

The Marty Lyons Foundation, Inc.

354 Veterans Memorial Highway, STE 9; Commack, NY 11725

Tel 631-543-9474

Fax 631-543-9479

www.martylyonsfoundation.org

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2017

Over Thirty Five Years of Granting Wishes to Children Aged 3 to 17

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents

Mission	1
History	2
Program Services	3
Foundation Members	5
Financial Status	7
Wish Stories	9
2017 Highlights	10
Company	
Information	11

Mission

The Marty Lyons Foundation, Inc. (MLF) is a not-for-profit, charitable, tax exempt 501(c) (3) organization, which provides wishes to children, ages three to seventeen, who have been diagnosed as having terminal or life threatening illnesses. It's unique in that it will consider granting a second wish to a deserving child. Incorporated in 1982, over the last 35 years, MLF has provided more than 7,400 wishes. We are proud to have 10 chapters covering 12 states.

History

As a defensive lineman, Marty Lyons was a 12-year veteran of the New York Jets football team. A hero both on and off the field, Marty eventually came to unusual crossroads. "In March 1982, three events altered my life. In the period of one week, my father, Leo, passed away suddenly; Keith, a little boy to whom I was a Big Brother, passed away from leukemia and my first son, Rocky, was born. Imagine being on top of the world, and in the period of seven days you are forced to see the frailty, unfairness and the wonder of life. I decided to use my name and my God-given talent to make a difference in the lives of terminally ill children."

With the encouragement and assistance of family and friends, Marty was determined to establish a foundation dedicated to helping children find the courage and strength to fight their illnesses. His idea was that through the granting of a wish, he would foster hope and inspiration in a child by making possible what had been perceived as impossible. In 1982, he founded The Marty Lyons Foundation, and for over the last 35 years, it has never slowed in its commitment to helping those in need.

Program Services: 1st and 2nd Wish Programs

While there are many wish-granting organizations locally and nationally which grant first wishes, MLF is unique in that it remains the only wish-granting organization to provide a first wish as well as a second wish to children who fall out of remission and are now facing more battles with their illnesses, including the reality of death.

These wish applicants must reside or are being treated in a geographic area where the Foundation is registered. Headquartered in Long Island, MLF currently has 10 chapters granting wishes in 12 states – Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. The Second Wish Program is to grant wishes to children who have received a first wish 24 months prior and have exhausted all medical options and are essentially at end-of-life stage or receiving palliative care.

In compliance with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), we respect the privacy of the children and families we serve. All information is kept confidential and will not be discussed with outside parties unless it is needed for the wish and the parents or guardians have consented.

The process begins once a child has been referred to the MLF by their parents or a social worker. After medical approval is received from their treating physician and by the MLF physician (who is also a member of the MLF Executive Board), a Wish Coordinator within the individuals' state begins working on the wish in conjunction with the MLF staff Wish Coordinator, in hopes of making a dream come true. Because of particular circumstances, such as a child's medical limitations, family schedules (employment, school and medical treatments) and depth of the requested wish, this procedure can take some time to accomplish.

THE MARTY LYONS FOUNDATION, INC.

Whether a wish applicant is applying for a first wish or for a second wish, the emotional and financial tolls are significant on the patient and family. Children who suffer each and every day through their illnesses are most in need, and deserving, of some special wish that will make them smile and give them some encouragement.

Some of the various wishes sought by children include trips - to the magical fantasy world of Disney, a luxurious cruise to the Caribbean, the thrill of swimming with the dolphins and fishing on the clear blue sea of Key West - which allow the children and their families to create happy memories to savor the pure enjoyment of the activities. Children who are home-bound because of medical treatments may request a computer or laptop to provide them a window to the world. Some exceptional requests have included a room or backyard renovation, generators to support life-saving medical equipment and a most heartfelt wish from a southern child to see snow in Vermont.

The cost of wishes can range from \$1000 for a shopping spree to \$7000 for a cruise for a family of four. Funding for MLF is provided by donations from individuals, corporations and foundations as well as through special events.

MLF's mission allows the community to help these families through volunteerism, wish coordination and fundraising as well as with donations of goods and services to timely fulfill wishes in our race against time to give these children happiness and their families a lifetime of memories.

THE MARTY LYONS FOUNDATION, INC.

Foundation Members

Board of Directors - Executive Committee

Marty Lyons
Chairman

John DeFranza
Secretary

S. Joseph DiSalvo
President

Ernest Vomero, MD
Chief Medical Advisor

Philip Lyons
Vice President

William Corbett
Member at Large

Greg Wagner
1st Vice President

Richard Miller
Member at Large

Edward DuPre
Treasurer

Peter Michalewicz
Member at Large

Board of Directors - Members

Chapter Presidents

Murray Legg
President, Alabama Chapter

James Makar
President, North & South Carolina Chapters

Richard Lyons
President, Florida Chapter

Eileen Mayer
President, Long Island Chapter

Paul Avvento
Warren Larkin
Ed Powers

Dean Gregory
Cindy McLoughlin

Steve Kuperschmid
John Nitti

Honorary Board Members

John Bransfield, Jr.	Mario Caracappa	John R. Gaudio	John Schmitt
Ken Schroy	Rick Shonter	Chip Smith	

Board, Staff, and Volunteers

Our Board of Directors and active volunteers are comprised of caring individuals in many fields including bankers, financial experts, physicians, attorneys, social workers, nurses and business leaders. Each lends their particular area of expertise to further the Foundation's mission.

At present, MLF operates with three staff members (Executive Director, Wish Coordinator and Fundraising Specialist). While most chapters are headed by a president overseeing volunteers who function as wish coordinators, fundraisers and administrative assistants; there are a number of chapters that are coordinated through headquarters.

Financial Status

Income and Expenses for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017

Total Support and Revenue:	\$962,641
Program Expenses:	\$841,110
Management & General Expenses:	\$ 28,677
Fundraising Expenses:	<u>\$ 51,584</u>
End of Year Net Asset Balance:	\$ 41,270

The Marty Lyons Foundation (MLF) fulfills first and second wishes. The Second Wish Program represents 80% of wish applications received. The MLF recognizes that these special children may sometimes relapse, fall out of remission or develop secondary conditions from previous treatments. This program supports their continued struggle. For those who have exhausted all medical options and are essentially at end-of-life stage or receiving palliative care, this Second Wish Program offers the family a sense of peace and a happy distraction at such a critical time.

The Marty Lyons Foundation employs three staff individuals to manage its operation. The MLF chapters (12) are overseen by a team of volunteers. Ninety-four cents of every dollar donated goes towards program services as we try to make a difference one child at a time. Each fulfilled wish is our measure of success supported by thank you letters and pictures from our grateful families. Our gratification is seeing the pure joy on the faces of all the participants especially from our wish children.

Wish Stories

At the heart of the Marty Lyons Foundation are our special children and their stories. While all the wish stories are encouraging, the children from our second wish program inspire us with their unwavering strength as they fight for the courage to wish for more. The following are just a few of those special wishes from 2017.

Christopher, 12 years old, GA

In April of 2017, Christopher received his wish to travel aboard a Disney Cruise. After six years of battling a brain tumor, it was a special reward for being such trooper through his arduous treatments.

When speaking of Christopher's wish, his parents said: "It's truly an unexplainable experience when your child receives a wish. As parents we strive to give them everything in life...but sometimes illnesses take over & get in the way. We would have never been able to give Christopher & his siblings this trip ourselves. Our family has had to learn to face new challenges everyday due to Christopher's life threatening brain tumor. God had guided us through the many challenges & we know He will continue. Thanks just doesn't seem enough for such an amazing trip. We are truly thankful for the Marty Lyons Foundation & all of their donors...you truly make a difference in Christopher's life & many others. Thank you again for an amazing time!"

Abigail, 13 years old, NJ

Over the summer, Abigail had her wish come true when she was invited to tour the "Big Brother" House in California and attend a live recording of the show. Foundation friends at Local 52 worked with their contacts at CBS and quickly got the pieces of this special experience put together. After a very difficult battle with leukemia, it was truly a delight to see Abbie's face light up as she realized her one true wish was coming true. They even has some

of her favorite previous contestants there to greet her – including Frankie Grande. Abbie’s mom said, *“Abbie had the time of her life. Everyone at “BIG BROTHER” was wonderful! What a great experience we had. Thank you, the Marty Lyons Foundation for all you do for children.”*

David, 17 years old, NY

Before starting back to school, David received his wish to visit California in late August. David has suffered many medical issues since the age of two, including cancer and renal disease. Leaving his treatments and doctor visits behind, David packed his bags and headed west to the Golden State.

David and his brother enjoyed watching a game at Dodgers Stadium – LA Dodgers vs. San Francisco Padres. David gave into his adventurous side by zip-lining with the Zip Line Eco Tour. They even got a chance to tour some of the sites in Hollywood!

David’s mom was so happy that she wrote: *“Thank you sooo much for everything. We had such a great time! David really needed a break from everything he has been going through. I thank God for people like you and everyone who put a smile and laugh on my son’s face. Your kindness and help has given us great memories – thank you. “*

Highlights of 2017

TD Five Boro Bike Tour

In 2013, Dr. Ernie Vomero (Dr. V) led a team of 6 riders taking part in the TD Five Boro Bike Tour, this was the Foundation's first time participating in this major NYC event. His crew of cyclists raised over \$25,000 our first year.

Fast forward five years... the MLF team of 50 riders, led by Dr. V and Marty, were among 32,000 cyclists, riding 40 miles through the five boroughs of NYC with 0 cars. Our team raised over \$150,000 for the MLF mission and priceless awareness with our eye catching uniform. Uniforms were sponsored by longtime supporters LandTek Group, PC Richard & Son, Renu Contracting, Cunningham Duct and new comer Sabrosa Mexican Grill.

Marty Lyons Foundation volunteers and staff met each rider at the rest area located at the halfway mark in Astoria Park, Queens to cheer them on. "It's very exciting to see our riders coming in. It gives you a sense of pride to see all the participants with their uniforms together." said a volunteer.

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Tour, Bike NY gave each participant a commemorative medal. This was a special added bonus for our riders.

TD Securities

In 2017, after being nominated by a TD Securities employee, MLF was chosen as one of four charities to participate in their Underwriting Hope Campaign.

Over \$110,000 was raised for our mission – through the efforts of TD Securities employees and their vendors. This campaign was single handedly responsible for the fulfillment of 22 wishes in the tri state area.

On behalf of our special children and their families, we are truly grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of such a wonderful campaign.

Company Information

The Marty Lyons Foundation, Inc.
354 Veterans Memorial Highway, STE 9; Commack, NY 11725
Tel631-543-9474
Fax631-543-9479
www.martylyonsfoundation.org

