



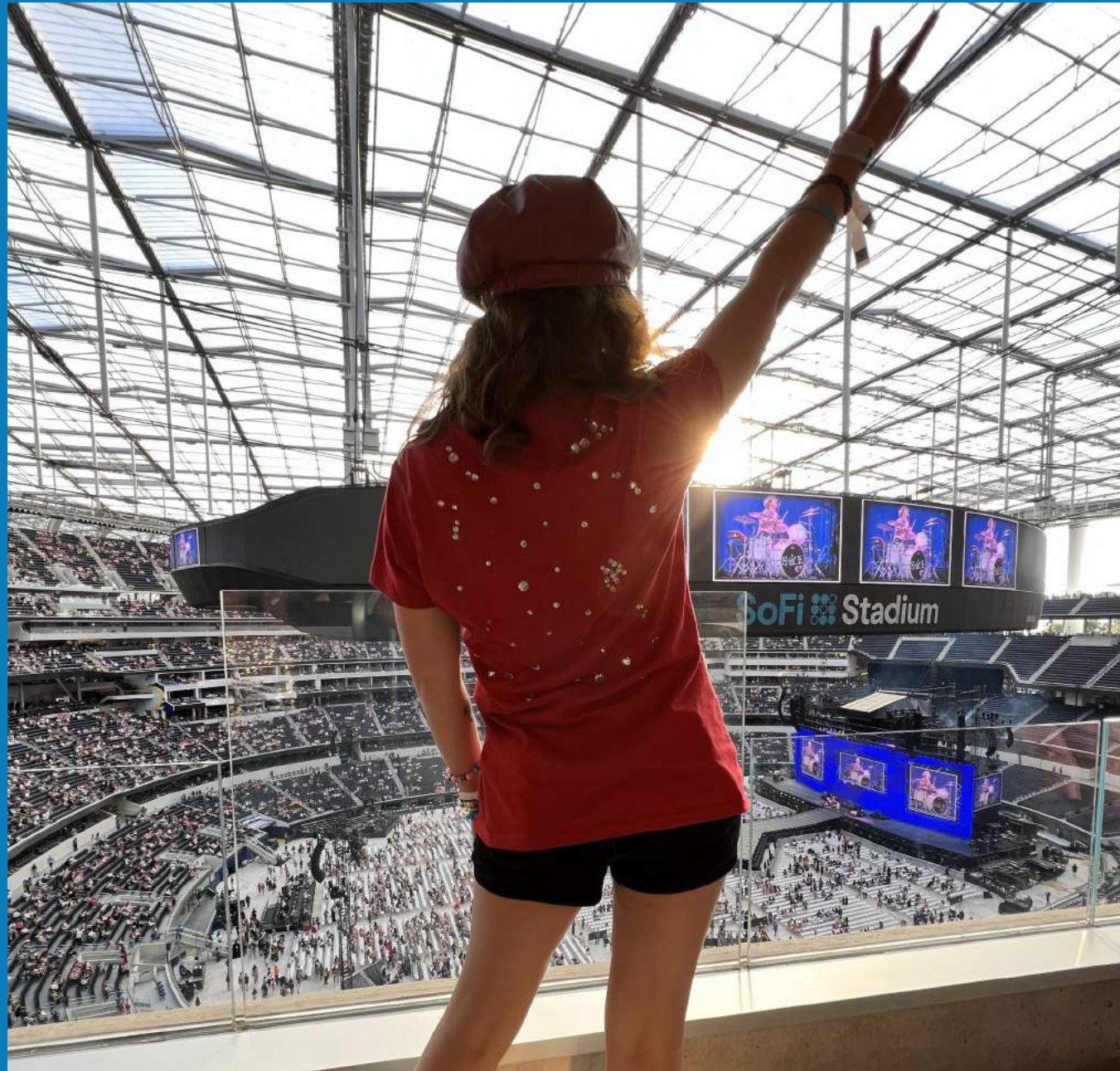
**Nikolas
Ritschel
Foundation**
Take one step...

Jordan from Alabama
fighting Brain Cancer

HELP DURING THE DARK DAYS

My life was like any other 19 year old. I was in my first semester of college and unbeknownst to me, I was having seizures while I slept because of the tumor. All of my normalcy changed after I had surgery.

Since I was a little girl, I have loved Taylor Swift. I relate to her so much, and I feel I've grown up with her. Unknowingly, she also helped me through a dark time of my life. The first day of radiation, they asked me if I had a favorite singer and I told them Taylor. They played her songs for my 30 treatment days. Her songs were like my "comfort food." I would love to go to a Taylor Swift concert, because it would make my world!!



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

2023 - A Year of Surprises!



Bilal from Illinois
fighting Hodgkin's Lymphoma
Wish: Gaming Computer



Amelia from Wisconsin
fighting Acute Myeloid Leukemia
Wish: Meet Cody Fry

Dear Friends,

Families fighting cancer often are met with surprises; some miracles and others that bring deep sorrow. 2023 felt like the same type of roller coaster of miracles and sorrow for Nik's Wish. The JOYS were unexpected and ignited new energy within our team and the sorrows brought deep sadness, which further resolved our determination to BRING JOY to these brave, young cancer warriors and their loved ones.

The first surprise came as a phone call from CNN Heroes. They had received an application and needed to follow up. They explained that they receive thousands of applications from all over the world, so don't get your hopes up. I didn't even give it another thought until they called again! Before long CNN was headed to Rockford, IL to film! They traveled with us to Chillicothe, IL to film Abby's Hawaii "Wish Reveal." Then CNN planned to travel with Abby on her wish. We were beyond thrilled!

The next surprise came when Abby's health took a turn for the worse and she was not able to fly to Hawaii. So for Abby we pivoted to a last wish and rented an RV to take her to Montana to visit friends and family. Shortly after her wish, cancer would end her life.

CNN also pivoted to a different Hawaii wish for Luke. The CNN crew, Luke and his family were at the airport when we got another surprise; the Maui fires! We had to cancel the wish. We were devastated for Luke, for our CNN segment, and especially for Hawaii vendor

partners and all of the people in Maui. CNN quickly pivoted again to another wish in progress. It was Jordan's wish (see cover) to attend a Taylor Swift concert in LA. Finally, the segment was completed!

The next surprise came from our wisher, Joseph Thompson. Joe (fighting terminal brain cancer) was granted a wish to go to the Kentucky Derby. However, a recent acquaintance, who was tremendously impressed with Joe, clued us in that Joe's real wish was to make a difference in the world by working for Nik's Wish. Soon Joe would be named Nik's Wish Alabama spokesperson. This news spread to Mary, (More Good Today.) She generously funded a wish for Joe to deliver, traveled to present the check, and videoed him delivering his first wish! Mary posted the video on TIKTOK and it went viral! Before we knew it we had 5 more Wish Angels: Madison (FL), Sarah (UT), Sabrina (MO), Alexis (TN), and Angela (AK). The Angels were on fire! Joe raised over \$29,000 and captured our hearts. Sadly, cancer took Joe's life in December. He will always be remembered as our Alabama Angel.

The year was full of tears of JOY and tears of sorrow, similar to the cancer journey that our wish families experience. We were blessed to be able to deliver 47 wishes, make 28 Wish Lamp appearances, and 10 Wish Reveals all because of your support! THANK YOU!

#LOVEWONcancerzero

Kelli (Nik's mom)

NIK'S WISHES BRING JOY!



Just a few of the 45 precious moments of JOY delivered in 2023

**Caleb from Indian
fighting Round Cell Sarcoma**

Wish: ATV

I was feeling so trapped in my body 'cuz I couldn't go out into the countryside like I used to all the time but now I know I can; and I just feel so much better because of



I haven't felt this close to freedom and normal since I was diagnosed. I feel like a brand new person! I can't thank you and Nik's Wish enough. I just feel so happy that I can't find all the words to describe how I feel. I'm grateful. Thank you!

**Sawyer from North Carolina
fighting Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma**
Wish: SkyDive (shown in background)

Sawyer said that yesterday was one of the best experiences of his life!!!! So hard to believe he was hooked up to six lines of chemo less than 6 months ago! What an amazing gift to see life in his face!!!!!! Forever grateful.--



**Timothy from Illinois
fighting Osteosarcoma**

Wish: Surprise Christmas Disney Wish

Our Nik's Wish let us forget our worries and just have FUN at Disney World. You made Tim's wish come true to be at Disney for the first time. He was so happy and amazed at Disney. Just seeing that smile on his face made my cry of happiness and joy. Our kids were able to be kids. We had a blast, made so many memories and loved every second of it. Thank you for everything you have done for our family. We greatly appreciate it. ♥ ♥

**Elyanna from Illinois
fighting Osteosarcoma**

Wish: Universal Studios, California

I want to thank Nik's Wish for granting my wish. My wish meant a lot to me because I got to spend a lot of time together with family making memories that we will talk about in the future. It was nice to visit California, see Universal Studios, and take the Hollywood Bus Tour, it was so good to experience a different place. This has been the highlight of my year of ups and downs. I thank you guys so much!



**Jerayle from Alabama
fighting Osteosarcoma**
Wish: Hawaii

From the moment my wish was granted my family was instantly impacted. It was like a breath of fresh air. To have been through so many trials & hardships for weeks on end and to finally have your wishes come true is something for which you could never show enough gratitude. My Nik's Wish gave my family the chance to relax in a state of peace because, even though I am the only person affected physically, it takes it's toll on each of us mentally.

**Sezny from Ohio
fighting Invasive Ductal Carcinoma**
Wish: Hang Gliding

My Nik's Wish answered my question about what flying is like! Flying like a bird is freedom and beauty and joy; it is breathtaking, and there is no space for your worldly concerns when you are flying so high above it with the wind in your face and the sun turning pink on the horizon. Any cancer patient can tell you how omnipresent stress is in their lives. What will the scan show? Will the chemo work? Will the cancer come back? Will I die? What will that mean for my family? But last weekend, these thoughts didn't enter my mind once. There was nothing for me to do except enjoy my trip.



VOLUNTEER-POWERED



Nik's Wish Angels!

Six angels descended on us in 2023, volunteering their time & talents to friend-raise and fund-raise in their home states! Collectively, Nik's Wish Angels raised almost \$60,000! It all started with a wish request from Joseph Thompson fighting terminal brain cancer. Although his wish was to go to the Kentucky Derby, Joe's real wish was to join Nik's Wish and make a difference in the world in the time he had left on this earth.

Joe became the spokesperson for Alabama and received donation to fund a wish from Mary from More Good Today. Mary delivered the check in person so that Joe could deliver his first wish. The video of the event inspired 5 more angels to help us in their states.

Sadly, cancer took Joe's life on December 27, 2023. In 10 short months, Joe changed Nik's Wish forever! Meet our Wish Angels.



Joseph Thompson
2023 Wish Angel
of the Year



Madison Ellis
Florida Angel



Angella Gebert
Alaska Angel



Sabrina Wages
Missouri Angel



Alexis Lichlyter
Tennessee Angel



Sarah Greer
Utah Angel



Golf for JOY
IL & FL
raised over
\$56,000



**Shamrock
Beer 5K**
raised over
\$22,000



Nik's Home Run
raised over \$110,000



SkyCarp's Volunteers
raised almost \$5,000



Wish Maker of the Year
Wendy Symonds



Volunteer of the Year
Klint & Claudia Egelhoff



HOPE HEROES BRING JOY!

2023 JOY FUNDED BY LOVING HOPE HEROES



MacKenzie



Amelia



Natalie



Kenneth



Taylor



Tori



Plumbers & Pipefitters Annual Golf Outing



Abby



Caleb



Bilal



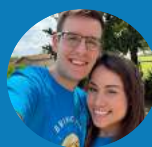
Natalie

We're honored to have these wish families fund it forward!

The Eckhom Family



Jasmine



Valeria

The Ellis Family



Jude

The Mikels Family



Anna

Gehring Family



Kyle

Million Dollar Round Table



Joseph

More Good Today



Jerayle

Cogan Family



Lane

The Gifford Family



Mason



Alyssa



Tate



Alexander

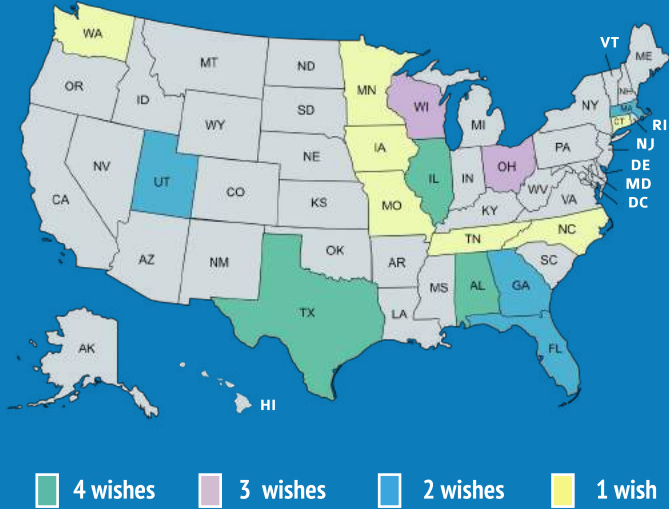
Special Thanks to our Wish Partners!



Karen Camper & Julia Steljes

WHO WE SERVED IN 2023

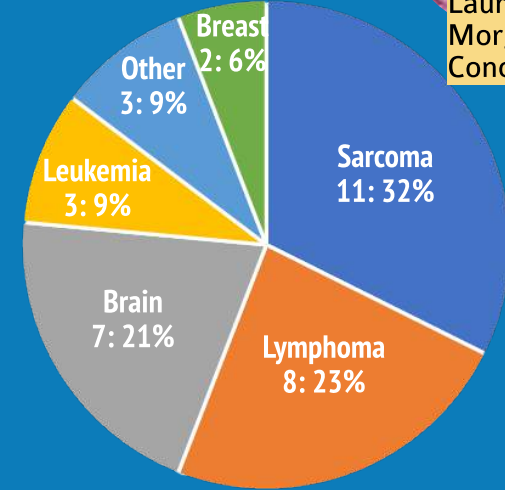
Wishes Approved by State



Top Referring Hospitals

University of Alabama Hospital
 UW Health
 Cleveland Clinic
 MD Anderson Medical Center
 Huntsman Cancer Institute
 OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois
 University Hospital, San Antonio
 University of Iowa Hospital
 Children's of Alabama

Cancer Types



Lauren:
Morgan Wallen
Concert Wish

2023 FINANCIALS (UNAUDITED)

We added our first employee in late 2022 focused on fundraising efforts which helped us double our revenue from 2022 to 2023. The majority of the increase in revenue came from generous individual donors across the country.

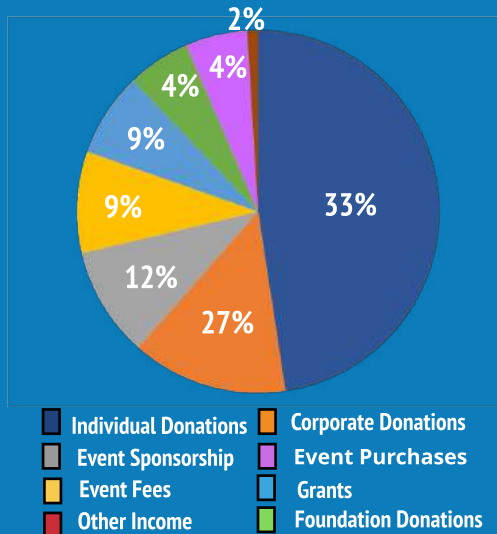


Imani:
Hawaii Wish

Revenue

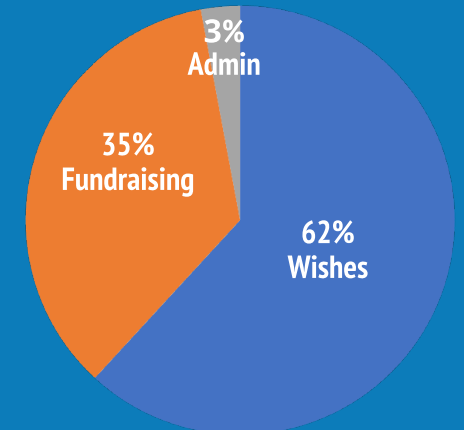
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|----------------------|-----------|
| Individual Donations | \$346,038 |
| Corporate Donations | \$101,213 |
| Event Sponsorship | \$ 71,402 |
| Event Fees | \$ 65,778 |
| Grants | \$ 54,525 |
| Foundation Donations | \$ 41,059 |
| Event Purchases | \$ 40,057 |
| Other Income | \$ 7,123 |

Total Revenue \$727,196



Expenses

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Wishes | \$298,002 |
| Fundraising | \$169,812 |
| Administration | \$ 14,152 |
| Total Expenses | \$481,966 |



WE ARE GRATEFUL

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



WISH WARRIOR

\$25,000 and up

Anonymous Donors
ABC Supply
Gifford Family

LOVE WINS

\$10,000 -- \$24,999

Anna Miller Foundation
Alexa Kelter Memorial
Gene Haas Foundation
Hendricks Family Foundation
Kerry Inc
Million Dollar Round Table
Modern Woodmen Fraternal
Financial
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 23
Ritschel Boehle Family
Denise Van Fleet
Wawa Foundation

MEMORY MAKER

\$6,000 -- \$9,999

Community Against Cancer
Community Foundation of Northern
Illinois
David E. DeSliva Foundation
Ferguson Enterprises
Barry & Caroline Mikels
More Good Today
Northwestern Illinois Building Trades
UW Health

HOPE HEROES

\$1,000 -- \$5,999

Alpine Kiwanis Club
Amgen Foundation
Andrews Engineering
Anonymous Donor
Bruce & Sandra Appel
Aqua Aerobics Systems, Inc.
Bergstrom Charitable Foundation
Brent & Lydia Bainter
Ceroni Piping
Christine Cardenas
Cleo
Patrick & Lauren Cogan
Cosmopolitan International
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Linda Ferrar
Philip Fielding
Scott Frishman
Genienne Gastelum
Timothy & Shannon Gay
Barb & Ken Hall
Keith Hebeisen
Hilton Garden Inn
Hogs for the Cause
IBEW- NECA
illumination.io
Ironworkers Local 498
J3 Timing
Kunes Family Foundation
Brian Lyngaas
Martin Exteriors
Meijer

Steve Mitchell
Clif Morris
NAFA Illinois LLC
National Electrical Contractors Assoc.
Nelson Carlson Mechanical
Northwestern Illinois Building Trades
OSF Healthcare
PGA Superstore
Tim Prete
Rock Cut Investment Group of RBW Wealth Mgmt
Rockford Endontics
Neal Albert Rylatt Memorial
Salesforce.org
Scott's RV Truck & Auto Repair
Eric Singer Memorial
SPX Flow
St Aubin Nursery
Thermo Fisher Scientific
Melissa Scott Memorial
Joe Thompson Memorial
Timonen Family
Drs. Therese & Scott Trenhaile
Meghan Wakefield
Waste Connections
Diane Windsor
William Charles Construction
Winnebago County Board
Leslie Wyatt
Karen Wyman
Your Tomorrow
Tom & Jody Zhe

Michael: Puppy Wish


Thanks to Nik's Wish, I feel alive again! When they called and said, "Your wish is granted," it was truly magical!

#LOVEWONcancerzero




- ### 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

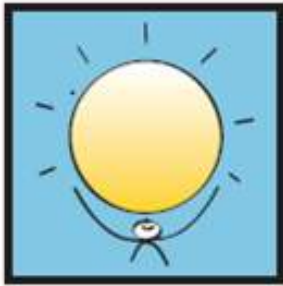
Abby from Illinois
Fighting Terminal Osteosarcoma



CNN featured Abby's Hawaii Wish Reveal, however her wish changed due to disease progression. Abby's family headed out to see family in Montana for her last wish.



Scan the QR Code to see Abby's Wish Reveal.



Nikolas Ritschel Foundation
Take one step...

www.NiksWish.org

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