

Making wishes
come true
in a big way,
★ EVERY DAY
★ ★

MAKE-A-WISH[®]

Make-A-Wish Foundation[®]
of Southern Florida
2008 Annual Report



The mission of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida is to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. We transform everyday dreams into extraordinary experiences, creating memories and renewing a sick child's resolve to take on whatever obstacles he or she is facing. A child's entire family is included so they too can feel reinvigorated and *share the power of a wish®*.

No matter the wish, attention is paid to every last detail in order to orchestrate an experience so grand, it exceeds even the child's expectations.

A simple wish becomes simply amazing...
A seemingly impossible wish becomes possible...
Granting wishes in a BIG way, EVERY DAY



Dear Make-A-Wish Friends:



At the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida, we take children's wishes seriously because a wish is a lot more than just child's play. It can transform a sick child's life, renewing the child's spirit in his or her battle with a life-threatening medical condition. Whether a child wishes for a familiar favorite like a trip to *Walt Disney World*® or for something entirely new that we've never granted before – if it's precious to a wish child, it's important to us.

We are proud to be celebrating our 25th anniversary of granting wishes. What started as a service project for the Plantation Junior Woman's Club has grown into the 4th largest wish-granting chapter in the world. In 1983, the chapter granted two wishes; last year, 527 heartfelt wishes came true. This year we have our sights set on turning 546 wishes into reality and with the continued support of our generous donors and committed volunteers we can reach our goal.

A wish knows no boundaries. Straight from a child's imagination to the biggest, most enjoyable experience we can create, children in 13 counties from different races, beliefs and socioeconomic backgrounds make wishes and have them come true. During our 25-year history, the Foundation's focus has remained the same and our goal has never wavered. We strive to provide each medically-eligible child between the ages of 2½ and 18 with his or her most heartfelt wish.

As we enter the third year of our five-year strategic plan, the Foundation staff and board of directors are prepared to work tirelessly on outreach, mission delivery and fundraising to continue on our quest to provide an extraordinary wish to every eligible child.

We look forward to the next 25 years and the opportunity to continue to leave a lasting impression on the lives of wish children. It is our hope that each supporter of our Foundation – through donations, volunteering or attending special events – knows that they play an indispensable part in making sick children smile during the darkest of times. It is only because of the philanthropic hearts of our donors and the dynamic community that we live in that we can continue to grant each special wish.

Thank you for helping us *share the power of a wish*®!

Best wishes,

Norman Wedderburn
President/CEO

Ben Eisenberg
Chairman of the Board of Directors





I Wish to Have an
Enclosed
Play Area

-Rebekah, 3

January 2008

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

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Saturday

January 26, 2008

Because of her cancer treatments, 3-year-old Rebekah was unable to play outside with her friends. Her immune system is compromised and she is prone to getting sick. Her wish to have an enclosed play area gave her the freedom to once again be carefree and have fun in a safe and climate-controlled environment. During a 3½ week hospital stay, the renovation was completed and Rebekah was overjoyed to come home to her wish come true. Now she spends hours each day in her enclosed playroom, baking in her toy kitchen, playing on her swing and just being a kid again. The first time she was playing in her new play area, she told her mother that the new porch is much better than the old one and that they should get one for her younger brother. Rebekah is ecstatic to have a special place to call her own!

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I Wish to
Go to the
Boeing Factory

-Carlos, 8



February 2008

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February 24, 2008

As soon as 8-year-old Carlos saw the Boeing Factory, his eyes grew wide and he pointed and squealed "Boeing! Boeing! Boeing!" Always fascinated by airplanes, his vacation fulfilled his dream to visit the industry's mecca in Seattle. His wish experience was so much more than he expected. There was a VIP tour of the Boeing Factory and the Museum of Flight as well as a visit to the Future of Flight Gallery. The factory left such an impression on Carlos that he said, "It's so big that it feels like its own world!" He impressed Boeing executives with his knowledge of planes and showed them a drawing of a solar plane he would like to build someday. Carlos picked out two model airplanes to add to the more than 300 already in his collection at home. Another tremendous adventure was the private plane ride that he and his family took high above Seattle. Carlos was on cloud nine!



I Wish to
Have a Wit

-Richard, 9

March 2008

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March 1, 2008

Nine-year-old Richard and his family consider his wish to have an entertainment package the best experience they ever had. Even though he already had lots of video games, there was one thing missing from his gaming arsenal – a Nintendo Wii. On his wish day, the jubilant boy could hardly contain his anticipation long enough for his wish granters to unpack the boxes. Along with his Nintendo Wii game console, he also received a selection of games, controllers, memory cards and a beautiful black credenza to hold everything. Richard's eyes glowed at the sight of his brand new big-screen plasma television. His friends and family were there to congratulate him on his wish come true and test out his new video games. Richard loves electronics and spends every second of his spare time playing video games. If no one stopped him, he would play 24 hours a day!

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I Wish to Go on a Shopping Spree

-Natasha, 10



April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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April 7, 2008

When a limousine arrived at her doorstep, 10-year-old Natasha, who is living with sickle cell anemia, knew it would be an extraordinary day. She and her family were brought to Super Target where the chauffeur opened the door to her shopping spree wish come true. Natasha was greeted by cheering store employees holding signs to welcome her. Presented with a glittering tiara, fluffy pink boa and a decorated shopping cart, she immersed herself in a whirlwind of shopping. Clutching her wish list in her hand, Natasha picked out everything that she wanted including trendy clothes, fashionable shoes and jewelry, a digital camera, a PSP and games and everything Hannah Montana that she could find. Afterward, she and her family discussed the day with a decadent meal at Red Lobster. Natasha felt like a celebrity when she went on her shopping spree!



I Wish to Have a
SpongeBob
SquarePants
Party

-Dylan, 9

May 2008

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May 31, 2008

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Is there such a thing as SpongeBob SquarePants overload? Not to Dylan who wished to have a SpongeBob SquarePants birthday party. Dressed in a tuxedo, Dylan took his first limousine ride to his favorite pizza place to celebrate his big day. SpongeBob made his entrance atop a fire truck and made Dylan's 9th birthday an experience he will never forget. The elated birthday boy showered SpongeBob with hugs and walked hand-in-hand with him to introduce all his friends. Dylan was presented with a crown and velvet cape and proclaimed king for the day. SpongeBob's face adorned everything including the piñata, cake and decorations. The restaurant's television showcased his favorite cartoon character and an audience applauded as Dylan ventured behind the counter to make his own pizza. SpongeBob presented his biggest fan with some autographed items and an astonished Dylan said, "I'm going to keep it all forever!"



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*I Wish to Go
on a Disney
Cruise*

-Chloe, 4

June 2008

June 16, 2008

Chloe, who is battling a brain tumor, loves to dress up as a princess, watch the “Disney Channel” and says her favorite actress is Cinderella. She decided that the ideal way to celebrate her 4th birthday was on board a Disney Cruise Line® ship with Mickey Mouse and all her friends. Chloe and her family ventured to Port Canaveral and set sail on a five-day Caribbean cruise aboard the Disney Wonder with stops in Nassau, Bahamas and Castaway Cay, Disney’s private island oasis. She enjoyed the amazing amenities including the Broadway-style shows, the Mickey Mouse-shaped pool and the on-board Oceaneer Club, a play area devoted to younger children and designed like Captain Hook’s ship. She was overjoyed to be surrounded by Disney characters and to have a dolphin encounter during an excursion. It was an extra special birthday celebration that Chloe will always treasure!

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I Wish to Be a
Police Officer

-Corby, 11



July 2008

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July 3, 2008

Eleven-year-old Corby wished to be a police officer for the day. Little did he know how many police-oriented activities he would participate in during his one-day transformation. The officers and staff of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department accepted their new recruit immediately. Clad in a personally-tailored uniform, Corby made his way through various rookie training exercises specially created for him. He discovered how each component of the department helped out during a jam-packed schedule of adventures. A helicopter ride, a marine patrol tour and a Mounted Unit outing – he felt like the Chief of Police as he answered each call. Corby supervised shooting range practice, watched drug dog demonstrations and even got a taste of SWAT team and bomb squad missions. Corby promised that he would be back because his wish day only reaffirmed his desire to be a police officer when he grows up.



I Wish to Go
to Paris

-Alyssa, 14

August 2008

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August 22, 2008

For a 14-year-old who loves fashion, food and architecture, Alyssa's weeklong rendezvous in Paris was the culmination of a lifelong dream. At the airport, she felt famous when she and her family exited their limousine amidst a crowd of onlookers. In Paris, Alyssa was overjoyed to explore the City of Lights from a double-decker bus tour and a cruise along the Seine River. During an Illuminations Tour, she discovered the stunning beauty of the Eiffel Tower at night. As an extra-special treat, a guide escorted the fashion-obsessed teen on a tour of Parisian fashion houses where she met famous designers and asked them questions. She also enjoyed her visit to the Musee Gravin wax museum, shopping and eating French cuisine. A reminder of her Parisian escapade, Alyssa's new favorite accessory is her red beret!



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*I Wish to Meet
Dwyane Wade*

-Max, 12

September 2008

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September 28, 2008

Twelve-year-old Max, who has an immune deficiency, is a huge sports fan who knows scores and stats just as well as the commentators he watches on ESPN. His most prized possession is his basketball card collection. His greatest wish was to meet his favorite sports star, Miami HEAT guard Dwyane Wade. His wish experience included a limousine ride to American Airlines Arena and a tour of Championship Alley, the HEAT's exclusive tribute area. Max also watched pre-game warm-ups from courtside seats, met Miami HEAT players and cheered the home team on to victory. When the big moment arrived to meet his basketball idol, he felt like he was dreaming. Dwyane Wade and his biggest fan chatted, compared hand sizes and posed for photos. Max brought home with him plenty of souvenirs including a basketball signed by the 2008-09 Miami HEAT and memories that will energize him for years to come!

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I Wish to Go to
Walt Disney
World®

-Sarah, 4

October 2008

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October 10, 2008

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Sarah is a loving 4-year-old whose dreams of being a storybook princess help her as she battles leukemia. That's why she wished to go to *Walt Disney World*[®]. When Sarah and her family arrived at the Give Kids The World Village, she made a

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beeline for the carousel, riding it ten times in a row. From then on, her trip was filled with countless moments that made her feel like royalty including ice cream for breakfast, front-of-the-line passes to all the theme park rides and a meet-and-greet with her favorite Disney princesses. To complete her fairy tale, Sarah donned a replica of Belle's Christmas Ball gown from "Beauty and the Beast." She twirled with delight at the sight of herself in the mirror.

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Upon returning home, she carries her Make-A-Wish bag everywhere, toting around her essentials – stuffed animals, a book, jewelry and some candy – while telling the magical tale of her *Walt Disney World*[®] vacation!

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*I Wish to Be a
Miami Dolphins
Cheerleader*

-Rachel, 8

November 2008

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November 9, 2008

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Eight-year-old Rachel is a big Miami Dolphins fan who wished to be a Dolphins cheerleader. Her adventure began with access to a cheerleading practice, where she received gifts including her own cheerleading outfit and pom-poms and rehearsed several dance routines with the squad. Rachel was treated to a manicure and pedicure, hairstyling and makeup in preparation for her big moment. On game day, a limousine escorted her and her family from their Miami Beach hotel to Dolphin Stadium. She received special on-field passes to watch the Dolphins practice and then joined the cheerleaders in the Locker Room. She rooted the Dolphins on to victory from special field seats. During each quarter, Rachel was escorted on the field to perform in front of more than 65,000 fans. She was even featured on the stadium's high-definition video boards. Rachel cheered like a pro and felt like a star!

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*I Wish to
Ride Thomas
the Train*
-Nicolas, 6

December 2008

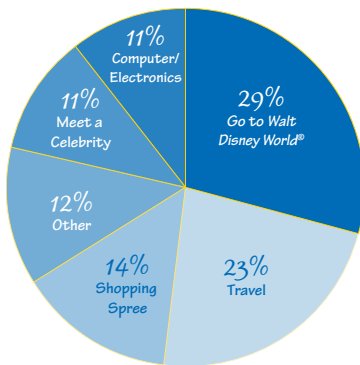
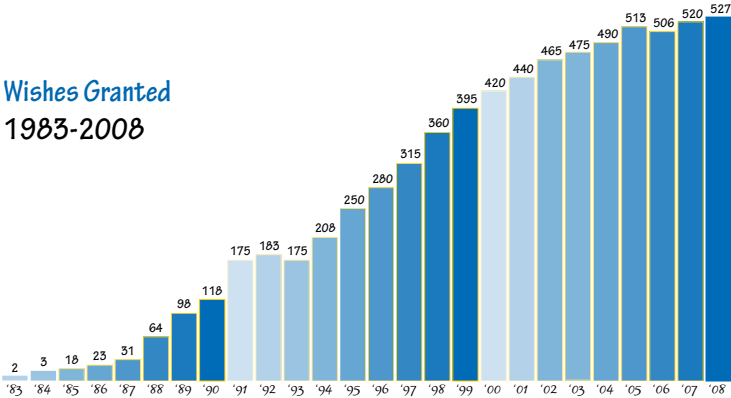
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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December 15, 2008

Trains, trains and more trains. That's what 6-year-old Nicolas wanted to experience for his ultimate wish. His journey took him and his family to Traintown U.S.A.[®] in Pennsylvania – home of Thomas the Train. Nicolas was amazed to see beautifully restored engines and no “Do Not Touch” signs. He enjoyed a tour of the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum and visits to see the extensive toy train collections at the National Toy Train Museum and the hand-built animated figures and operating trains at the Choo-Choo Barn. Then there was A Day Out With Thomas™ including a train ride with the classic storybook Thomas the Tank Engine™. Wearing a conductor's hat and a huge smile, Nicolas glided down the tracks and refueled with a hearty lunch. At the Strasburg Railroad Gift Shop, he received a train set to remind him of his travels. This aspiring engineer's railroad adventure was a locomotive lover's dream.

About Our Wishes

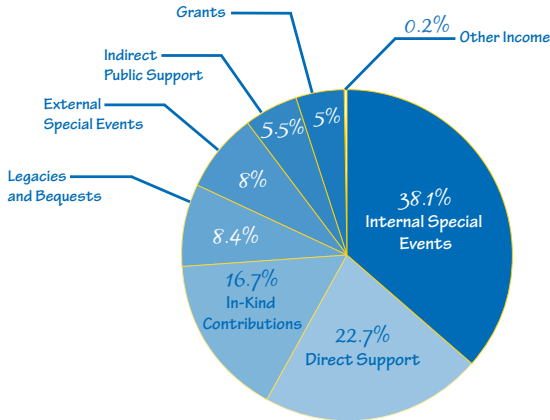
Wishes Granted
1983-2008



What Our Kids Wish For

Go to Walt Disney World®	29%
Travel.....	23%
Shopping Spree.....	14%
Other.....	12%
Meet a Celebrity.....	11%
Computer/Electronics.....	11%

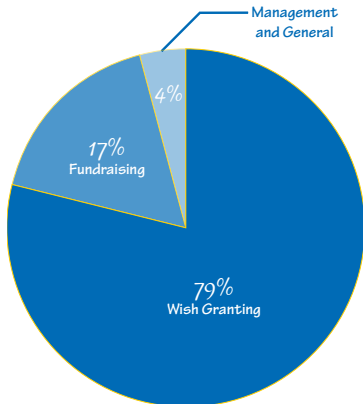
About Our Funding



Where the Money Comes From

Internal Special Events.....	38.1%
Direct Support.....	22.7%
In-Kind Contributions.....	16.7%
Legacies and Bequests.....	8.4%
External Special Events.....	8%
Indirect Public Support.....	5.5%
Grants.....	5%
Other Income.....	0.2%
Investment Income.....	-4.6%

(not represented in graph)



Where the Money Goes

Wish Granting.....	79%
Fundraising.....	17%
Management and General.....	4%



Audit • Tax • Advisory

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Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants

Board of Directors
Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida, Inc. and Affiliate

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position of Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida, Inc. and Affiliate (the "Foundation") as of August 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Foundation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America as established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida, Inc. and Affiliate as of August 31, 2008 and 2007, and the consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grant Thornton LLP".

Miami, Florida
November 25, 2008

Statement of Activities

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues, gains and support:				
Public support:				
Direct public support	\$ 1,567,382	\$ 268,543	\$ 6,225	\$ 1,842,150
Corporate gifts	533,771	-	-	533,771
In-kind gifts	994,513	87,839	-	1,082,352
Grants	323,216	-	-	323,216
Total public support	<u>3,418,882</u>	<u>356,382</u>	<u>6,225</u>	<u>3,781,489</u>
External special events	522,509	-	-	522,509
Internal special events	3,431,027	-	-	3,431,027
Less direct benefit cost to donor	(960,587)	-	-	(960,587)
Total special events	<u>2,992,949</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,992,949</u>
Interest income	225,506	-	-	225,506
Realized/unrealized gains on investments, net	(524,092)	-	-	(524,092)
Other income	16,022	-	-	16,022
Net assets released from restriction	234,400	(234,400)	-	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	<u>6,363,667</u>	<u>121,982</u>	<u>6,225</u>	<u>6,491,874</u>
Expenses:				
Program services:				
Wish granting	5,201,989	-	-	5,201,989
Total program services	<u>5,201,989</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,201,989</u>
Support services:				
Fundraising	1,119,145	-	-	1,119,145
Management and general	275,273	-	-	275,273
Total support services	<u>1,394,418</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,394,418</u>
Total expenses	<u>6,596,407</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,596,407</u>
Change in net assets:	\$ (232,740)	\$ 121,982	\$ 6,225	\$ (104,533)

Wishes in Progress:

429

*Accompanying notes are an integral part of this consolidated financial statement and are available upon request.

Statement of Functional Expenses

	Program Services		Support Services		Total
	Wish Granting	Fund Raising	Management and General		
Direct costs of wishes	\$ 3,582,848	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,582,848	
Salaries, taxes and benefits	1,066,812	603,451	133,178	1,803,441	
Program services grant expense	99,736	-	-	99,736	
Professional services	1,037	129,603	98,271	228,911	
Rent and utilities	109,948	67,504	13,154	190,606	
Telephone	25,163	16,006	2,744	43,913	
Office supplies	16,385	28,680	1,469	46,534	
Postage/delivery	13,074	38,042	1,641	52,757	
Depreciation	10,604	6,466	1,217	18,287	
Travel/conferences	52,160	50,873	1,143	104,176	
National assessment	118,893	23,466	14,079	156,438	
Equipment rental and maintenance	14,642	10,673	1,621	26,936	
Printing and promotion	7,946	91,318	529	99,793	
Uncollectible contribution expense	28,072	17,809	3,369	49,250	
Public relations	<u>54,669</u>	<u>35,254</u>	<u>2,858</u>	<u>92,781</u>	
	\$ 5,201,989	\$ 1,119,145	\$ 275,273	\$ 6,596,407	
	79%	17%	4%		

*Accompanying notes are an integral part of this consolidated financial statement and are available upon request.

Statement of Cash Flows

	2008	2007
Cash flows from operating activities		
Change in net assets	\$ (104,533)	\$ 51,167
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	18,287	25,092
Loss on write off of fixed assets	-	2,813
Net realized and unrealized (gain)/loss on investments	524,092	(583,928)
Donations of investments	(22,066)	(43,578)
Uncollectible contribution expense	49,250	30,048
Deferred rent	(9,020)	(6,457)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Contributions receivable	(190,100)	24,062
Due from National Organization	24,665	21,165
Due from other chapters	(3,291)	(225)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(13,038)	(117,529)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	70,507	(10,221)
Accrued pending wish costs	473,173	(186,726)
Deposits	(139,311)	175,545
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	<u>678,615</u>	<u>(618,772)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of investments	(2,927,669)	(3,828,781)
Sales of investments	2,653,200	3,704,923
Purchase of furniture and equipment	(100,593)	(28,838)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(375,062)</u>	<u>(152,696)</u>
Cash flows provided by financing activities		
Cash overdrafts	<u>33,839</u>	-
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>33,839</u>	-
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	337,392	(771,468)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the year	<u>328,472</u>	<u>1,099,940</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of the year	\$ 665,864	\$ 328,472

*Accompanying notes are an integral part of this consolidated financial statement and are available upon request.

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Deirdre Trevett
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Gift Wish Coordinator

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Making wishes
come true
in a big way

25

years the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida has been granting wishes.

527

wishes granted
in fiscal year
2008.

489

volunteers across our 13 counties.

6.5 million

dollars supporting the Foundation
in fiscal year 2008.

17

we grant a wish every hours.

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**Annual Report created in-house by Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Florida Staff and Board of Directors*