a year of HOPE





IMPACT SINCE 2001









260+ towns served



928 families served



25 hospitals represented



All programs provided at no cost



Thousands of lives changed!



1 st Annual Aspen Winter Games



18th Annual Aspen Winter Games



FAMILY

We provide single-day and overnight programs for kids battling a life-threatening illness AND their entire immediate family. These services connect kids and family members with a support network of peers who understand what they are going through, and act as an outlet for emotional and social healing for the entire family.



"Shining Stars gives our child something to look forward to and be excited about. As a parent, just being able to talk with other parents without sympathetic looks or awkward platitudes is so freeing. We all share the moment of diagnosis, the fear, the surreal life-balance between hospital visits and soccer games. It's nice to be understood."

-mother of Shining Star Ashley (11, Carcinoma)

In 2018, we served 81 brand-new families, including 350+ individuals!



CHILD SERVICES

Each year, we provide two overnight, multi-day adventure camps just for the child battling cancer or another life-threatening illness. Children attend these programs without their parents and regain a sense of independence. They leave the camps empowered and with a renewed sense of hope. Thanks to the experience of our 24/7 on-site medical team, we are able to safely accommodate kids with complex physical and medical challenges.



ASPEN WINTER GAMES

An 8-day adaptive snowboard and ski program for 300+individuals, including children, volunteers, and supporters. During the program, children accomplish things they never thought possible on the mountain and learn to focus on all that they can do, rather than their limitations.



ASPEN SUMMER ADVENTURE

A dynamic 6-day summer program for children ages 8-14. The program is designed to foster new relationships between participants while giving them challenging and unique experiences, including rock climbing, sailing, horseback riding, hiking, and more!

YOUNG ADULT SERVICES

We provide year-round therapeutic social and recreational programs for young adult survivors of pediatric cancer. Our goal is help these young adults access the tools and support they need to successfully transition into adulthood and thrive.



"This program is bringing together people who experience many of the same things. We are finding that we are not alone - that there are other people who are going through the same everyday struggles."

-Evan, Shining Star Young Adult Program Participant

175+

hours of programming & therapeutic services provided by the Young Adult Shining Stars program in 2018!

OUTREACH SERVICES

We educate the public about challenges faced by kids battling cancer though regular booths and presentations at community events. Our programs also engage students as volunteers in a variety of projects and leadership roles, giving them the opportunity to learn the importance of philanthropy and make a difference in their communities.

1900+

2200+

community members reached through awareness & educational events and programs in 2018!

students engaged in volunteer roles and/or educated through our awareness presentations in 2018!

2018

IMPACT + SERVICES



70+ social and recreational programs & events offered



5,700+ people reached through programs and community outreach



63 unique recreational activities provided, including hiking, skiing, rafting, and more!



14,419 volunteer hours that made it all possible!



MEET Olivia

CHICAGO, IL

Meet Olivia. She is your average teenager - she loves music and dancing, making YouTube videos, and hanging out with her friends. Like any 17-year-old, Olivia has big plans for her future. But last summer, these plans were put on hold when Olivia was diagnosed with Stage IV kidney cancer. Olivia's life changed overnight, and she immediately started a grueling treatment schedule that included chemo, radiation, multiple surgeries, and hospital stays. Olivia and her family were left struggling to adjust to a new "normal".

Then, in March of 2019, Olivia was invited to attend the Aspen Winter Games with the Shining Stars Foundation. In between skiing, dance parties, and an unlimited supply of ice cream, Olivia found what she had been looking for: a sense of belonging.

"Shining Stars was truly one of the most incredible weeks of my life. I got to meet all of these kids who have been through the same thing. Knowing that other people are going through the same things as you and having someone you can talk to...it unifies us. That is an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life."

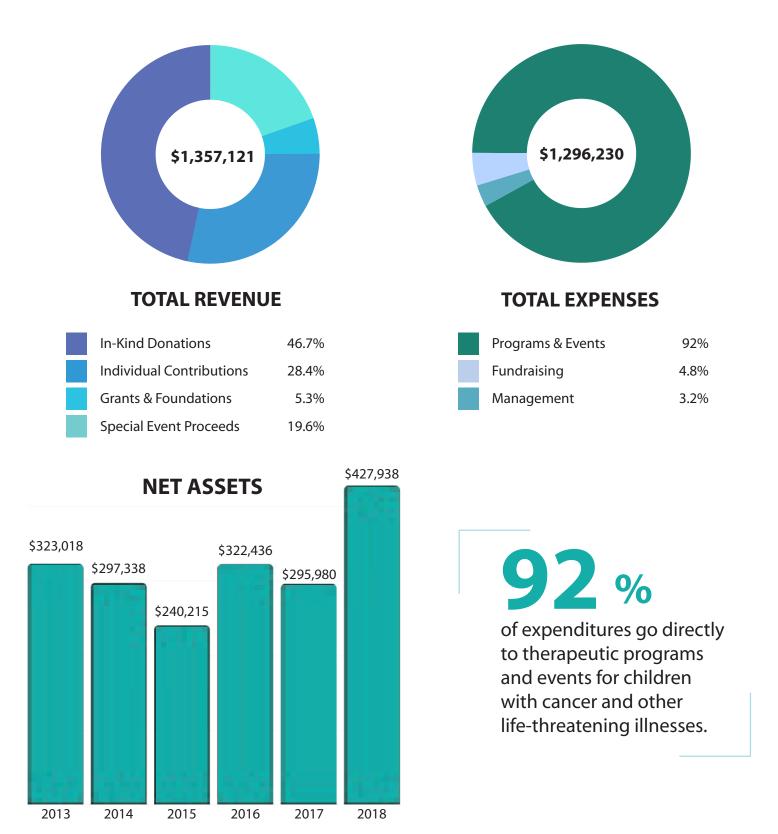






2018 FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

The 2018 data shown below was derived from the Foundation's financial statements, reviewed by Taylor, Roth and Company, PLLC, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. Complete audited financial statements and tax returns for prior years are available for review at Shining Stars Foundation.org.



When you donate to the Shining Stars Foundation, you can trust that your donation will make a difference. As a BBB accredited charity and a GuideStar Platinum Nonprofit, we meet the highest standards of financial responsibility and transparency.

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The 2018 Shining Stars Foundation Annual Report is dedicated to Hal O'Leary. O'Leary founded the National Sports Center for the Disabled and was instrumental in founding the Shining Stars Foundation. Hal currently serves as the Adaptive Ski Director for the Shining Stars Foundation and is a Board Member Emeritus.

Thank you for your dedicated service!