

The Marty Lyons Foundation, Inc.

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ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2018

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

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THE MARTY LYONS FOUNDATION, INC.

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 36 years, MLF has provided more than 7,600 wishes. We are proud to have 10 chapters covering 13 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 first son, Rocky, was born, my father, Leo, passed away suddenly; and Keith, a little boy to whom I was a Big Brother, passed away from leukemia. 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 36 years, our commitment to helping those in need has not wavered.

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 on Long Island, MLF currently has 10 chapters granting wishes in 13 states – Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. The Second Wish Program is to grant wishes to children who have received a first wish 24 months prior, whose condition has worsened, has developed a secondary illness due to their first treatment, or 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, guardians 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 Program Service Coordinator, in hopes of making a dream come true. Because of particular circumstances, such as a child's medical limitations, family schedules

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(employment, school and medical treatments) and depth of the requested wish, this procedure can take some time to accomplish.

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 most magical place in the world - Disney, a luxurious cruise to the Caribbean, the thrill of swimming with the dolphins and fishing on the clear blue sea of Key West – this allows 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 \$1,000 for a shopping spree to \$7,000 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

Ed Powers
President

Ernest Vomero, MD
Chief Medical Advisor

Philip Lyons, Sr.
Vice President

William Corbett
Member at Large

Edward DuPre
Treasurer

Peter Michalewicz
Member at Large

Board of Directors - Members

Chapter Presidents

Lynne D'Eramo
President, North Carolina Chapter
(Also covering South Carolina)

Philip Lyons, Jr.
President, Georgia Chapter

Murray Legg
President, Alabama Chapter

Eileen Mayer
President, Long Island Chapter

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Member at Large

Paul Avvento

Steve Kuperschmid

Warren Larkin

George Lewis

Cindy McLoughlin

John Nitti

Honorary Board Members

John Bransfield, Jr.

Mario Caracappa

John Gaudio

Don Gregory

Ken Schroy

John Schmitt

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 members of staff (Executive Director, Program Services Coordinator and Fundraising Coordinator). 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, 2018

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Total Support and Revenue: | \$1,038,162 |
| Program Expenses: | \$ 714,978 |
| Management & General Expenses: | \$ 33,221 |
| Fundraising Expenses: | <u>\$ 42,527</u> |
| End of Year Net Asset Balance: | \$ 627,051 |

The Marty Lyons Foundation (MLF) fulfills first and second wishes. The Second Wish Program represents 85% 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 are overseen by a team of volunteers. Ninety 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 of resilience and unwavering strength as they fight for the courage to wish for more. The following are just a few of those special wishes from 2018.

Kayleigh, 7 years old, Massachusetts

Kayleigh's wish for a treehouse was a first for the Marty Lyons Foundation. We knew it wouldn't be easy but we were up for the task. We've had our share of rare – special wishes such as, making over a bedroom into a photo studio, visiting Jay Leno's car garage and helping to kick start a cosmetic line. This treehouse was certainly one for the books.

Seven-year old Kayleigh knew exactly what she had in mind. She wanted a special place where she could be a carefree kid – a place far away from treatments and doctor visits.

We couldn't do it alone. We had the help of many merchants, neighbors of Kayleigh's family and most notably the DIY Network's *The Treehouse Guys*. It took some time but by June, Kayleigh's wish of a treehouse came true.

Receiving this treehouse was the best reward for being such a trooper throughout her arduous cancer treatment and for showing us what being strong means.

Gabriela, 11 years old, Georgia

In April, Gabriela, received her wish to visit New York City. Gabriela and her family were excited to visit all the landmarks and sites of this famous city. The family explored the many interesting exhibits of the American Museum of Natural History. Gabby danced and sang along as she watched the musical,

School of Rock. The trip would not be complete without meeting the likes of King Kong, the Hulk and Dracula at Madame Tussands in Times Square.

Gabby's mom was very thankful and wrote to MLF: *"From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!! We had a wonderful time and Gabby (all of us) enjoyed every minute of it...Thank You 😊"*

Zakary, 14 years old, New Jersey

Last spring, Zakary, age 14 received his wish to visit the happiest place in the world - Disney. Zakary and his family spent five days away from their daily routine of doctor visits and treatments to enjoy the Florida sun and most importantly – family time!

Zakary had lunch with some of his favorite characters in the Magic Kingdom, took a trip around the world through Epcot, and took a walk on the wild side in the Animal Kingdom.

Zak's mom said of their trip *"Thank you for an amazing wonderful trip for Zakary and our family. It was such a needed break for Zakary and the family to spend time together and enjoy the happiest place on earth 😊 You can see from all the smiles what a perfect trip it was. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!!!!"*

Highlights of 2018

Dr. Vomero – Man of the Year at our largest fundraiser the Celebrity Golf Classic

Dr. Ernest Vomero has been with MLF since 1993 serving on the Board as the Medical Director reviewing every application. He touches the lives of each of our special wish children.

In 1993 after having lunch with Marty Lyons, Board President at that time, Bill Gibney and Treasurer, Martin Kiffel, Dr. Vomero was hooked – he knew he wanted to be a part of the Foundation that day. Dr. Vomero loved the mission and he loved Marty Lyons' passion. Shortly after that meeting, Dr. Vomero was offered the position of Medical Advisor and he has been volunteering ever since.

In his 25 years, Dr. Vomero and his family have shared many magical moments with the Foundation - from the Holiday parties the Foundation used to hold for wish children to spearheading our annual TD Five Boro Bike Tour which he often rides in with his sons.

Dr. Vomero is certainly very special to the Marty Lyons Foundation – we are honored to have him as our Medical Director. It is his hope that the MLF mission will continue for many years to come. He is proud that his children have and continue to be involved. He says, *“They and other young people are the future of MLF.”*

Young Professional Committee Celebrates It's One Year Anniversary

In 2017, in an effort to ensure sustainability within the foundation, it was decided to empower the younger generation to become involved with our mission. Thus – one year ago – the Young Professionals Committee (YPC) was established.

It is inspiring to see that many of the YPC are the children of Board Members (Jesse Lyons, Lindsay Schroy, and John Michael Nitti) who are ready to follow the example set by their parents and are embracing their own passion for this mission that has been such a big part of their upbringing. As part of a generation that is so involved with giving back to their community, they are sowing seeds among their colleagues and friends to become engaged with this committee supporting the goal to help fund wishes for children in need of a dream.

The group's largest fundraiser was a Flag Football Tournament – officially called the Turkey Bowl.

Each team was named for a wish child - the team hero – and competed to be the champions.

Their first try at this event raised a phenomenal \$35,000 for the Foundation's mission.

We wish many more years of success to this group.

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