



**Nikolas
Ritschel
Foundation**
Take one step...

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Zarah from Texas fighting Mediastinal Lymphoma

A life changing Wish in Maui

It has been the most emotionally draining year for our family. We felt light, as if a burden had been lifted off of our shoulders. I watched my daughter smiling & enjoying everything, despite everything she went through. It was a God sent trip, a gift of hard work and emotional turmoil. I am blessed that we could do it and I am so thankful to the Nik's wish foundation for bringing a change in our lives and bringing so much happiness.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



Jonathan from Arkansas fighting Ewing Sarcoma Family trip to Hawaii



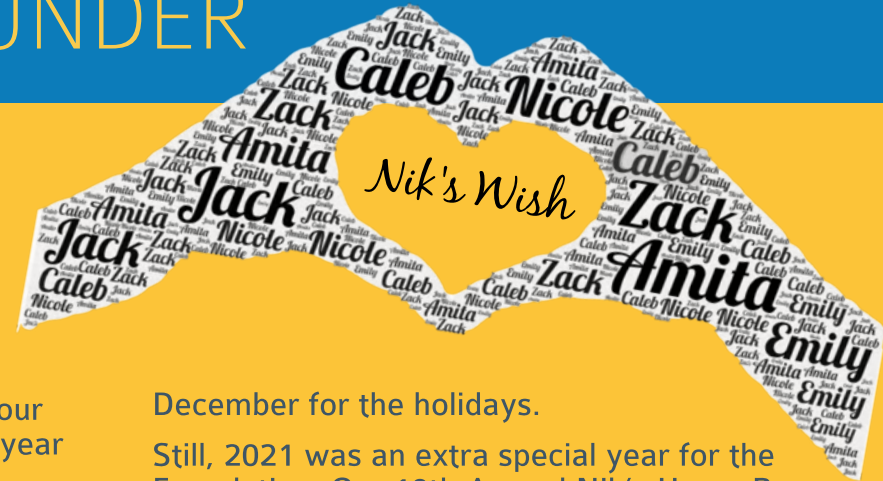
Jack from Michigan fighting Stage 4 Hodgkin's Lymphoma Fishing in Alaska

2022 - A Year of JOY!

Dear Friends,

As we toasted "good riddance" to 2020, our hearts were filled with hope for the new year of 2021, where things would return to "normal." We had survived a very scary time for a small, all volunteer charity. We felt truly blessed. Our team of amazingly smart, talented, dedicated people helped us navigate one of the worst "storms" in our charity's existence. What we didn't realize, as we clinked our glasses to welcome in 2021, was more turbulent times still lay ahead: the Delta variant brought new uncertainty; event participation was still very low; wish travel was risky and complex; yet hope for young adults fighting cancer still needed to be delivered. The battle was still to be fought.

It is not much different for families battling cancer. Just when you think that the worst is behind you, there is a new, unexpected challenge. Cancer families pray every 3 months that the next scans will be NED (No Evidence of Disease). They sigh a breath of relief or hold hands, bracing themselves for the next storm. Similarly, the world was taking COVID tests and praying for relief. But Spring came and the flowers began to blossom, COVID began to release its grip and we started delivering wishes! Love found a way. We delivered 40 wishes in 2021; with a record breaking 8 wishes being delivered in



December for the holidays.

Still, 2021 was an extra special year for the Foundation. Our 10th Annual Nik's Home Run marked a decade milestone of over 200 wishes granted and fulfilled: and it all started with Nik's dying wish in 2012! We were blessed with new additions to our team and energized by the dedication of so many that have been with us since the beginning. New sponsors began to jump on board as they could see the direct impact their contributions make. Nik's Wish is PERSONAL. You are changing lives by delivering a gift of priceless HOPE and JOY during the cancer storm.

Battling cancer in a world of uncertainty is overwhelming. If you have the ability to make a difference to families that are faced with fighting cancer, please help. You will feel an amazing sense of LOVE like no other when you BRING JOY during their darkest time. A glass of water means so much more when you're dying of thirst. Similarly, a wish means the world to these families who are desperately thirsting for any glimmer of relief, hope and joy. Let's make 2022 the YEAR OF JOY!

#LOVEWONcancerzero

Kelli (Nik's mom)

NIK'S WISHES BRING JOY!

Just a few of the 40 precious moments of JOY delivered in 2021



Zaiah from Connecticut fighting Ovarian Cancer
Wish: MacBook

What you are doing is changing people's lives and I hope you understand how powerful that is!

The Nikolas Ritschel Foundation has blessed me and I couldn't be more thankful. 💜



Haley from Indiana fighting Colon Cancer
Wish: Steelers Game

It was such a fun & emotional experience today. We can not thank you enough. We really appreciate everything. This was such an amazing trip and the three of us all said this is the best vacation we've ever had! Such great memories!

Sydney from Illinois fighting Defused Large B-Cell Lymphoma
Wish: Kona, Hawaii

I was in my senior year of college when my life completely changed.

My wish was full of joy & happiness. It was an incredible experience full of so many activities that I never have done before. It was a way to celebrate and symbolize completing my treatment.



Denny from Florida fighting Germ Cell Cancer
Wish: Puppy to LOVE

I was working at a pizza place when I was diagnosed. Being out of work gives me anxiety and makes me sad not being busy.

Getting Apollo means a lot to me. I love him so much. He's already my best friend!

Jorge from Illinois fighting relapsed Acute Myeloid Leukemia
Wish: Florida trip with his son

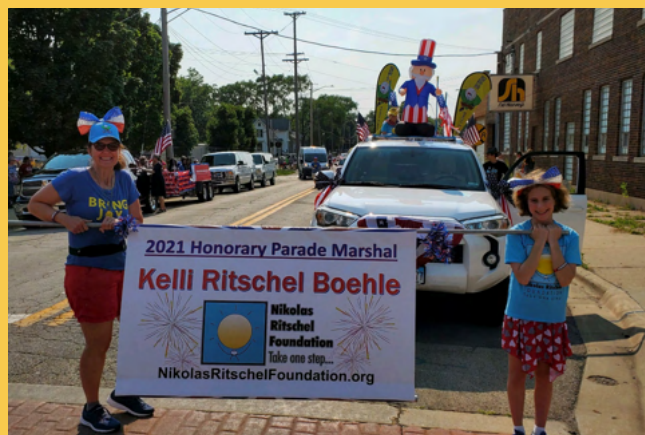
My life was happy and fun. I loved spending all the time I could with my son. My life now is a bit sad because I spend a lot of time in the hospital away from my son and family.

Thank you guys so much. We are so grateful to have had this opportunity. I don't think we will ever forget the most fun we have ever had!



PASSIONATE VOLUNTEERS BRING JOY!

Our foundation runs 100% on volunteers who believe that LOVE beats cancer EVERY time!



Volunteers, Lisa and her daughter Frances, led the way as Nik's Wish Founder, Kelli Ritschel Boehle served as the 2021 Honorary Marshall of Rockford's 4th of July Parade



The Eckhom, Egan, & Hilbert volunteer teams helped raise \$1,000 for wishes in the I AM the Storm 5K Race



Our Executive Committee celebrates our best fundraising year to date!



Over 100 volunteers helped raise over \$115,000 at our 10th Annual Nik's Home Run!



Congratulations to Deb & Jon Dimmick, our 2021 Volunteers of the Year!

EVENTS BRING JOY!

Nik's Home Run

OVER 200 WISHES  10 YEARS  1 WISH FROM NIK STARTED IT ALL!



**Nik's Home Run funded
20 WISHES!**

240 Donors & Sponsors



**400 Participants
& Volunteers**



Tucker & Natalie's Fundraiser
These cool kids join forces
to raise over \$1000

**Lurie's Nurses fund a WISH
at KISS PEDIATRIC
CANCER GOOD BYE!**

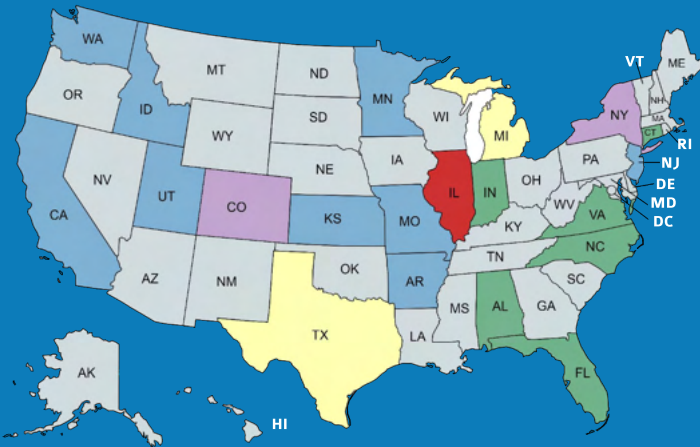


**Nothing
SOLD OUT!**
BUTT SMILES
FOR YOUNG ADULTS FIGHTING CANCER

**Record Breaking Pork BUTT
Sales funds 2 WISHES
with our friends at
Smokin' Coop BBQ**

WHO WE SERVE

2021 Wishes Approved by State

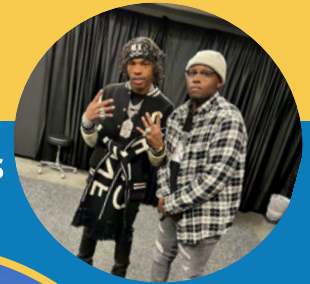
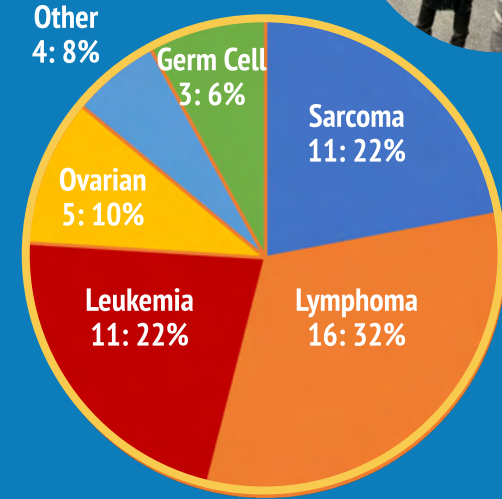


7 wishes 4 wishes 3 wishes 2 wish 1 wish

2021 Top Referring Hospitals

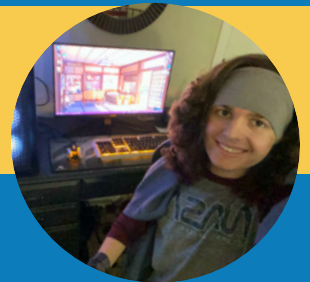
Children's of Alabama
 University of Michigan, C.S. Mott Children's
 Rush University Medical Center - Chicago
 University of Florida, Shand's Children's
 University of Chicago Medical Center
 Yale New Haven Children's
 OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois
 MD Anderson Medical Center
 Duke University Hospitals

2021 Cancer Types



2021 FINANCIALS (UNAUDITED)

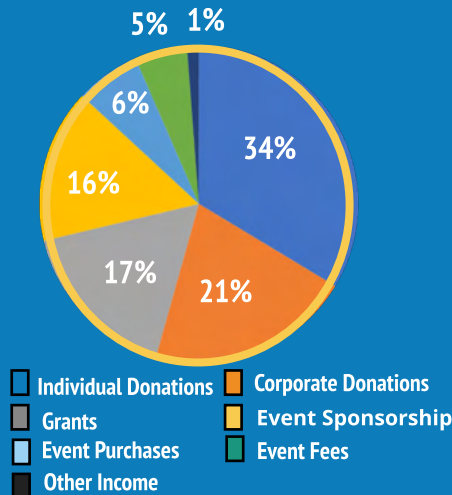
2021 was a record breaking year for both revenue and expenses. Our grant income was 7 times greater than our previous best year, and our event sponsorship was the highest in the foundation's history. In 2021, we started to invest in administration resources like marketing that could help us reach the next level in growth.



2021 Revenue

Individual Donations	\$125,260
Corporate Donations	\$ 76,894
Grants	\$ 63,000
Event Sponsorship	\$ 58,180
Event Purchases	\$ 24,494
Event Fees	\$ 19,779
Other Income	\$ 4,469

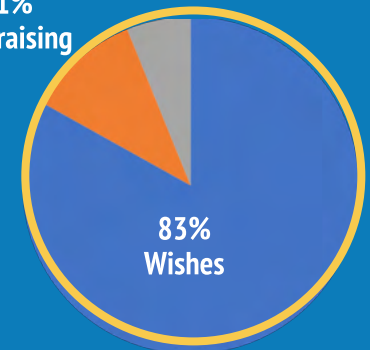
Total Income \$372,076



2021 Expenses

Wishes	\$208,448
Fundraising	\$ 27,012
Administration	\$ 15,445
Total Expenses	\$250,992

11% Fundraising
 6% Admin



WE ARE GRATEFUL

FOR ALL THE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES
WHOSE GENEROSITY MAKE WISHES COME TRUE!



WISH WARRIOR

\$25,000 and up
ABC Supply
Anonymous Donor
Gifford Family Foundation

LOVE WINS

\$10,000 -- \$24,999
Anna Miller Foundation
Kerry Inc
MDRT Foundation
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 23
Ritschel Boehle Family

MEMORY MAKER

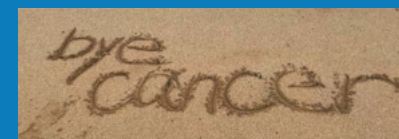
\$6,000 -- \$9,999
Chemo Cargo
Community Foundation of Northern Illinois
HSN
Lurie's Nurses
Northwestern Illinois Building Trades

HOPE HEROES

\$1,000 -- \$5,999
Andrews Engineering
Aqua Aerobics Systems, Inc.
Beloit Health System

Brad Austin
Bruce & Sandra Appel
Brent & Lydia Bainter
John Baker Memorial
Bischoff Dentistry
Karen Burgess
Dan & June Callahan
Christine Cardenas
Joan Chylak
Patrick & Lauren Cogan
Corporate Contractors, Inc.
Dominick DeBock
John Erickson Memorial
Fairbanks Morse Defense
Foundation for the Carolinas
General Mills Foundation
IBEW- NECA
Illinois Tool Works
illumination.io
Ironworkers Local 498
J3 Timing
Cindy & David Jackson
JEStrong
JX Enterprises
Steve & Linda Lennon
Georgia Boyer-Lichthardt
Lincoln Driven to Give - Manley Motors
Olivia Lozoya

Neil Lueders
Brian Lyngaas
Marengo Guns
Martin Exteriors
The Medline Foundation
Barry & Caroline Mikels
MUFG
National Electrical Contractors Association
Northwestern Illinois Building Trades
Nate O'Neill Memorial
OSF Healthcare
Regional Cancer Center at Swedish American
Rockford Rivets
Neal Albert Rylatt Memorial
Salesforce.org
Eric Singer Memorial
Drs. Therese & Scott Trenhaile
Brian Walsh
Libby Ward
Waste Connections
William Charles Construction
Tom & Jody Zhe



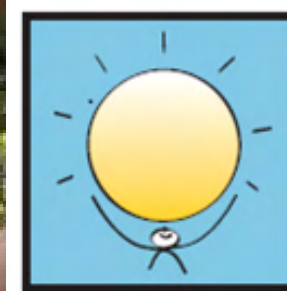
**EVERY DONATION MATTERS!
THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED
MAKE WISHES COME TRUE IN 2021!**

How you can support:

- Make a monetary donation
- Attend one of our events
- Become an event sponsor
- Donate airline miles
- Donate in-kind gifts or services
- Donate your vacation home
- Sponsor a wish
- Become a volunteer Wish Maker
- Host a fundraising event
- Volunteer your time
- Include us in your estate planning
- Create an online Birthday Fundraiser
- Order online with Amazon Smile
- 'Like' & 'Share' us on Social Media

Caleb from Maryland
Fighting Relapsed Ewing Sarcoma
Wish: National Parks

The trip was amazing! Me and my family had a great time exploring Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. I want to thank the Nikolas Ritschel Foundation for making this trip possible. It was a wonderful change of pace and truly a blessing.



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www.NiksWish.org

The Nikolas Ritschel Foundation is recognized as a public charity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code