



CELEBRATING SENIORS AND MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

# Twilight Wish Foundation

Annual Report  
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020



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## Message from the Founder

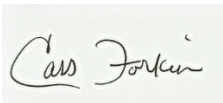
Dear Friends,

When we started our fiscal year in July of 2019, who can have predicted that by mid-March of 2020, the world would be effectively shut down by a pandemic. The term “unprecedented” may have been overused to describe the pandemic, but it was certainly warranted. As with most other businesses in Pennsylvania, we were deemed nonessential and shut down last March. Our employees were furloughed for several months and worked some hours from home. Sadly, we had several amazing wishes planned for last spring that we had to cancel because of COVID. One, in particular, was extremely upsetting for us to have to cancel. Margaret, who was 99, lived in a nursing home in north Jersey. Her last wish was to attend Mass one more time at the church she attended for years in midtown Manhattan. It was all set up with transportation and the priest was going to have her bring up the sacraments and mention her in his homily. Sadly, we had to cancel this wish and Margaret passed away before it could be rescheduled. Just knowing that her wish would have been granted seemed to give her peace, according to her nominator.

Once restrictions eased in Pennsylvania and we were allowed to resume operations, we evaluated our wish granting procedures. While we continued to grant wishes, we focused on simple wishes that improved the quality of life for seniors isolated at home or in nursing facilities. Items such as a new stove, a new mattress, a lift chair and books go a long way towards reducing isolation and letting seniors know we care.

While we don't know what the future will bring, we will continue to keep doing all we can to make our world a nicer place to age, one wish at a time. I thank you all for your support and we look forward to many more years of working with all of you to continue celebrating our seniors and making their dreams come true.

Best wishes,



Cass Forkin  
Founder & Chairman of the Board



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## About Twilight Wish Foundation

### Mission and Vision

The mission of Twilight Wish is to honor and enrich the lives of deserving seniors through wish granting celebrations that connect generations. Our vision is to make the world a nicer place to age, one wish at a time. Through our good works, Twilight Wish is changing the culture of aging in the U.S.

### History

Twilight Wish Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, was founded by Cass Forkin on July 1, 2003, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania after a life-changing encounter with several elderly women in a diner. As the women were counting out change to pay for their meal, it became clear to Forkin that they could barely afford even a simple buffet lunch in a diner, so she anonymously paid their bill. They insisted on knowing who treated them and said, "We didn't know there were still people like you out there. We thought you had forgotten us." Those comments and the women's gratefulness for Forkin's simple gesture led to the realization of the genuine need for a national organization that addressed not only simple and basic needs, but also the higher-level needs for an elder's wish of a lifetime.

Twilight Wish granted its very first wish on January 16, 2004, to Margaret Turner, an 81-year-old nursing facility resident. Margaret requested a tombstone for her deceased son who was buried in an unmarked grave. As of June 30, 2019, Twilight Wish had granted over 3,095 individual wishes to deserving elderly throughout the U.S. This equates to nearly one wish granted every other day since our founding in 2003.

### Affiliate Information

National headquarters is located in Bucks County, Pa. This office manages and trains volunteers across the country. Chapters are headed by volunteer regional directors and chapter directors in Alabama, Arizona, New York, Indiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and California. We have six chapters in Pennsylvania including (near Philadelphia), Pittsburgh, New Castle and Erie. Regional directors are responsible for fundraising, wish fulfillment, volunteer management and senior celebration events. All states with chapters have state charitable registrations as appropriate and are covered under national headquarters' 501(c)(3) charitable designation.



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## Our Programs

### **Wish Granting Program**

Twilight Wish celebrates seniors and makes dreams come true by granting wishes for recipients over age 65 who do not have the ability to grant their own wishes or are permanent members of a long-term care facility. Wish granting provides a meaningful “thank you” for a lifetime of service to others. Sometimes the wish fulfills an immediate need. Sometimes it fulfills a last wish or a wish of a lifetime. Big or small, all wishes are significant to the recipient as they validate what the senior has specifically done for others over the years.

### **Intergenerational Education Program**

Imagine an intergenerational exchange of knowledge, wisdom and understanding. This is exactly what we set out to accomplish with our Intergenerational Education Program which directly matches local school students with nearby nursing center residents. Students get directly involved with the entire wish-granting process. They learn all about senior citizens and their wishes, raise funds, and grant wishes at a celebratory event. As a result, seniors are validated and respected, and feel an increased sense of dignity and self-esteem. Students gain a respectful understanding of aging and develop compassion and patience in normal day-to-day experiences with seniors. They also learn the value of volunteerism and philanthropy.

### **DUTY Program**

We feel it is our responsibility to honor and respect our elders in their twilight years. That’s why we created our DUTY program. This program is designed to spontaneously thank seniors for all they have done for others by treating them to a meal. How it works: Print out a DUTY card from our website or contact us for preprinted cards. When you dine out and see a senior you would like to treat, simply pay the bill and hand the DUTY card to the server. In turn, the server presents the card to the recipient as a thank you for everything the senior has done for others over the years.

### **Circle of Angels Legacy Society**

Our Circle of Angels Legacy Society allows donors to leave behind a legacy that makes a lasting difference for generations to come and directly benefit those in their twilight years. By designating a percentage of their estate, donors bring hope and joy to economically-disadvantaged seniors through our various programs.

### **Veterans Program**

At Twilight Wish, we feel it is our privilege and duty to help fulfill the wishes of our elderly American veterans. Since our founding in 2003, we have honored more than 900 veterans. In fact, one-third of all the wishes we grant are for veterans. Sometimes a wish fulfills an immediate need. Sometimes it is a last wish or a lifelong dream. Large or small, all wishes provide a meaningful “thank you” to our veterans for their dedication and selfless service to our country.

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## Wishes Granted from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020



<u>Date Granted</u>	<u>Recipient's Name</u>	<u>Wish Description</u>
07/17/19	John G.	Hearing enhanced phone
07/18/19	Sr. Judith	Zero gravity chair
07/25/19	Charlie W.	To return to Germany
07/25/19	Samuel N.	Attend Pittsburgh Pirates game
08/07/19	Dorit H.	Makeover
08/14/19	Karen M.	Attend Steelers training camp
08/16/19	Helen C.	Lift chair
08/19/19	Ida G.	Lift chair
08/25/19	Betty M.	Transport to grandson's wedding
08/27/19	James F.	Scooter
08/28/19	Luther Woods	Sewing machine
08/29/19	Doris H.	Get carpets cleaned
09/19/19	Robert H.	Lift chair
09/26/19	Canon House	Cordless microphone
09/28/19	Wallace M.	99 <sup>th</sup> birthday celebration
09/29/19	Rafael P.	Attend Yankees game
10/01/19	Steve W.	Lift chair
10/02/19	Raymond R.	Pull up bar
10/04/19	Elizabeth S.	Honored by former school
10/07/19	Elmer K.	Amish chair
10/15/19	Barbara B.	Headstone for husband's grave
10/18/19	Martin M.	To meet Joel Osteen
10/18/19	Ruth J.	Lift chair
10/24/19	Donna B.	One last family dinner
10/29/19	Marlene C.	Attend Penguins game
10/29/19	Dianne S.	"Joy for All" Companion cat
10/29/19	Gerald C.	CD player
11/01/19	Loma F.	Hearing aids
11/03/19	Mary M.	Casino trip
11/07/19	Mary B.	100 <sup>th</sup> birthday celebration
11/15/19	Rosetta C.	New mattress and bedding
11/15/19	Mary M.	To see her son one more time
11/30/19	Maria A.	Honorary high school diploma
11/30/19	Darlene W.	Trip to Myrtle Beach with family
12/07/19	Linda A.	Lift chair
12/10/19	Braddock Free Store	Hats and gloves for 50 seniors
12/13/19	Thomas M.	Air conditioner
12/17/19	Norma E.	Transport to brother's veterans ceremony

## Wishes Granted (cont'd)

12/18/19	Majestic Oaks residents	Simple needs items for 40 residents
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12/19/19	Butler Senior Centers	Santa bags for seven facilities
12/19/19	Jean M.	Transportation to visit her family
12/23/19	Grace L.	101 <sup>st</sup> birthday celebration
12/24/19	Carol A.	Attend Penguins game
01/02/20	Diana R.	Hearing aids
01/07/20	Mary J.	Large-face talking clock
01/08/20	Patricia H.	New stove, plates and cookware
01/15/20	Danny F.	Hearing aids
01/15/20	Maureen H.	Hearing aids
02/04/20	Leonard P.	Washer and dryer
02/04/20	Dorothy D.	Dentures
02/04/20	Vera P.	New heater
02/04/20	Alice H.	Lift chair
02/05/20	Deborah D.	Computer
02/12/20	Diana J.	Recliner
02/13/20	Marlene S.	Stair glide
02/27/20	Joseph H.	Dinner with family in Disney World
02/28/20	St. Joseph Residence	Three new wheelchairs
03/01/20	Louise B.	To have her son visit one more time
03/01/20	Bonnie G.	Headstone for her parents' graves
03/06/20	Barbara M.	New dryer
03/08/20	Luther Woods	Jerry Blavat sock hop for residents
03/12/20	Kathryn M.	100 <sup>th</sup> birthday celebration
03/12/20	Nathan S.	Arts and crafts supplies



## Wish Stories



Karen is a huge Steelers fan and everyone at her nursing home knows it since her room is completely decked out in Steelers gear and she never misses a game. Her wish to attend Steelers training camp was granted in August of 2019. Karen suffered a stroke at the age of 42 while still working as an RN and has limited mobility. She has been a resident of her nursing facility for over 11 years and was the president of the Resident Council there. Karen had access to the field during her visit to camp and had a wonderful time meeting many of the players!

Legendary Philadelphia disc jockey, Jerry Blavat, the “Geator with the Heater,” paid a visit to the residents of Luther Woods Nursing & Rehabilitation in Hatboro on Sunday, March 8, 2020. Blavat emceed a fun 50s and 60s- themed sock hop for the residents there who had no idea he’d be hosting their event. The residents were decked out as “pink ladies” and “greasers” and had a blast dancing in their seats and singing along!



Dottie desperately needed dental work done, but could not afford it on her own. She lost her dental insurance when she retired from her job. At the age of 86, she was struggling to eat most foods and in pain. Thanks to our Long Island chapter, her wish for dental work was granted in early 2020. Look at that beautiful smile now!





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## Twilight Wish Categories

The mission of Twilight Wish Foundation is to honor and enrich the lives of deserving seniors through wish granting celebrations that connect generations. Our vision is to make the world a nicer place to age, one wish at a time. Since our founding in 2003, we have granted the lifelong wishes of over 3,095 deserving senior citizens throughout the United States. Twilight Wish grants wishes to seniors, 65 and older, earning less than 200% of poverty level, or who are a permanent resident of a nursing facility.

Simple Needs wishes are for basic quality-of-life necessities such as healthcare and accessibility items including hearing aids, dentures, mattresses, appliances, wheelchairs, and walkers.

Living Life to the Fullest wishes are often the fulfillment of a lifelong dream such as publishing a book, riding in a hot air balloon, or meeting Merle Haggard.

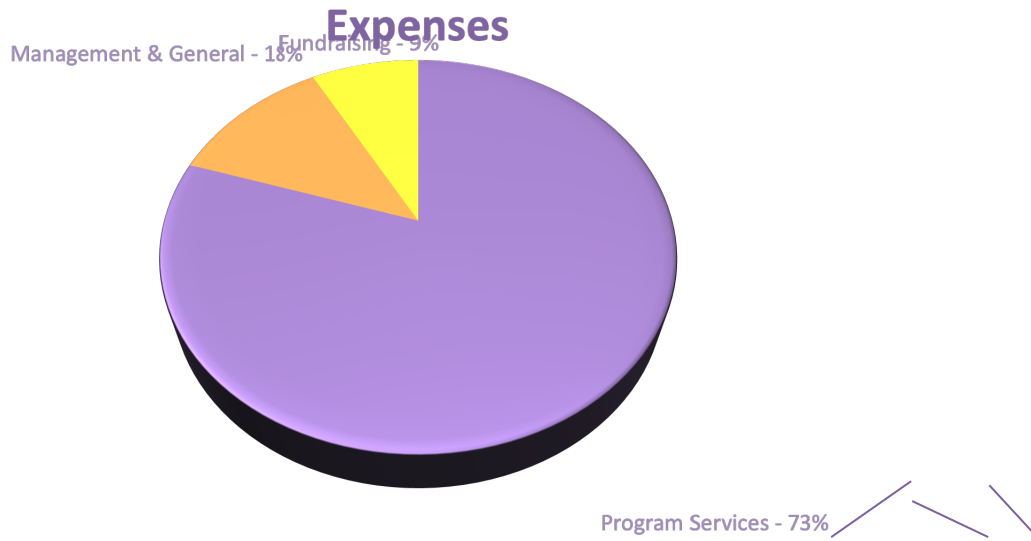
Celebrating a Life wishes are meaningful and nostalgic wishes for recipients with limited life expectancies. Many of these wishes are for family reunions, visits to hometowns, and to return to a job or career one more time.

Veterans' wishes make up one-third of all Twilight Wishes granted. Veterans' wishes can fall into any of the other three programs, but we differentiate this program as it gives us all an opportunity to thank veterans, many in nursing facilities, for what they have specifically done for others over the years and acknowledge that we remember and care.



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## Total Annual Expenses



Our most current audited financial statements indicate 80% of expenses are allocated to direct program costs.

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**Twilight Wish**



Twilightwish.org 2020  
Annual Report

**Foundation  
2019 - 2020 Board of  
Directors**

James Ciervo  
Chairman

Catherine Forkin  
Founder

Mary Mannix Meister

Jack Regan

Annabella Wood

**Advisory Board**

Mae Krier

Jerold E. Rothkoff,  
Esquire

Barbara Traub

Lori Woodward



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## 2019 - 2020 Regional Chapter Directors

Alabama

Jim Elrod, Director

Arizona

Rose Muzzy, Director

Barstow, California

Raynette Greaver, Director

Indiana

Bob Haverstick, Director

New Jersey

Sally Buonomo, Director

New York

James Ciervo, Director

Erie, Pennsylvania

Julie Hartmann, Director

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Christine McGuire, Director

Butler County, Pennsylvania

Jean Bowen, Director

Mercer County, Pennsylvania

Melissa Knight, Director

Washington County, Pennsylvania

Cherie Dixon, Director

Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Jamie Bostard, Director

