

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

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**Sydney from Florida**  
*fighting Ovarian Cancer*  
***A Reason to Keep Fighting!***

*"I spent days in hospitals, on operating tables, and chemo chairs. My mental will to keep fighting was dying. Then I was granted a Nik's Wish to escape and remind myself what I had to keep fighting for. Nik's Wish reminded me that there are good people out there and I need to be here to be a part of that. Nik's Wish provided hope. Hope that there is a brighter tomorrow and cancer doesn't ruin everything. I was able to rest, recover, and remember why I needed to keep fighting and have now made it through!"*



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

## 2022 - A Year of HOPE!



**Matthew from Illinois**  
fighting Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma  
Wish: Car Makeover



**Alex from Alabama**  
fighting ALL  
Wish: Disney Trip

Dear Friends,

2022 brought a rainbow of hope that the world would return to "normal," and that our wish doors would fully open. "Normal" isn't something that families fighting cancer can relate to, however because of your continued support, wishes brought HOPE & JOY and some "normalcy" to 50 young adults and their loved ones fighting cancer. We are so grateful for all our donors, volunteers and event sponsors that helped us through another challenging year.

We were delighted to be able to deliver some amazing memories for brave, young cancer warriors and their families. Alaska fishing, dolphin swimming, honeymoons, pianos, Graceland, Hawaii, Disney, Cowboys, New York, and puppy love; each of the 50 wishes brought HOPE & JOY during a tough fight. Many of our immune compromised wishers were waiting for the uncertainty and safety of travel to improve before taking their wish. 2022 was to be their year! Sadly, cancer took the lives of 4 of our wishers before their wish could be delivered and 2 of our delivered wishes were last wishes. This was the most loss that we have seen in a single year. It was a stark reminder that cancer waits for no one.

2022 was also a year of soul searching for Nik's Wish. We have always been a 100% volunteer charity. Our Board of Directors took a hard look at our future to make sure that we are set up to deliver wishes as long as young adults are fighting. They determined that Nik's

Wish needs to evolve to a more sustainable structure with staff. We're thrilled to announce the hiring of our very first employee, Development Director, Tammy English. Tammy will be working closely with our Board to develop relationships and grow our donor base. She is an amazing individual with a huge heart. We are anxious for you to meet her!

Entering the 4th quarter of the year, it appeared we would not meet our annual fundraising goal. At Thanksgiving, we had raised just over \$260,000. By year's end, we needed to reach \$300,000 to stay on budget. It seemed doubtful that we could close such a big of gap in such a short time! Our supporters, especially our Hope Heroes, leaned in like never before to boost our results to over \$350,000. It was truly a Christmas Miracle!

As we embark on the new year, our wish pipeline is bursting with wish requests. We are blessed to be able to BRING HOPE & JOY to these brave cancer warriors. As Hindy, fighting Acute Myeloid Leukemia, reminded us "Sometimes going out and doing fun stuff is more healing than medicine." Help us bring spoonfuls of that JOY medicine to all of our Wishers in 2023!

#LOVEWONcancerzero

Kelli (Nik's mom)

# NIK'S WISHES BRING JOY!

Just a few of the 50 precious moments of JOY delivered in 2022



**Noah from Colorado**  
fighting Ewing Sarcoma  
Wish: Alaska

Nik's Wish gave me hope, strength, and most importantly joy. My wish gave me hope for my future and something to look forward to. Being able to go out and adventure in Alaska gave me strength in knowing that I can still do fun things and live a full life. And finally, all the lovely memories and laughter with friends and people we met brought me so much joy!



**Vincent from Illinois**  
fighting Ewing Sarcoma  
Wish: Hawaii

Quality over quantity. This trip and niks wish provided me that opportunity. It showed me that just because things look bad, doesn't mean they have to be. Live life to the fullest. --

**Joseph from Indiana**  
fighting Chronic Myeloid Leukemia  
Wish: Disney Honeymoon

Nik's Wish granted my wish of a Disney honeymoon that was better than anything we could have dreamed of! Thanks to Nik's Wish for filling our hearts with such support and love during this time.. You gave us the opportunity to create memories that we will DEFINITELY be telling our children about some day



**Hindy from New York - fighting Acute Myeloid Leukemia**  
Wish: Baby Grand Piano (shown in background)

i have been going through a lot of treatments including multiple transplants and thought there would somehow be a light at the end of a tunnel! sometimes i think that going out and doing fun stuff is more healing than any medicine...



**Elijah from Illinois**  
fighting Spindle Cell Sarcoma  
Wish: New York City

We would like to thank you guys for blessing us with magical moments and memories that we'll never forget. I personally am grateful and blessed to be able to share my wish with my loved ones. This foundation is fantastic and I hope another kid will be able to enjoy life as well as having their dream come to reality and cherish it forever.

**Kaylee from Minnesota**  
fighting Hodgkin's Lymphoma  
Wish: Hawaii

When I found out I was granted my wish I couldn't believe it! It helped me push myself to get better and it definitely changed my mood/mindset on how I was feeling when it seemed like all I could feel was what chemo made me feel. This wish meant so much to me, I was in paradise a year after I was bedridden. Thank you guys so much! I appreciate everyone who is a part of the foundation and I appreciate all the people who donate to make this all happen, its amazing!!



# VOLUNTEER POWERED!



## Meet Tammy English, Development Director

We are thrilled to announce our very first employee to join our volunteer-powered Team! Tammy comes to us with more than 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, including service on various nonprofit boards. Tammy brings a unique perspective with a strong focus on donor cultivation and stewardship. Tammy is also a proud U.S. Navy Veteran, who served in the Gulf during Desert Shield & Desert Storm. She was also a missionary in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake and assisted in Waveland, Mississippi with the hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Tammy has one son who lives with his family in Beloit, WI. Her passion and extensive non-profit experience will be significant in furthering the mission of the Nikolas Ritschel Foundation to BRING JOY to young adults and their families battling cancer.



2022 Nik's Home Run - 7K Run, 1.5 Mile Fun Walk, & Grammy's Auction at Rockford Rivets Stadium! Volunteers raised over \$111,000 at our signature event- VOLUNTEER POWER!



Congratulations to our  
2022 Volunteer of the Year  
**GRAMMY!!!**



# HOPE HEROES BRING JOY!

## 2022 JOY FUNDED BY LOVING HOPE HEROES



Sophia



Joe



Rolando



Jesse



Kaylee



James



Vincent



Sydney



Jack



Joe

We're honored to have these  
Wish Families  
Wish it FORWARD!



**Golf for JOY!**  
A Tribute to Jack Eckholm  
Our 1st  
Wish Family Golf Outing



Michael



Krista

The Mikels Family



Mason



Anonymous Angel



Noah



Chandler



Sheridan



Auburn



Gina



Madison



Matthew

Cogan Family



Ethan

The Gifford Family



Hindy



Kayleigh



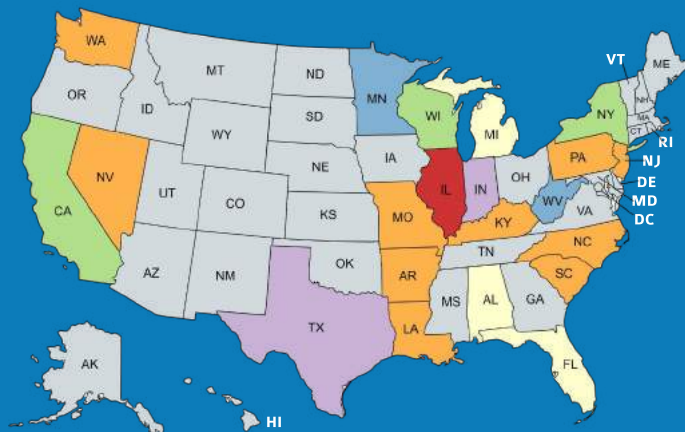
Hallie



Elijah

# WHO WE SERVED IN 2022

## Wishes Approved by State

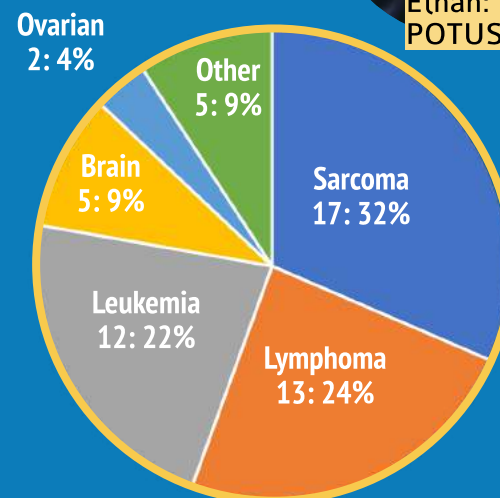


7 wishes 15 wishes 12 wishes 6 wishes 4 wishes 10 wish

## Top Referring Hospitals

University of Michigan, C.S. Mott Children's  
 UW Health, American Family Children's Hospital  
 Children's of Alabama  
 MD Anderson Medical Center  
 Riley Children's Hospital  
 OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois  
 Lurie Children's Hospital  
 University of Alabama Hospital  
 Valley Children's Hospital  
 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

## Cancer Types



Ethan:  
POTUS Wish

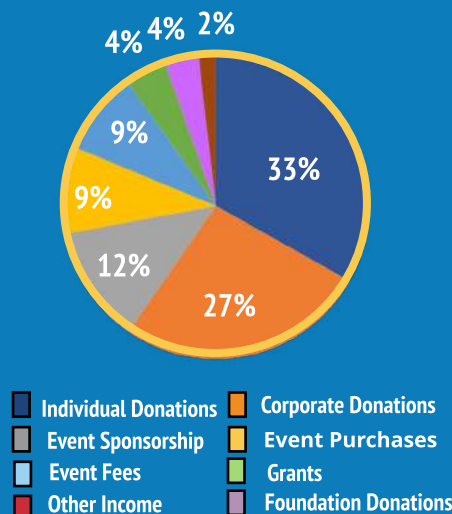
# 2022 FINANCIALS (UNAUDITED)

2022 saw many wishes that had been waiting to be delivered over the last few years get fulfilled increasing our wish expenses to an all time high. We also introduced our new Golf for JOY event increasing both our fundraising expenses and our revenue from events.

## Revenue

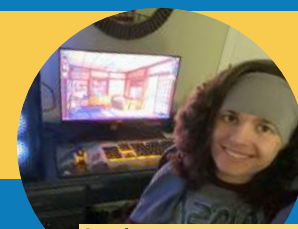
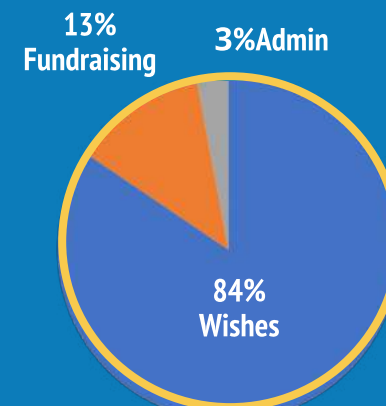
Individual Donations	\$119,831
Corporate Donations	\$ 95,690
Event Sponsorship	\$ 44,808
Event Purchases	\$ 33,290
Event Fees	\$ 32,021
Grants	\$ 15,900
Foundation Donations	\$ 13,105
Other Income	\$ 6,600

Total Revenue \$361,245



## Expenses

Wishes	\$340,550
Fundraising	\$ 50,751
Administration	\$ 11,894
Total Expenses	\$403,195



Jackson:  
Computer Wish

# WE ARE GRATEFUL

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



**Rolando: Last Wish:  
Go Home to pass**

## WISH WARRIOR

\$25,000 and up  
ABC Supply  
Gifford Family

## LOVE WINS

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

## MEMORY MAKER

\$6,000 -- \$9,999  
Anonymous Donor  
Barry & Caroine Mikels  
Community Foundation of Northern Illinois  
Northwestern Illinois Building Trades  
Wawa Foundation

## HOPE HEROES

\$1,000 -- \$5,999  
815 Dental Studio  
Bruce & Sandra Appel  
Andrews Engineering  
Aqua Aerobics Systems, Inc.

Lacy & Crystal Ballard  
Brent & Lydia Bainter  
Bears Care  
Bischoff Dentistry  
Karen Burgess  
Christine Cardenas  
Patrick & Lauren Cogan  
Corporate Contractors Inc.  
Cosmopolitan International  
Fairbanks Morse Defense  
Philip Fielding  
Foundation for the Carolinas  
Gehring Family  
Groot  
Barb & Ken Hall  
IBEW- NECA  
Illinois Tool Works  
illumination.io  
Ironworkers Local 498  
J3 Timing  
Cindy & David Jackson  
Jenbeck Foundation  
Kay Larrick  
Georgia Boyer-Lichthardt  
Brian Lyngaas  
Martin Exteriors  
Merieux Nutrisciences  
National Electrical Contractors Association  
Northwestern Illinois Building Trades

Nate O'Neill Memorial  
OSF Healthcare  
Rockford Rivets  
Neal Albert Rylatt Memorial  
Scott's RV Truck & Auto Repair  
Shamrock Construction  
Eric Singer Memorial  
St Aubin Nursery  
Timonen Family  
Drs. Therese & Scott Trenhaile  
US Bank  
UW Health  
Waste Connections  
William Charles Construction  
Tom & Jody Zhe



**EVERY DONATION MATTERS!  
THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED  
MAKE WISHES COME TRUE IN 2022!**

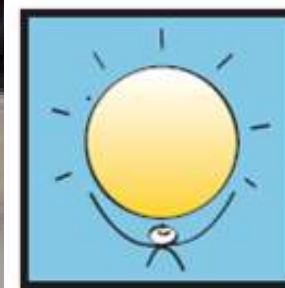
## How You Can Support Nik's Wish

- 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
- 'Like' & 'Share' us on Social Media

**Madison from Illinois**  
Fighting Hodgkin's Lymphoma

**Wish: Puppy - Oliver!**

Because of my wish, I have something to look forward to & get out of bed for. It's a love I never knew I needed until he came into our lives! I can't thank everyone enough for what they have done for all of us & all of the people who graciously donate. The foundation truly makes a difference & makes this world a better place!



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**[www.NiksWish.org](http://www.NiksWish.org)**

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