplift families through moments of joy, including hosting a wish celebration for three-year-old Kate as she prepared for her Disney wish. We are deeply grateful for their unwavering commitment to bringing strength, hope and joy to children across the Upstate.



Community Support

Community-based peer-to-peer fundraisers are a powerful force behind our mission. When individuals rally their friends, families and neighborhoods, they create momentum that brings more wishes to life. We are grateful for every person who turns their passion into impact for wish kids.



The OV Flock - Flocking for Wishes

Lowcountry



Fountain Inn High School Spirit Week

Upstate



Chi Omega

Statewide



Wine Down for Wishes

Midlands



Myrtlewood Golf Tournament

Myrtle Beach



Wishful Shuckers

Midlands



SCORING BIG:

From Treatments to Triumph

Kamden has always had a big imagination and an even bigger love for soccer. Living with a respiratory disorder means his days are filled with treatments and medications, but his passion for the game never wavered. When asked what he wished for most, his answer was bold: **to be the best soccer player ever.**

Make-A-Wish South Carolina teamed up with the Greenville Triumph to turn that vision into reality. Kamden's journey started with an official signing day, complete with cameras flashing, interviews, and even designing his own warm-up jersey. He wasn't just watching from the sidelines - he was part of the team.

The highlight came when Kamden stepped onto the field in front of a roaring crowd. He joined the players for warmups,



scored a goal, and signed autographs like a true pro. For a boy who once kept quiet in the background, this was a moment of transformation. **His confidence soared, and his joy was contagious.**

This wish didn't just change Kamden. It united his family, who had recently celebrated his younger brother Rowan's wish to visit Walt Disney World®. **Seeing both boys experience their wishes gave their parents something priceless: time to breathe, laugh, and celebrate life together.**

Kamden's story shows what happens when a child's imagination meets a community ready to rally behind them. His wish wasn't just about soccer - it was about strength, courage, and the power of believing in what's possible.

Scan or [CLICK HERE](#) to watch Kamden's wish come true!



special thanks TO OUR TOP DONORS

Aflac
Anchor Heating and Air LLC
Andrew and Leigh de Holl
Applebee's - Thrive Restaurant Group
Ashley Jackson
Austin and Jenna Elliot
Autobell Car Wash
AutoNation Subaru Hilton Head
BASF Corporation
BASF ECMS
Ben Walker
Benzon Foundation Inc.
Bill and Connie Williamson
Brian Allen and Kevin Patrick
Brian and Diane Lee
Brother International
Carly and Adam Bielsky
Charles and April Meier
Charles and Melanie Kauffman
Charleston Connection One LLC
Cherokee Golf Carts
Chi Omega Eta Gamma
Chi Omega Gamma Mu
Chi Omega Psi Kappa
Chick-Fil-A Laurens County
Crane Fund for Widows and Children
Crews Subaru of Charleston
Crosby Roofing and Gutters Columbia LLC
Culver's
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Dave and Liz Adams
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Fountain Inn High School
Fox Events
Fred Baker
Gallagher (AssuredPartners)
Grace Atwood
Greer Centennial Lions Club
Hadwin-White Buick/GMC/Subaru
Horry Telephone Cooperative
Hubbell Power Systems
James and Carmen Scott

James Brown
Joe Goodwin
John and Jennifer Pearson
Johnstone Supply of Greenville
Jonathan and Haley Stier
KAAB Memorial Foundation
Kelly Willenberg
Kevin and Sharon Reilly
Kimberli Scott-Still and Jeff Still
Lane and Johanna Lewis
Matt and Katie O'Neill
Matt and Sarah Kassouf
McGuinn Hybrid Homes
Medical University of South Carolina
Mercedes-Benz & BMW of Myrtle Beach
Michael Zimmer
Milliken
Motley Rice, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fetch
Mrs. Louise Whitley
Myrtlewood Senior Men's Golf Association
Ned Allen
NewRez
NorthStar Financial & Retirement Planning
Oasis Animal Hospital
Orangetheory
Paradigm Therapeutics Inc
Peery Homes
PMC Commercial Interiors
Resurgent Capital Services
Richard and Novelle Smith
Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach
Robert Brandi
S & R Heritage
ScanSource Charitable Foundation
Shakespeare
SouthState Bank
Steve Magruder
TD SYNEX Share the Magic Greenville
The Charles Webb/Ed Croft Endowment
The Cox Group
The Johnson Foundation
The Leon Levine Foundation
The Pritchett Family
The Wanderlust Fund
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Tom and Mary Pate
Tom and Stephanie Wintz
Tony and Ingrid Smith
Topgolf
V&J Cialdella
Veroogle
Wheels for Wishes
Zaxby's

**This list contains gifts made during our fiscal year. We strive for accuracy in recognizing our supporters and apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions. Please know that every gift—listed or not—helps make our work possible. If your name or organization has been inadvertently omitted or listed incorrectly, we would be grateful for the opportunity to correct our records.*

MEREDITH DIAL MEMORIAL

Endowment Fund

Honoring a Legacy That Will Grant Wishes Forever

In 2025, Make-A-Wish South Carolina created its first endowment fund to honor the extraordinary legacy of Meredith Dial. Meredith was a beloved wish mom, board member and passionate advocate whose kindness and commitment touched everyone she met. She supported the mission through personal giving, corporate sponsorship and by celebrating wish kids and families with heart and joy. Today, her impact continues through a fund designed to carry her light forward.

The Meredith Dial Memorial Endowment Fund ensures that Meredith's dedication to wish kids will live on for generations. Once fully funded, the endowment will grant one wish every year in her memory, providing lasting hope to children facing critical illnesses. Gifts to the fund are invested for long-term growth, allowing her influence to expand far beyond her lifetime. The campaign's goal of \$185,000 will permanently sustain this annual wish in Meredith's honor.

Wine Down for Wishes

This fall, supporters gathered at Molto Vino in Lexington for Wine Down for Wishes, a heartfelt event created by Meredith Dial to bring people together around the mission she loved and to raise hope for wish kids across South Carolina. Hosted by her husband and current board director Chad Dial, the evening featured wine tastings, small bites and meaningful moments of community that reflected Meredith's spirit of generosity and connection. Guests joined both in person and through an online silent auction, extending the impact of the night far beyond the room. Wine Down for Wishes stands as a living tribute to Meredith's legacy, supporting the Meredith Dial Memorial Endowment Fund and helping ensure that her passion for granting life-changing wishes continues for years to come.

Learn more or donate: meredithdialendowmentfund.org



LEGACY GIVING

A Future Shaped by Hope

For more than 40 years, our chapter has been grateful for the estate gifts entrusted to us by generous supporters. These legacy donors have created meaningful and lasting impact for wish kids across South Carolina. Their commitment has helped deliver life-changing wish journeys that bring strength, hope, and joy when they are needed most.

In 2025, we introduced a new initiative to help donors and prospective supporters explore the best ways to structure their legacy in a way that reflects their values and maximizes their impact. In partnership with **Thompson and Associates**, Make-A-Wish South Carolina is proud to offer Periscope Path.

Periscope Path is a complimentary gift to our supporters and serves as a heartfelt thank you for all you make possible. This guided and confidential process helps you ensure your plans reflect not only your assets but also your heart. It complements the work of your trusted advisors and provides a personalized roadmap that brings clarity, confidence, and peace of mind about the legacy you choose to leave. This planned giving education program was generously funded by Ned Allen and the Chip Allen Memorial Endowment.

Dozens of supporters have already taken part in this program. Together, they have identified more than **\$2.5 million** in potential estate gifts. Their generosity will help us reach more children with critical illnesses and transform more lives throughout our state.

***If you would like to learn more about Periscope Path, please contact:
Amanda Osborne, Make-A-Wish South Carolina Chief Development Officer - aosborne@sc.wish.org***



wishmakers wanted

Fueling Joy, Strength, and Hope Across South Carolina

VOLUNTEERS: THE HEART OF EVERY WISH

Volunteers played a crucial role in each of our 258 wishes granted this year and are actively engaged with the more than 300 wish kids currently waiting. Their compassion shows up in countless ways – from supporting each step of the wish journey to giving their time at local community events, the Trailblaze Challenge and Wish Night. At every level of the organization, volunteers are critical to our mission and help build the strong, connected community that fuels every life-changing wish.

Make-A-Wish volunteers consider their work impactful and meaningful, and their efforts are rewarded not in dollars and cents, but in the incredible difference they make for wish kids and families. Volunteers have the freedom to choose when and how they'd like to help transform lives, bringing their time and unique talents when children need hope the most. In fact, our volunteers are at the heart of every wish experience.

A wish is not a single moment – it is a powerful journey that strengthens wish kids emotionally and physically. Volunteers help kids replace fear with confidence, sadness with joy and anxiety with hope. They build anticipation, create meaningful memories and support families at every turn.



Why Volunteer?

Impact: Wishes build strength and resilience in children fighting critical illnesses.

Need: Every day, children in our community need the healing power of a wish.

Fit: Choose how and when you help—your unique talents matter.

Emotion: Experience the joy of transforming lives, including your own.

Angela Thomas | Volunteer Manager
athomas@sc.wish.org | 864-990-5037
wish.org/sc/volunteer

Volunteers Who Inspire



Karen Glass

Karen has been a volunteer for six years, first serving three years with another chapter before joining Make-A-Wish South Carolina, and she is known for always saying “yes” when extra help is needed. From last-minute shopping support to uplifting wish celebrations with partners, she brings the same heart she once brought to pediatric nursing into every wish journey. She says nothing compares to seeing the smiles on wish kids’ and families’ faces when a wish comes to life.



Cameron Whitacre and Timi Ojo

Cameron and Timi are second-year medical students who volunteer together as a wish-granting team and are currently bringing hope, strength and joy to more than 26 wish kids. They love that each wish gives kids and families something uplifting to hold onto, and they describe every smile they help create as “truly rewarding.” The joy and life lessons they have gained from meeting wish kids and families are experiences they say will stay with them forever.



Karis Sutherland

Karis describes being a Make-A-Wish South Carolina volunteer as the “best job ever” and treasures the thank-you note from a mom who said her child’s wish changed his whole demeanor during treatment. Walking alongside families has given her deeper empathy, perspective and gratitude in her own life. Her message to anyone considering volunteering is simple and heartfelt: if you love kids, do it, because you will never regret it.



Rebecca Brandt

Rebecca has helped grant more than 18 wishes and says her favorite part is being welcomed into families’ homes and building genuine relationships with wish kids and their caregivers. She says that learning what children are facing has changed the way she sees her own life and reminds her never to take a day for granted. Rebecca encourages potential volunteers to jump in, saying that just one wish discovery family visit and the people you meet make it incredibly worth it.



Liz Lofurno

Liz is both a wish kid and a wish granter, and she still remembers how planning her own wish during her cancer treatment gave her hope and something joyful to focus on. Her wish to travel with her family to the British Virgin Islands and became a bright, stress-free experience they continue to talk about years later. Now a fourth-year medical student who hopes to become a pediatric oncologist, Liz loves meeting families for wish discovery meetings, speaking to donors about the impact of wishes and sharing the same joy and strength she once received as a wish kid herself.



LIFTED BY HOPE:

Caiden's Poolside Freedom

Caiden loves the water. It's where he feels most relaxed and happy. But as he grows, getting into the pool has become harder and harder. Caiden lives with a nervous system disorder, uses a wheelchair, and is non-verbal. His parents worried that soon they wouldn't be able to help him into the water safely – something that brings him so much joy.

When Caiden wished for a pool chair lift, it wasn't just about convenience. It was about independence, safety, and preserving family time. His new lift means he can enter the pool with ease, giving his parents peace of mind and ensuring that swimming remains part of his life.

To celebrate, Make-A-Wish South Carolina hosted a **"Summer of Wishes" pool party** for Caiden, his family, and friends. Laughter and splashes filled the air as everyone enjoyed the day together.

For Caiden's family, the impact was immediate. **"This lift means we can keep helping him enjoy the pool without worry,"** they shared.

Now, every dip in the water is a reminder of what's possible when a community comes together. Caiden's wish didn't just change his summer – it changed the way his family experiences joy and connection every day.



Staff Highlights



Kea Wade

Promotion to Director of Corporate and Community Engagement

Kea continues to elevate statewide partnerships and fuel community engagement that directly supports wish journeys. Her leadership helps deepen relationships that bring hope, strength and joy to wish kids and families.

Amanda Osborne

Promotion to Chief Development Officer

Amanda's strategic leadership continues to strengthen revenue growth and donor engagement. Her vision supports long-term sustainability and ensures we are positioned to grant more life-changing wishes each year.



Maggie Yorski

New Hire: Corporate and Community Engagement Coordinator, Coastal Region

Maggie brings enthusiasm and fresh perspective to our Coastal team. She is already building strong connections that expand community support and help power wish journeys.

Kelli Robertson

New Hire: Executive Assistant

Kelli plays a vital role in ensuring organizational excellence and supporting leadership across the chapter. Her thoughtful coordination strengthens operations and enhances the staff experience.



Misty Farmer

Named "Woman of the Year" at the KVH Summit

Misty's recognition reflects her unwavering leadership and deep commitment to ensuring every eligible child experiences the life-changing impact of a wish.

Katlyn Larrieu

Named a 2025 GSA Forty Under 40 Honoree

Katlyn's dedication to wish families, volunteers and mission delivery earned her recognition as an outstanding emerging leader within our community.



National Recognition

Make-A-Wish America Global Conference

Our chapter was honored for excellence in corporate fundraising for FY25, underscoring the strength of our partnerships and the impact of our team's work.

Community Honors

Named "Greenville's Best Charity"

Make-A-Wish South Carolina was voted **Greenville's Best Charity** and named runner-up for **Best Place to Work** by the Post & Courier. These honors highlight our community's trust and the culture our team works hard to build.



Media Impact

Reaching More People with Our Mission

In FY25, our chapter earned more than 700 media mentions, amplifying awareness of our mission and reinforcing the importance of wishes throughout South Carolina.

Wish Alumni Community

CONNECTING HEARTS. ELEVATING VOICES. EXPANDING THE POWER OF A WISH.

Wish families and alumni are at the heart of our Make-A-Wish South Carolina community. Their stories, strength and generosity continue to inspire supporters, elevate events and deepen the impact of our mission across the state. Throughout the year, wish kids and families share their voices, show up for one another and help bring the life-changing power of a wish to more children who need hope, strength and joy.

Wish Kids in the Spotlight

Wish kids played vital roles in some of our most inspiring moments this year. At **Wish Night**, wish kid Lila served with confidence as co-emcee, while Steven energized supporters as co-auctioneer. Wish kid Andy also shared his story at the VIP Welcome Reception, reflecting on his wish journey after returning from his trip to Walt Disney World. Their voices helped guests connect deeply to the impact of a wish and the strength it brings to families.

Wish kids also showed leadership within their own communities. During the **Fountain Inn High School Spirit Week**, Charlsie, Callie and King shared their wish journeys and helped inspire student-led fundraising efforts. Wish kids volunteered at **Culver's Spirit Night**, connecting with supporters and helping raise funds. Wish kid ambassadors continue to bring authenticity, hope and connection to every gathering.



Staying Connected and Growing Our Alumni Community

This year, we expanded the ways we support and engage with alumni families. We revised and relaunched our **alumni survey**, introduced **Wish Wednesday** to highlight alumni stories internally, continued to grow our private **Alumni Facebook group** and launched scheduled alumni calls to help families reconnect and stay engaged.

Wish parents also continue to strengthen our chapter's leadership. Three wish parents — **Chad Dial, Brian Searfoss and Hart Peary** — served on our FY25 Board of Directors, bringing invaluable firsthand experience and passion to guide our chapter forward.



Celebrations That Bring Families Together

Our first annual Lowcountry **Holiday Party**, hosted by Motley Rice, brought wish families together for an evening filled with community and joy. In the Upstate, our longstanding holiday party continued to be a cherished tradition for new wish families and wish kids waiting. These gatherings give families a chance to connect, celebrate and receive support during the holiday season.

Wish families also participated in **TD SYNEX Share the Magic's Day at the Drive**, where Upstate wish families attended the game and wish kids took part in the parade, the ceremonial coin flip and the "Play Ball!" announcement. These moments created lasting memories and brought families and supporters closer together.

Families Walking Alongside New Wish Journeys

Wish families and alumni shared their voices at key events across the state. At the Lowcountry **W.I.S.H. Society Awards Brunch**, Hart Peary reflected on her family's wish journey. In the Upstate, wish dad Brian Mattison and wish kid Callie inspired guests with their reflections.



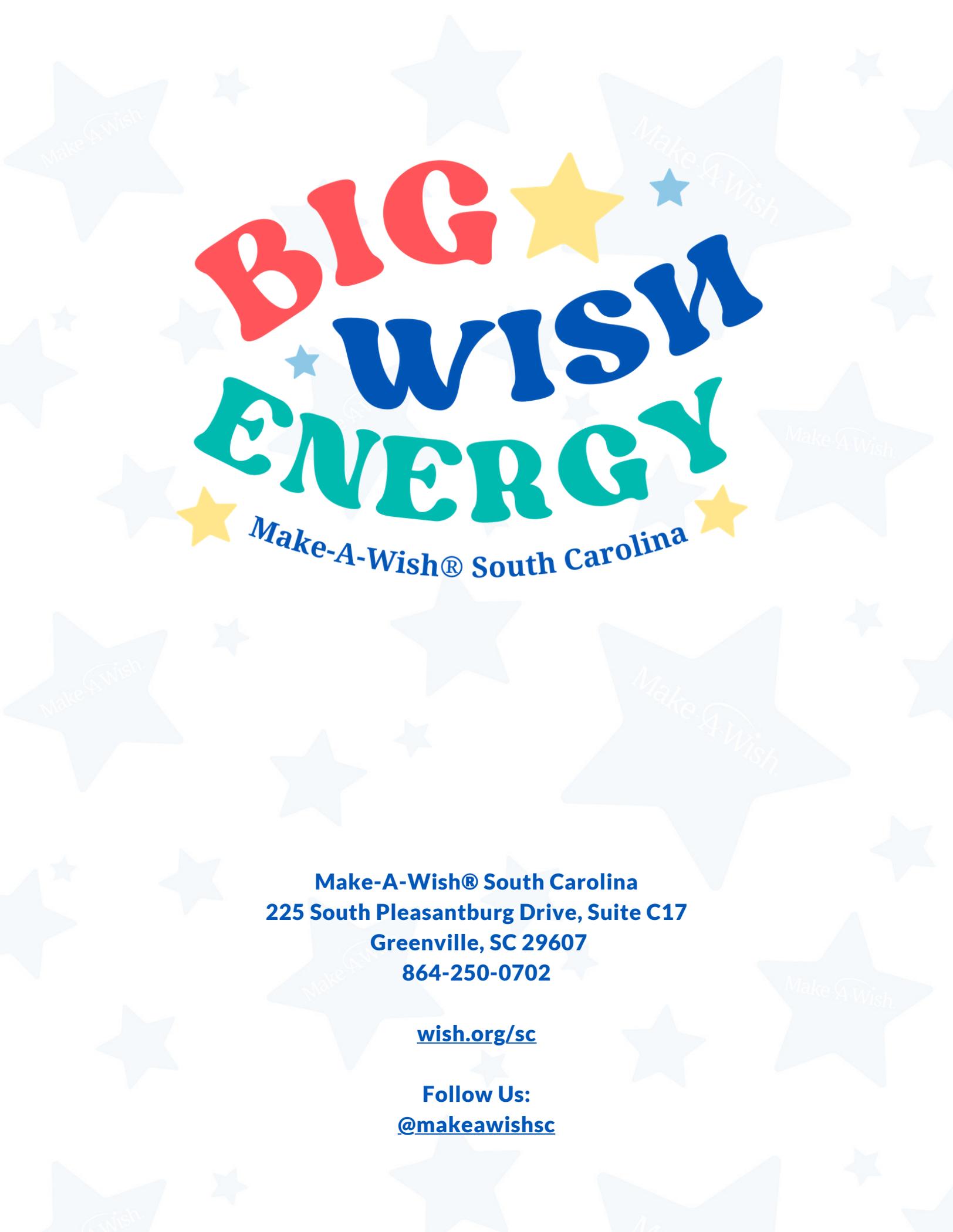
Wish alum Ava, whose wish to visit the Virgin Islands brought renewed strength during her treatment for cystic fibrosis, served as an ambassador at several W.I.S.H. Society events. She also shared her story at **Cocktails for a Cause** and walked the runway with her mom, Stacey, at **Greenville Fashion Week**, showing the joy and confidence that a wish granted brings.



Alumni Giving That Transforms Futures

Wish alumni and their families made extraordinary contributions this year. Collectively, alumni giving exceeded **\$200,000**, enough to help grant approximately 27 wishes for children across South Carolina. Their generosity reflects how deeply a wish continues to shape families long after their own wish journeys and demonstrates the powerful impact alumni have on future wish kids.

Because of you, wishes continue to brighten lives and strengthen communities across our state. Let's keep creating extraordinary wish journeys together.



BIG ★ **WISH**
ENERGY

★ **Make-A-Wish® South Carolina** ★

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