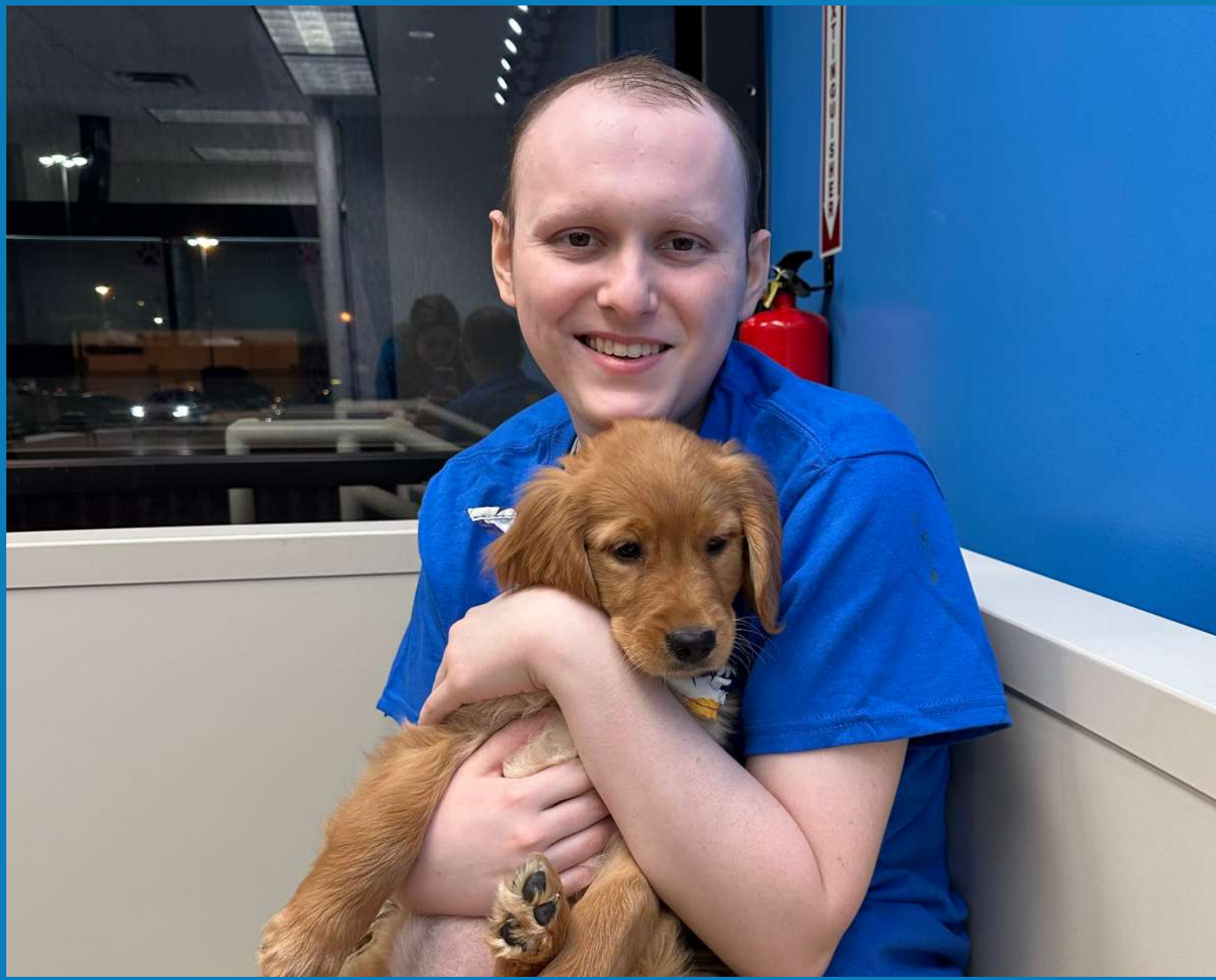
NIK'S WISH 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

BRINGING HOPE & JOY TO YOUNG ADULTS BATTLING CANCER



"I wished for a puppy because when your fighting cancer, it's hard to find a reason to get up in the morning. This new puppy is wonderful! It has given me a greater sense of purpose in my life. She gives me another reason other than myself to start my day. I am extremely grateful to Nik's Wish Foundation and I hope more people who are experiencing illnesses can receive the kind of happiness like I have from this amazing wish!"

(Ethan with wish puppy Penny) RIP

Ethan courageously battled Rhabdomyosarcoma, with his wish puppy, Penny. Cancer took his life. Now Penny honors his legacy by fundraising in the school where he worked.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

2025 - A Reason to Keep Fighting!



Jeromy from Wisconsin fighting Neuroblastoma Wish: The Masters Tournament



Zachary from Illinois fighting Neuroendocrine Sinonasal Carcinoma Wish: Hawaii

Dear Friends,

Thank you for another year of bringing JOY to young adults fighting cancer. In 2025 cancer took the lives of 33 of our cancer warriors. Ethan (featured on the cover) was one of those lives. His words resonate with so many - he was looking for a reason to keep fighting. His wish, Penny the puppy, gave him that reason. Wishes provide hope - desire for positive changes to happen. A wiish can't cure cancer, but it can fuel hope and a reason to keep fighitng!

Nik's Wish experienced so many positive changes this year that it's hard to imagine what life looked like before. One of our most meaningful milestones was moving out of my basement and into our very first official home. We found a rare gem — a space with a garage door big enough to store our beloved wish lamp and event materials, along with room to gather our volunteers, wish families, and supporters. It had everything we needed... except the sparkle to truly make it ours.

Then, a miracle happened. One of our volunteers submitted Nik's Wish for a grant through the Lowe's Distribution Center. Before we knew it, an incredible team of volunteers arrived with paint, ceiling tiles, flooring, lighting, and even custom frames for our wish signs. For an entire month, they poured their hearts into transforming our space. What once was simply a building is now a home — a place filled with hope, joy, and community.

Our wish lamp also underwent a beautiful transformation this year. Built in 2020 as a DIY project, it quickly became our beacon of hope. When you see it rolling down the street — smoke billowing from its spout, lights flashing — you know something magical is about to happen! But our original lamp wasn't built to withstand the outdoors. Once again, our community stepped in. Our friends at the Northern Illinois Building Trades Union refreshed and rebuilt it, unveiling a shiny new wish lamp at our largest fundraiser, Nik's Home Run. This extraordinary gift will bring JOY to so many for years to come.



Cole Kudrna

Another powerful change came from within our own wish family. Two cancer survivors and Nik's Wish alumni joined forces to host their own fundraiser with the goal of funding a wish in Wisconsin. Not only did they host a successful event, they funded and delivered the wish within the same year. From that effort, Cole Kudrna emerged as our volunteer "Wisconsin Wish Angel," serving as a spokesperson and inspiring fundraising efforts beyond Illinois. Cole's passion for our mission and his remarkable talents made him the perfect fit for Development Director. By year's end, we were overjoyed to officially welcome him to our team.

In 2025, Nik's Wish set new records raising over $750,000, delivering 53 wishes, and hosting 30 wish reveals. Wish reveals have become an integral part of our program. Whether in person with our magical wish lamp or remotely through our Wish Reveal Kits (complete with a confetti cannon!), these celebrations engage entire communities in shouting the powerful words:

"Your wish is granted!"

Every change in 2025 brought growth. Every partnership strengthened our mission. Every wish delivered reminded us why we do this work.

Thank you for believing in Nik's Wish. Thank you for standing beside us. And thank you for helping us continue to prove that LOVE beats cancer every time!

#LOVEWONcancerzero

With heartfelt gratitude,

Kelli

Kelli (Nik's Mom)



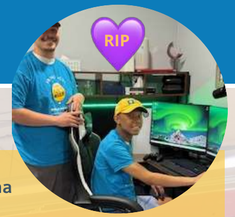
Northwestern Illinois Building Trades Union Refurbished Wish Lamp!

NIK'S WISHES BRING JOY!

Just a few of the 53 precious moments of JOY delivered in 2025



Abigail from Illinois fighting MPSNT
Wish: NYC Anime Con
My wish meant a lot to me and made me REALLY happy! My favorite part was getting to see my online friends! Thank you very much!



Ashton from Louisiana fighting Rhabdomyosarcoma
Wish: Gaming System
I just wanted to give some thanks to the Niks Foundation for granting my brother's wish for a new PC and gaming setup. He has been battling cancer with so much strength, and this gift brought him genuine joy and something to look forward to each day. It's more than just a gaming system— it's a way for him to escape, connect with friends, and feel like himself again. Your kindness made a huge difference in his life, and we are beyond grateful. ~ Deleah (sister)

Kailey from Florida fighting Non Hodgkins Lymphoma
Wish: Mall of America Shopping Spree
I want to thank the amazing Niks Wish family along with all of the donors that made my wish possible. I chose a shopping spree at the Mall of America. I had the best week ever! It was so great being able to feel spoiled after such a hard year I had last year dealing with my diagnosis. My family and I were able to hangout and have fun doing random activities like go carting. We live across the country from each other right now so it was so great to have that time together. And of course I was able to buy so many things I've only dreamt of having! Thank you from the bottom of my heart, I will cherish this week forever.



Molly From Minnesota fighting Osteosarcoma
Wish: Give Back to Prize Cart(shown in background)
For her wish she is going on a shopping spree to stock the Prize Cart at her hospital with crafts and gifts that older kids can enjoy.



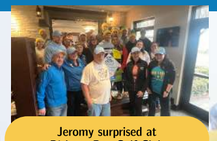
Josiah from Texas fighting Brain Cancer
Wish: Hawaii
This wish has been a turning point in my journey. I'm reminded now, more than ever, of what I'm fighting for—what truly matters. It's for these moments, these memories, these relationships. This trip, this experience, was made possible by Nik's Wish, and for that,I will forever be grateful. Thank you for helping me create a memory that will stay with me for the rest of my life. We made memories to last a Lifetime!! Would not have been possible without everyone at Nik's Wish. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!



Koti from Texas fighting Ewing Sarcoma
Wish: Puppy
My puppy wish being granted means the world with me. I now have a best friend I get to hang out with while I'm in isolation for my counts to come up in between chemotherapy and radiation. I named her Dorothy because she's my favorite character from the Golden Girls.

VOLUNTEER-POWERED

Highlights of the 30 Wish Reveals in 2025
4 Words of Pure JOY - "YOUR WISH IS GRANTED!"


Jeromy surprised at Bishops Bay Golf Club


Milani surprised by family at local restaurant



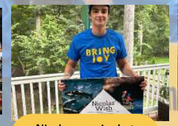
Jaylin surprised by family at home


Joseph surprised at home


Amy surprised at hospital


Esteban surprised by SydStrong


Isabella surprised at a local restaurant


Nicolas surprised at home


Elizabeth surprised by FL Wish Angels


Teagan surprised by the WI Wish Angel



Mia surprised at home

GOLF FOR JOY


WI -$45,000 raised


FL -$21,000 raised


IL -$31,000 raised

Shamrock Beer 5K & Sham-ROCK raised over $52,000




Nik's Home Run raised over $100,000

National Charity for 5K Wine Runs! $19,000 raised


Spirit Award Deb & Jon Dimmick


Wish Maker of the Year Mike Barr


Volunteer of the Year Theresa Batchelor (left)

HOPE HEROES BRING JOY!

THANK YOU TO SO MANY LOVING SUPPORTERS!

ABC Supply Co. Inc
Amrit
Ellwood
Peyton
Teagan

KERRY
Zachary
Milani

Cullin
Jayce
Esteban
AJ

PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS LU 23 ROCKFORD ILLINOIS
Zachary
Haley

Anna Miller Foundation
Connor
Ethan
Jet

Gifford Family
Noemy
Joseph
Dawson

KJELLSTROM FAMILY FOUNDATION
Nathan
Emma

Boudreau Family
Ashton
Mateo

Steve & Connie Bainter
Max
Aaron

Isabella
The Wawa Foundation
Kailey

UWHealth
Jeromy

3M
Ana

Bergstrom
Emily

AQUA-AEROBIC SYSTEMS, INC.
Lillianna

OSF HealthCare Foundation
Nikita

pci PHARMA SERVICES
Brennan

WAD
Adrian

Camper Family
Lilliana

Jada

Hayes Family
Angel

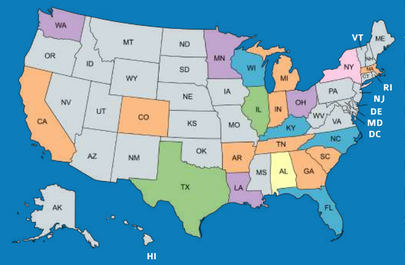
Latham Family
Skylar

J&J Ventures
Koti

MDRT
Josiah

WHO WE SERVED IN 2025

Wishes Delivered by State

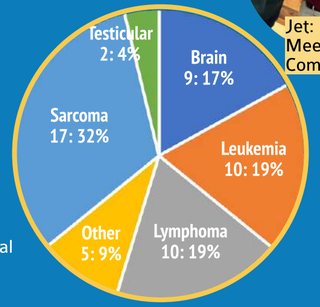


7 IL, TX | 4 NY | 2 LA, MN, OH, WA | 6 AL | 3 WI, FL, KY | 1 IN, AR, CA, CO, GA, MA, MI, SC, TN

Top Referring Hospitals

University of Alabama Birmingham
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital
Medical City, Dallas
MD Anderson
UW Health American Family Children's Hospital
St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital
UF Health Shands Hospital
Norton Chilldrens's Hospital
Ochsner Children's
University of Chicago Comer's Children's Hospital
OSF Children's Hospital

Cancer Types



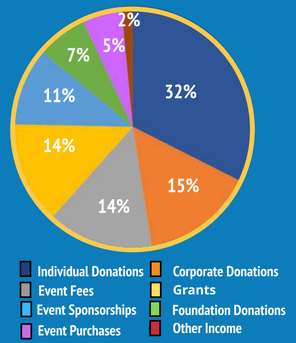


Jet:
Meet The Command Zone

2025 FINANCIALS

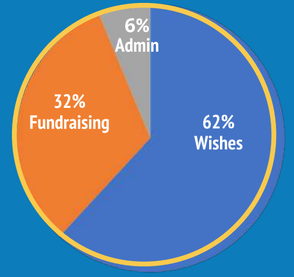
Revenue

Individual Donations	$244,066
Corporate Donations	$113,124
Event Fees	$105,908
Grants	$103.450
Event Sponsorships	$ 80,400
Foundation Donations	$ 52,705
Event Purchases	$ 41,117
Other Income	$ 11,395
Total Revenue	$752,165



Expenses

Wishes	$390,221
Fundraising	$200,992
Administration	$ 39,585
Total Expenses	$630,798





Nikita:
Clearwater Beach, FL

WE ARE GRATEFUL

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

WISH WARRIOR ($25,000 +)

ABC Supply
Steve & Connie Bainter
Gifford Family
SydStrong

LOVE WINS ($10,000 - $24,999)

Anna Miller Foundation
Chicago Blackhawks Foundation
J3 Events & The J Cube Inc.
Kerry Inc
Kjellstrom Family Foundation
Latham Family
Million Dollar Round Table
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 23
Ritschel Boehle Family
SM and SF Club
The Wawa Foundation Inc

MEMORY MAKER (6,000-$9,999)

Cogan Family
Karen Hayes
Ironworkers Local Union 498
Barry & Caroline Mikels
Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial
OSF HealthCare Foundation
UW Health

HOPE HEROES ($1,000 - $5,999)

815 Dental Studio
815 Entertainment
Abrahams Family
Advent Health for Children
Rob Alspector
Amgen Foundation
Anthony Rizzo Family Foundation
AP Fence
Appel Family
Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc.
Area Mechanical Inc.
Baker Family
Brent & Lydia Bainter
June & Jacques Boudreau
Camper Family
Cardenas Family
Carter Electric, Inc.
Central Florida Building Trades Council
Ceroni Piping Company
Cleo Communications US LLC
Crazy Times Pub & Grub
Creag Foundation
DJ Liquors
Eckholm Family
Phillip Fielding
Geenex Solar LLC
Charles & Denise GrannemanG
Guthrie Family
Denise Hicks
Roger & Denette Hilbert
Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP
Holt Family
Holy Family Catholic Church
IBEW Local 606
Illinois Licensed Beverage Assoc
illumination.io
Int'l Union of Operating Engineers, Local 673
ISCO
J & J Ventures Gaming
Cindy & David Jackson
Jones Family
Kelley Williamson Company
Kunes Family Foundation
Lam Family
Lantz Family
Levy Giving Foundation
Lutz Family
Brian Lyngaas
Markgraf Family
Scott Martin
Martin Exteriors
McNichols Family
McWhirter Family
Midland States Bank
Miller Family
Milwaukee Tool
Clif & Nichole Morris
Murphy Family
Nelson Carlson Mechanical
Northern Illinois Building Contractors Assoc
James & Paulette Orwin
Paramount
PCI Pharma Services
PGA Tour Superstore
Prete Family
Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Rockford Cosmopolitan Club Charities
Rylatt Family
Sauzer Family Foundation
Scotts RV, Truck and Auto Repair, Inc
Singer Family
Stillman Bank
The Power Connection (IBEW-NECA)
Thermo Fisher Scientific
Thompson Family
Timonen Family
UW Health
Waste Connection
Wei Family
Jeremiah & Stacy Whiddon
WI Insulation Contractors Association
Diane Windsor
Winnebago County Board
Karen Wyman
Yunto Family
Tom & Jody Zhe



Emma: Disney

This trip meant the world to me! It was definitely MAGICAL! I got to celebrate my birthday after a year not knowing if I would make through, and I couldn't think of a better way to celebrate than Disney!



Jayce: Hawaii

RIP



How You Can Support Nik's Wish

- Make a monetary donation
- Attend one of our events
- Become an event sponsor
- Donate a car
- 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

RIP

Ellwood from Florida
Fighting Osteosarcoma

It was so beautiful for our family. It made me very happy to be together on my Disney wish. I'm so very appreciative. Thanks for everything!

Bringing Joy since 2012
Nik's WISH

www.NiksWish.org

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