



## Gratitude Report 2015

*With your support, we grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.*

## Wishes matter

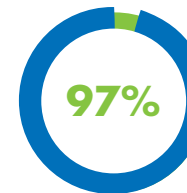


**of volunteers reported feeling more grateful and thankful as a result of helping to grant a wish.\***



*“My involvement with Make-A-Wish has been one of the most gratifying experiences out of all the philanthropic work that I do. To be a part of a young person’s special wish, to help add some joy, some fun and some smiles ... is really quite humbling.”*

– Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon

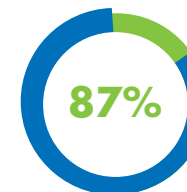


**of community volunteers reported an increased sense of compassion as a result of being involved in wishes.\***



*“To be able to make that wish come true is such a spectacular thing, and something that I really, truly care about, and it means a lot to my heart.”*

– Seattle Seahawks quarterback  
Russell Wilson



**of adult former wish kids say their wish experience gave them the courage to pursue opportunities that were difficult or impossible before they received their wish.\***



*“[My wish] is going to keep impacting me. It makes me feel like I want to do more, to go for it.”*

– James, 12, I wish to meet the  
Seattle Seahawks

\*Results from a national wish impact study conducted by an independent third-party.



## Because of you, Daniel saw his favorite team play in the Big Game.

progresses, Daniel will likely lose his vision. So, getting him to the Big Game before his vision worsens was paramount.

“It was incredible for [Daniel] to see the team he loves play in the biggest game ... and to know that Daniel had plenty of vision at this time to see every play,” said Daniel’s mom, Maureen.

**Because of you, Daniel and his family experienced the festive atmosphere in Arizona.** They went to the 12 Rally; they even met the Mayor of Seattle and Seahawks announcer, Steve Raible.

And Daniel’s wish continues to have a lifelong impact.

“When I think back, I look at it as a really awesome experience,” Daniel said.



Most 13 year olds dread getting called to the principal’s office. But for Daniel, one call to the school principal’s office set the wheels in motion for an unforgettable experience.

**“Hi, this is Bobby Wagner from the Seattle Seahawks.”**

When Daniel answered the phone, one of his favorite NFL players was on the line with a very special message: **Daniel’s wish to go to the Super Bowl was coming true.**

“It meant a lot to me [to be involved in Daniel’s wish] because I felt like to really put a smile on somebody’s face is always a great thing,” said Bobby Wagner.

Daniel has a life-threatening medical condition that affects his vision. As his condition

You helped Daniel meet his heroes. Because of your generosity, he saw how hard work and dedication can pay off.

**“The joy and excitement would not leave his face,” said Maureen. Having his wish, “makes him dream big! [Daniel] has so much more confidence from the entire experience.”**

Throughout it all, Daniel gained a new supporter. “I’d just [like to] tell [Daniel] to keep fighting

and I’m here for him, always, supporting him,” said Wagner.

*Special thanks to the Seattle Seahawks and a generous long-time Seahawks ticket holder for helping Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington grant Daniel’s wish.*

See the moment Daniel answered the call from his favorite athlete at [akwa.wish.org/seahawks](http://akwa.wish.org/seahawks).



## You are our heroes! Let us count the ways...

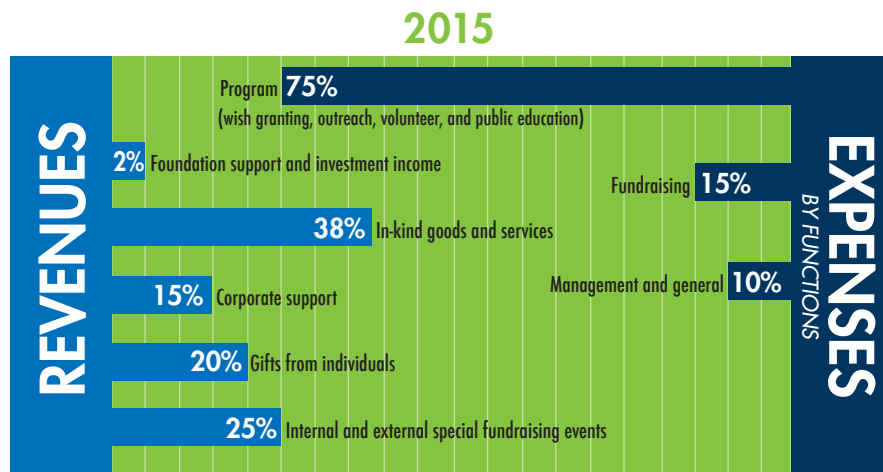
Wishes are possible because donors and volunteers like you believe in the power of a wish. Because of you, last year...

- ★ **352 wishes came true** for children in Alaska and Washington— more than any other year in our history
- ★ Our local staff facilitated an **additional 73 wishes** for children from other parts of the country and the world to receive their wishes in Alaska and Washington
- ★ Our local office received **503 new wish referrals**
- ★ **598 wish-granting volunteers** dedicated countless hours to turn wishes into reality

## Fundraising

We are grateful for the dedicated and generous support from thousands of community members, businesses, corporations, foundations, clubs and associations. Contributions and investment income received by Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington during the 2015 fiscal year (September 1, 2014

to August 31, 2015) totaled \$7,729,291. Included in this amount are in-kind contributions totaling \$2,928,190. Net assets at the end of the year totaled \$1,919,886. Of every dollar spent in the fiscal year 2015, 75 cents went directly to granting wishes for children with life-threatening medical conditions.



## Legacy Gifts

In the 2015 fiscal year, many generous and forward-thinking donors left significant sums of money to our chapter through their wills totaling \$290,239. These contributions allowed us to grant 58 additional wishes. More than \$164,000 was added to the Wishing Well board-designated fund, where the

funds will continue to grow through investment for many years to come.

If you would like to learn more about including Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington in your will, please visit our website at [akwa.wish.org](http://akwa.wish.org) or call Christina Lui, director of trusts, estates and gift planning, at 206.623.5341.

## 2015 Fiscal Year Summary

We take pride in our stewardship of our financial resources, leveraging generous philanthropic support with donated goods and volunteer services.

Our annual financial statements are audited by the independent

auditing firm CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, and are available upon request at no charge. To receive a copy of the 2015 fiscal year audited financial statements or our 990 report, please visit: [akwa.wish.org](http://akwa.wish.org) or contact us at 800.304.WISH.

### Statement of Activities (for year ended August 31, 2015)

	Actual	Budget
Total Revenue, Gains and Other Support	7,729,291	6,569,202
Less: In-Kind Revenue	(2,928,190)	(1,798,000)
Addback: Unrealized Investment Loss	363,660	-
<b>Adjusted Revenue</b>	<b>5,164,761</b>	<b>4,771,202</b>
Program Expenses	6,853,601	4,961,764
Fundraising	1,329,186	1,134,117
Management and General	917,398	992,353
Total Expenses	9,100,185	7,088,234
Less: In-Kind Exp (Wish & Operating)	(3,401,790)	(1,798,000)
<b>Adjusted Expenses</b>	<b>5,698,395</b>	<b>5,290,234</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(533,634)</b>	<b>(519,032)*</b>

\* Note: The fiscal year 2015 Board Approved Budget was an investment in the organization to build infrastructure in order to grow wishes, and a fundraising team, that could support the additional revenue required to provide a wish to every eligible child.

## Thank you for making wishes possible!

Your gifts are greatly appreciated and are an important part of patient treatment. You make our life-affirming mission possible and we are so grateful to you for that. **For a full listing of our individual and corporate donors, please visit [akwa.wish.org](http://akwa.wish.org).**

## You make wishes possible!

But what does your support really do? You bring joy back into the lives of children during their time of greatest need. You give kids and families devastated by illness something to focus on other than treatment. You help them to feel loved and supported.

How do you do this? Your support helps them to realize their dreams. For some kids, this means meeting their role models; the athletes they see on TV every week. Because of your generosity and the kindness of our local sports teams, including the Seattle Seahawks, dozens of local kids have met their favorite athletes since our chapter's founding in 1986.



For kids like 6-year-old Ben, meeting the players gives them hope for the future. Ben's wish signified the end of nearly four years of treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Treatment that stripped him of his ability to walk and forced him into isolation from the things he loved most – playing catch with his friends.

Read Ben's full story at [akwa.wish.org/seahawks](http://akwa.wish.org/seahawks).

*"Ben's wish pierced through all of the isolation that childhood cancer can bring to a family, and replaced it with voluntary love," said Ben's mom, Jennie. "Ben is not just a Seahawks fan ... he IS a Seahawk, for life!"*

## With Gratitude

*Our deepest thanks to you for your continued support that makes wishes for children like Daniel, Ben and James possible. We're grateful to them and to their families for bringing out the best in us and being the stars of the 2015 Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington Gratitude Report. Special thanks, also, to the Seattle Seahawks for helping so many kids to realize their dreams and meet their heroes. We also thank Rod Mar for the photo of Russell Wilson and Brayden, and all of the wish families for the unforgettable images.*

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**For a complete staff listing, please visit [akwa.wish.org](http://akwa.wish.org).**



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