

# From Grief to Hope

New Hope For Kids  
2020 ANNUAL REPORT



*Grief and serious illness do not pause for pandemics*  
**NEITHER DO WE**





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# Our Story

**Since 1996**, New Hope for Kids has been helping Central Florida children in need.

**Our purpose** is to bring hope, healing and happiness to children and families suffering from grief, loss or life-threatening illnesses.

New Hope for Kids achieves this through two programs:

## **1** The Center for Grieving Children

which helps children and families cope with the feelings of grief and loss after the death of a loved one.

## **2** Wishes for Kids

which grants wishes to children up to the age 19, diagnosed with a life-threatening illness.

We are able to continue our pursuits from funding that comes primarily through charitable donations by individuals, corporations, foundations and community service organizations in Central Florida. No funding is received from government agencies. New Hope for Kids is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

New Hope for Kids is governed by a volunteer board of directors from the Central Florida community. David C. Joswick, serves as the Executive Director. He is known in the Central Florida community as an advocate for children, focusing on the difficulties associated with grief and loss.



## A Message... from our Executive Director

The year 2020 brought unforeseen challenges to the entire world. In order to meet those challenges and continue serving grieving children and families during a pandemic, New Hope for Kids quickly shifted our grief support services to a virtual platform. Groups were modified to operate on Zoom, and it worked. Kids processed their grief through special activities with friends in virtual group sessions. Adult group participants stayed connected to each other virtually, sharing feelings of fear, anxiety and grief. Covid-19 changed life as we knew it, but it didn't stop us from helping kids and families moving forward on their grief journeys.

Our Wishes for Kids program was met with its own COVID challenges. The very nature of the wish program includes a vulnerability that was magnified by the pandemic. Children who come to us for a wish are already in an at-risk health situation, even in normal times, and parents were extra protective of their wish child's health, as we expected and respected. Popular wishes became out of reach due to theme parks closing, travel restrictions and more. A bright spot for a few wish children came in the form of a specialized bike that was a perfect fit (literally, they're custom made!) for a pandemic. They allowed these great kids to enjoy a sense of freedom and fun times outdoors with their family.

The newly added Alan J. Saffran Scholarship Fund granted four college-bound students \$2,000 each in 2020. These exceptional young people had attended our grief program after the death of a parent, and shown perseverance in the face of adversity.

The launch of the scholarship program was a great success, and we look forward to offering this benefit to the young folks in our grief program for years to come.

While shifting to manage the effects of the pandemic on our programs, we continued to focus on our Garden of Hope. In October 2020 we were granted our Certificate of Completion from the City of Maitland. This important milestone marked the beginning of opportunities to bring the healing effects of nature into our program services.

The US Small Business Administration's PPP loans (Payroll Protection Program), created to provide financial assistance during Covid-19, allowed us to avoid any reduction in staff during the pandemic. These funds helped fill in gaps in donations, resulting in a close to normal income year.

New Hope for Kids is committed to meeting the challenges of changing times with compassion for those who need us. With your help, we will continue to bring hope into the lives of the children and families we serve.

With sincere thanks,

*Dave Joswick*  
Executive Director



## Meet the Team!

Pictured Above (From Left-to-Right):

Dana Duffie, Gloria Capozzi, Marla Sullivan, Niahm Creasey, Tezmon Oehler, Rhonda Schuh, Tamari Miller, Dave Joswick

**Geo Morales | Chair**  
Orlando Health

**Chris Tribbey | Treasurer**  
Moye, O'Brien, Pickert, Dillon and Masterson

**Barbara Peckett | Secretary**  
iHeartMedia, Retired

**Pat Michaels | Past Chair**  
OneBlood

**Anthony Martin | Past Co-Chair**  
Victoria Equities

**Todd Husty | Past Co-Chair**  
Physician

**Dave Joswick | Executive Director**  
New Hope for Kids

**J. Gordon Arkin | Director**  
Foley & Lardner, Retired Partner

**Wendy Connor | Director**  
True Marketing

**James Gallagher | Director**  
Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits

**Ian Gesundheit | Director**  
Orange County Public Schools

**Brian Gruber | Director**  
Huntington National Bank

**Brian Nobie | Director**  
Florida Emergency Physicians/TeamHealth

**Dominic Nori | Director**  
Central Parc Group

**Laura Fernandez Wooten | Director**  
Orlando Sentinel, Retired

**Pamela Saffran | Director**  
Licensed Mental Health Counselor

**Elizabeth Schneider-Peele | Director**  
GRB Enterprises, Inc

**Sarah Sequenzia | Director**  
Amaryllis Cremation

**Steven Engel | Director**  
Congregation of Reform Judaism

**Elena Pathak | Director**  
KTH Architects

**John Soapes | Director**  
WESH 2 TV

**Scott Sutherland | Director**  
AdventHealth

### Directors Emeritus

**Ruby Homayassi**  
United State Navy, Retired

**John Mantione**  
Fields BMW

**Andrew McEachron**  
Retired Develop



# 319 247

Children served in 2020

Adults served in 2020

Each year approximately **400** children and their families participate in the healing activities and support found at our Center for Grieving Children



## What is the Grief Support Program?

New Hope for Kids' Grief Support Program provides a safe and supportive environment where children grieving the death of a loved one can share their experience with others facing the same feelings of loss. New Hope for Kids believes every child deserves the opportunity to grieve in a supportive and understanding environment. New Hope for Kids strives to provide our families with hope, healing and renewal.

We extend support for the entire family through parent support groups, community awareness projects, information and referral services, family events, and summer camps.

## How it Works

Children are grouped by age to work through their grief using activities of play, painting, drawing, journaling, and most importantly discussion. Children who attend the Grief Program report feeling understood, supported and a decreased fear. They gain immense relief from talking to peers who are going through similar feelings and emotions, a particularly helpful experience they may not achieve at school or even at home.

Different Activities

- play 
- drawing 
- painting 
- journaling 
- discussion 





## Grief Awareness Day

Since 2008, communities throughout the country have observed Children's Grief Awareness Day. Shedding light on the needs of grieving children, and seeing the benefits they obtain through the support of others.

It's difficult enough for an adult to deal with the grief and pain associated with illness and death. For a child, it can be that much more complicated. The practice of Grief Awareness Day is imperative to ensuring that we are

providing children with the skills and acknowledgment to handle their grief and pain in healthy ways.

The challenges of the pandemic have made this year's observance unique, and while a small group of active grief program families participate in a special New Hope for Kids' candle-lighting ceremony and memorial walk, others participated at home through a virtual presentation.

**“ New Hope for Kids changed the course of my family's future by helping us find a way to deal with our sadness ”**



# What is the Wishes for Kids Program?

In **1985** the Children's Wish Program was founded as a not-for-profit charity and is the longest running wish program in Central Florida. Children's Wish was created to provide hope and a once in a lifetime experience to children fighting a life-threatening illness. New Hope for Kids Wishes for Kids Program continues the legacy by providing wishes for children up to 19 years of age that other organizations, in the Central Florida area, are not able to serve.

Although the Wishes for Kids Program is not able to cure life-threatening illnesses, it can grant unforgettable wishes as well as offering additional support, family events and resources for these special families. NHFK's Wishes for Kids Program lightens the burden of ill children and their families and strives to improve the quality of time remaining in the child's life.

When New Hope for Kids grants a wish to a child, it can last a lifetime! We take the wish one step further through attention to special needs, resource information, the New Hope for Kids "family" and nine annual enjoyable events.

Anyone can be a part of a NHFK's wish through fundraising, donations, or by sponsoring or hosting a wish.

## Why We're Unique

### *Focus*

New Hope for Kids Wish Program is not affiliated with a national organization. It is an independent, locally based charity that focuses on Central Florida children. New Hope for Kids does not receive funds from State or Federal reimbursement and is not a United Way agency.

### *Follow-up*

New Hope for Kids is able to meet a wide spectrum of needs through wishes and community resources. We follow guidelines, but consider each wish on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the child's best interests are being met.

### *Flexibility*

New Hope for Kids is able to provide additional services and support beyond the wish itself. We call ourselves the New Hope Kids Family, because we join together for regular activities to have fun, share resources and provide emotional support.







# Making Dreams Possible

*...one wish at a time*

## Celeste's Wish



Celeste is 4 years old and her wish was for an adaptive tricycle. The tricycle and accessories are made to fit Celeste and to "grow" with her. The wish will provide a new sense of freedom and joy. Gaining mobility will also increase her self-esteem and allow her to keep up with her big sister.

## Amiah's Wish



I cannot say thank you enough for this. When we were at the Give Kids the World Village getting orientated and given all the "stuff" it was hard not to cry. We were blown away with what we received last week. We would never be able to do anything like that again! What a blessing.

- Ezra, Amiah's Dad



# Highlights of 2020



## Garden of Hope

While shifting to manage the effects of the pandemic on our programs, we continued to focus on our Garden of Hope. In October of 2020 we were granted our Certificate of Completion from the City of Maitland. This important milestone marked the beginning of opportunities to bring the healing effects of

nature into our program services.

For us, the Garden of Hope is the perfect place to support our mission with a gift that will be appreciated and enjoyed by the children and families of our programs for a very long time to come.



## Zoom!

With modern technology, we've been able to continue providing grief support to kids and adults during this pandemic. Zoom sessions held throughout the weeks have allowed for a confidential and safe environment where feelings can be expressed and the sense of community is fostered. The children, in their sessions, shared their fears and worries, but also their smiles that were infectious when they saw their friends and New Hope for Kid's family. They missed the community support and appreciated the opportunities to connect.



## Journey to Hope!

2020 marked the second year that New Hope for Kids expanded its grief support offerings to include young adults ages 19-25. Journey to Hope was created in collaboration with Rollins College Communications and with seed funding from the New York Life Foundation. These support groups meetings focused on aspects of the grief experience and how it can impact this important time in a young adult's life. Stress management, self-care, and learning the importance of a safe and strong support network were themes of some of the gatherings.



## Saffran Scholarship!

The newly added Alan J. Saffran Scholarship Fund granted four college-bound students \$2,000 each in 2020. These exceptional young people had attended our grief program after the death of a parent, and shown perseverance in the face of adversity. The launch of the scholarship program was a great success, and we look forward to offering this benefit to the young folks in our grief program for years to come.





## Our Events!

Despite the many difficulties of 2020, we were able to run many of our events through adaptations and perseverance. Each summer, New Hope for Kids creates a special camp for kids in our grief and wish programs. Technology has provided a way for us to “camp” virtually, which we did in 2020! Creative, fun, friendship-building activities were “Zoomed” to campers at home in this special virtual experience. Staff and volunteers led campers in crafting, dancing, making music, telling stories, making (and eating!) snacks, and much more.

This year, we were able to hold 5 fun-filled family events! Utilizing both virtual and drive through formats, for the safety of our kids! Cumulatively, in attendance were **458 kids, and 282 adults!**

Fundraising Events Include:  
Art of the Vine Event netted \$65,387  
BMW Drawing of Chance netted \$135,079  
Other miscellaneous events raised another \$1,216!

“ Fundraising is critical to sustain our mission. In the world of Covid, Art of the Vine 2020, our largest fundraiser, had to get creative and went virtual for the first time. Huge success thanks to our great group of supporters.”

Tony Martin - Chair, Art of the Vine  
New Hope for Kids Board of Directors





# Volunteers

## Hope, Healing and Renewal

These words describe the goal New Hope for Kids strives to meet for the families who look to us for help. With this mission in mind, we look to you for help. We cannot exist without our amazing family of volunteers. Volunteers are the life force of our organization! Without them, there would be no New Hope for Kids.

Volunteers assist New Hope for Kids in fulfilling our mission to help Central Florida's children. We could not exist without our amazing family of volunteers who donate valuable time, energy and talent in a myriad of ways that reflect personal skills and gifts.

Anyone can be a part of a New Hope for Kids wish through fundraising, donations or hosting a wish. Organizations, corporations and individuals are all encouraged to sponsor a wish for a child.

It costs approximately \$1,000.00 for one child to participate in our grief program for one year. Many families who attend have more than one child in our program and are often in financial distress because of medical bills or loss of income. New Hope for Kids does not require any family to pay for services, although some make donations when they are able. You can help in the healing process by sponsoring a grieving child or family.

408

Generous  
Volunteers

9807

Volunteer  
Hours



*There are many ways to help!*

## Donate

New Hope for Kids is funded through charitable donations. Donations made by individuals, corporations, foundations and community service organizations throughout Central Florida. To make a donation, visit our website, you may also mail a check payable to New Hope for Kids.

Another way to donate is to provide products or services to New Hope for Kids. Such as printing, lawn care, house maintenance and repairs, or see our wishlist of our most frequently needed items, viewable on our site at, [newhopeforkids.org/ways/lists/](http://newhopeforkids.org/ways/lists/)

For more information on other types of funding contact our Development Director, Marla Sullivan, at 407-331-3059 or [marla@newhopeforkids.org](mailto:marla@newhopeforkids.org), extension #12.

## Refer a Family

Help New Hope for Kids spread the word! If you hear of a child who has experienced the death of someone close to them, or know of a child between the ages of 3 and 19 who might qualify for a wish, tell their parent or caregiver about New Hope for Kids. Let them know about our website, or share our phone numbers or a brochure with them.

## Sponsor a Grieving Child

It costs approximately \$1,000.00 for one child to participate in our grief program for one year. Many families who attend have more than one child in our program and are often in financial distress because of medical bills or loss of income. New Hope for Kids does not require any family to pay for services, although some make donations when they are able. You can help in the healing process by sponsoring a grieving child or family.

## Become a Volunteer

Over 200 general volunteers and 80 grief facilitators currently help New Hope for Kids fulfill our mission to help Central Florida's children. We could not exist without our amazing family of volunteers who come from all walks of life. They donate valuable time, energy and talent in a myriad of ways that reflect their own personal skills and gifts.

Our needs are greater than our supply of volunteers. We need your helping hands! Email [gloria@newhopeforkids.org](mailto:gloria@newhopeforkids.org) for upcoming opportunities.

...for more information on how to help, visit [www.newhopeforkids.org/ways/](http://www.newhopeforkids.org/ways/)



Grief  
Facilitator

Wish  
Granting

Office  
Support

Grief Center  
Assistance

Family  
Events

Fundraising

Public  
Relations



# Funded by You

**New Hope for Kids** is funded through charitable donations by individuals, corporations, foundations and community service organizations throughout Central Florida.

New Hope for Kids has one of the highest efficacy rates of nonprofits in the area. **Over 90%** of our aggregate revenue goes directly to program services. In comparison, many major national non-profits only use 70-80% or less for programs.

## Breakdown

### 2020 AUDITED FINANCIALS

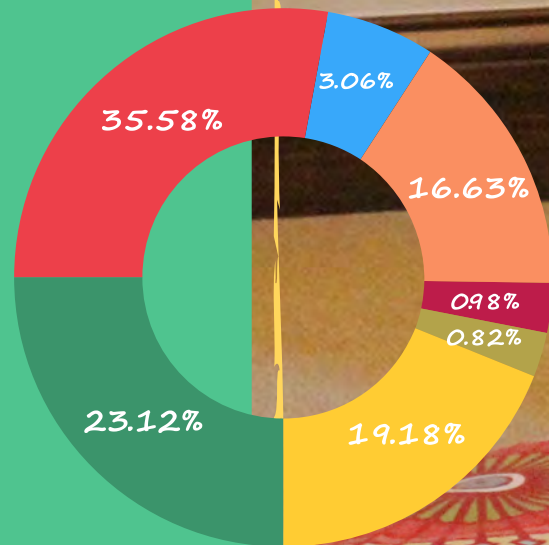
- DONATED SERVICES & IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS - \$280,292
- CORPORATE/INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS - \$240,242
- PARTICIPANT SERVICE REVENUE - \$37,056
- GRANTS/BEQUESTS - \$431,517
- SPECIAL EVENTS - \$201,683
- INTEREST INCOME - \$11,836
- OTHER INCOME - \$10,000

**Total Revenue**  
\$1,212,653

**Total Expenses**  
\$1,151,222

\$61,431

Total Surplus



To donate, you may send a check to:  
New Hope for Kids 544 Mayo Ave, Maitland, FL 32751

Or visit our website:  
[newhopeforkids.org/donate](http://newhopeforkids.org/donate)



Thanks to our donors!

**Every dollar** you donate to New Hope for Kids makes a real difference in the lives of Central Florida's children.

Thanks to our sponsors!







544 Mayo Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751  
Phone: (407) 331-3059 | Fax: (407) 331-3063

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