

# FACT SHEET



## **History**

The inspiration behind the Believe in Miracles Foundation is a brave little girl named Jenna Kast. Jenna was just 3 years old in 2002 when she was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. A rigorous treatment plan successfully treated the tumor and the family cherished the return of their lives together. It was 2004 when the family received the devastating news that Jenna had a second brain tumor. Her brother Brett and sister Nancy often joined Jenna on her frequent visits to Children's Hospital for treatment. Hours in the waiting room gave Jenna and her siblings a unique and personal understanding of the suffering of the children around them. Inspired by Jenna, Brett and his friend designed wrist-bands to sell and raise money to buy a gift for a child that was suffering. The bracelets were a big hit. A local television station aired their story, interest in their cause grew and Jenna's family created Believe in Miracles to bring joy and hope to Michigan children suffering from life-threatening medical conditions.

Sadly, on July 4th, 2010 Jenna lost her battle with brain cancer. Believe in Miracles is now a lasting legacy to Jenna's spirit, sense of fun and message of faith and hope. Through this foundation it is our hope that Jenna's incredible spirit will be carried forward to help seriously ill children and to inspire others to Believe in Miracles.

## **Trophy Recipient Requests**

All requests are considered without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, financial status or religious preference. All gifts must be affordable, achievable and attainable. The request must be that of the child and not a well-meaning second party.

## **Gifts**

Believe in Miracles will meet the needs of suffering children by providing necessities or a fun-filled gift in an effort to bring joy during their most difficult time. Each child will receive a trophy to acknowledge their courageous fight. The cost associated with coordinating a gift varies depending on the type of gift, but as of January 2013, the average cost of a gift was \$2,500.

## **Qualifications**

A child must be between the ages of 3 and 21 years old and live in the state of Michigan. The medical condition of each child must be confirmed in writing by the child's primary care physician. Believe in Miracles primarily helps children who have had a recurrence or an on-going medical condition. We serve as an enhancement for children who have already received a wish from a wish granting organization, but who are still battling their disease and could really use something to brighten their day.

## **Funding**

Believe in Miracles is a non-profit 501c3 organization, and all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. We are a grass roots all volunteer charity with no office or paid staff. All donations go directly to the charity. We do not solicit by telephone or door-to-door. Contributions should be sent to Believe in Miracles at 1977 E. Wattles, Troy, MI, 48085 or donate online at [www.believeinmiracles.org](http://www.believeinmiracles.org).

## **Leadership**

Believe in Miracles is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors along with many dedicated volunteers who are committed to making miracles happen for Michigan children and their families who are suffering.



**Believe in Miracles**  
1977 E. Wattles Troy, MI  
48085  
[ask@believeinmiracles.org](mailto:ask@believeinmiracles.org)  
248-633-5109

*The mission of Believe in Miracles is to enrich the lives of Michigan children suffering from life-threatening medical conditions by buying gifts and bringing joy and hope to their lives*

[www.believeinmiracles.org](http://www.believeinmiracles.org)