

Working Animals  
Giving Service *for kids*  
**Annual Report**



**EST.2004**

**Growing Possibilities, *One Child at a Time***

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## From the Executive Director

Dear WAGS 4 Kids Community,

As we look back on another year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the incredible strides we've made together. 2024 marked a monumental milestone in the life of our organization—our 20th birthday. Celebrating this achievement was more than a reflection of the past; it was a reminder of the vital work we do and the lives we touch every day.



Throughout the year, we were able to honor our journey in several meaningful ways. Our annual Mac 'n' Cheese Throwdown, Family Reunion BBQ, summer events series, and the grand finale of our fall gala brought together families, volunteers, supporters, and partners—each of you contributing to the success and the heart of WAGS 4 Kids. Your involvement made it possible for us to continue providing specialized service dogs for children with mobility challenges, autism, and mental health needs.

Over the past year, we have made significant strides in expanding our reach. While we formerly served 35 counties in Ohio, we are now proud to serve 38 counties, with partial service extending into 17 additional counties, which allows us to serve up to 55 counties across the state. This growth is a testament to our collective dedication to making sure that no child is left without access to the support they deserve.

Last year also brought a new addition to our WAGS 4 Kids family. In the spring of 2024, we were thrilled to welcome Ashley Bosserman as our Associate Trainer for Northeast Ohio. Ashley's personal experience within the developmental disabilities community, alongside her service dog, Hoopoe, has made her a perfect fit for our team. Her unique perspective and passion for serving others have already enriched our organization and allowed us to better support families in Northeast Ohio and beyond.

At the core of our mission is the belief that all children, regardless of ability, deserve equal opportunities to be involved and included in their communities. Over the past two decades, we've trained and placed service dogs with children throughout Ohio, helping them gain independence, confidence, and, most importantly, a sense of belonging. None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support from each and every one of you.

As we continue forward, our focus remains on one simple but powerful phrase: Inclusion always – in all ways. We will remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring children with special needs have the opportunity to engage with the world around them, fostering an environment of acceptance, love, and support.

It is only with your continued belief in our mission that we can keep moving toward a future where inclusion and empowerment for children with special needs are the standard, not the exception. Thank you for your dedication to our work. Your partnership, your generosity, and your belief in what we do make all the difference.

I am proud to stand alongside you as we look toward an even brighter future, where our services continue to grow, our reach extends further, and our impact is felt in every community we touch.

With deep appreciation,

**Sera Nelson**

Sera Nelson, Executive Director  
Working Animals Giving Service for Kids



Working Animals Giving Service *for kids*  
EST. 2004

wags4kids.org  
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Tax ID #20-5520973



@WAGS4KIDS

Gold Transparency 2025

Candid.



Anna & Leo



Bridget & Champ

### Our Mission

Working Animals Giving Service for Kids (W.A.G.S. 4 Kids) is dedicated to **providing mobility and autism service dogs for children throughout Northeast & Central Ohio** utilizing an award-winning Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) accredited Cell Dog Training Program

In 2024, 8 kids were paired with their service dog. Since our founding in 2004, the W.A.G.S. 4 Kids team has placed over 150 service dogs with kids who have special needs.



### 2024 W.A.G.S. 4 Kids Fundraising

Working Animals Giving Service for Kids, Inc. is a federal 501(c)(3) charity, meaning that all donations are tax deductible. W.A.G.S. holds fundraisers and participates in events throughout the year.



Celebrating 20 years of service in 2024, we proudly care for families throughout 38 counties of Northeast, & Central Ohio with partial presence in 17 additional counties, totaling 55 counties! We have hosted educational programming for nearly 15,000 children across 9 districts, additionally participating annually as guest speaker at the CSU School of Nursing. As the nation's first youth service dog organization and ONLY 501(c)(3) in Ohio that exclusively provides service dogs for children up to the age of 18, we provide niche services to families with nowhere else to go in seeking an animal that is custom-suited to their child's needs.



W.A.G.S. 4 Kids presents an opportunity for a child we see spending their life having things done to them and for them, to reach out physically, emotionally, and engage with the world around them.

Independence, Confidence, Empowerment

During the training process, W.A.G.S. 4 Kids covers the cost of all food, housing, veterinary care, supplies and countless hours of professional training that go into preparing a Service Dog for placement with a child. Each partner family commits to fundraise \$9,000 of that cost, and W.A.G.S. commits to cover the additional \$26,000.



### ODRC + W.A.G.S. 4 Kids

In 2007, W.A.G.S. began its partnership with Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. With this program, the inmate trainers are certified by the professional training staff of W.A.G.S. 4 Kids to learn a trade they are then able to use to start a new chapter in their life upon re-entry to society- which is training service dogs!

We currently work with inmates at

Grafton Correctional Institution, Mansfield Correctional Institution, Richland Correctional Institution



Charlie & Flash

# Let The Magic Begin

In 2004, the tradition began that each time a service dog is placed with their child partner we shared their first moments by saying, Let the magic begin. That magic is the bond between the dog and child as they start their journey together.

In an effort to share all that we have accomplished in 2024, we invite you to meet a the kids whose lives were changed, along with the dogs that changed those lives.



**GABRIEL + BERLYN**  
APRIL 2024



**EMERSON + JERRY**  
JULY 2024



**LAI + MARIAN**  
JULY 2024



**JJ + GRETA**  
MARCH 2024



**OWEN + MILO**  
NOVEMBER 2024



**DAMIAN + GRACE**  
SEPTEMBER 2024



**ANNA + ANDY**  
JANUARY 2024



**WESTON + FINN**  
SEPTEMBER 2024

## 2024 Placements

# What Our Kids Say



## Diego & Luna

Luna has been life changing for Diego. She gives him a confidence in himself that he lacked before. We have done activities with Luna that Diego was unable to do before such as going to a movie, eating out at a restaurant, zoo trips and even something as simple as a trip to the grocery store. Diego also sleeps in his room all night now thanks to Luna. She makes his hard days doable!

-Tess, Diego's Mother

## Jackson & Piper

We have been incredibly pleased with Piper. She is truly amazing and such a great resource for Jackson. He adores her and her him! The dogs you provide and the training they receive is fantastic.

- Elise, Jackson's Mother



## Laihalyz & Marian

Even when she doesn't want physical touch, Mary finds a way. And she allows her! They are best friends.

-Natshalie, Lai's Mother

## Isaac & Wyatt

Wyatt and Isaac are doing so well in high school! Wyatt has been a great source of guidance and comfort for Isaac during stressful times.

- Michelle, Isaac's Mother



# W.A.G.S. 4 Kids Community Events

At W.A.G.S. 4 Kids, approximately 80% of our funding comes from hosting and participating in special events and fundraisers. This year we set our focus on sharing our 20th Birthday with all those that have joined us along the way starting at the 8th Mac 'n Cheese Throwdown in March, a Family Reunion BBQ in June, and ending with the Ugly Sweater Party in December. In total, over **25,000 Clevelanders** came out to one of 20 events from Avon to Willoughby to eat, drink, shop, play, and give - local.

## Mac 'n' Cheese Throwdown

Move aside Kraft mac & cheese, Northeast Ohio offers serious competition when it comes to cheesing up a noodle. In its eighth year, The Mac 'n' Cheese Throwdown took it to the back to The Madison for a year of shop-til-you-drop on March 2nd. It's the small businesses that make this festival a truly signature event. One of the only winter festivals allowed to be held in the City of Cleveland since the quarantine, attended by nearly 1,000 people.

**Thank You to FirstEnergy, SMART Local Union #33 & Tito's Handmade Vodka**

## Wonder Run 5K

In 2024, our annual 5K continued through rain, sleet and shine! An annual celebration of inclusion, personal achievement & universal ability, event participants formed their own teams, participating in person as a walker or runner. Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals were given to top three runners in each age bracket. Virtual runners had the opportunity to submit their finishing time online. As always, a custom t-shirt was designed by our guys at GCI and made available for purchase. Finishers prizes, including a medal, activity packet, water bottle, and more, were given out to all participants. **Thank You to Peace Racing & Setta Trophy**



## W.A.G.S. 4 Kids

## 20th Anniversary Gala

Cheers To 20 years! Experience an extraordinary evening catered by Nora's Public House and allow yourself to be part of something truly special. The gifted Chef Ben David is ready to serve up a warm, family-style dinner, prepared with love and dedication. This isn't just a meal; it's a memorable event of camaraderie and nostalgia that aims to bring the comfort of home to your experience as we welcome you - our family of families. Don't miss this unique chance to elevate your evening.



**Thank You to FirstEnergy, SMART Local 33, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Miller Textile, Aladdin Rents, C\*Town Valet, Cleveland Photographic Society, Setta Trophy, Southern Wine & Spirits & Taylor Rental.**

**6 Working Animals Giving Service for kids**

# W.A.G.S. 4 Kids Community Events

## 20 Years Of WAGS 4 Kids

Dear friends, thank you for 20 years of friendship, service, inclusion, accessibility, joy, opportunity, & love - one child at a time. On June 15th - 92 families, children, staff, and board members current and former gathered in the place where it all started - Wendy's backyard in Berea, OH. An anniversary celebration and reunion party for friends and families, staff and volunteers - 2004 to now.  
**Thank You to Pink Piggy BBQ**



## DTW Rib Burn Off

In its eleventh year, the Rib Burn-Off has become the biggest and most anticipated events to take place in Willoughby! Drawing thousands of people from all over Lake County, this two-day event is going to rock this town again and be even better than last year! This year we will be featuring beer, craft cocktails, local vendors, a Meijers Kids Zone, enjoy music on three different stages featuring live local and national bands, and of course, ribs from participating downtown Willoughby restaurants & national vendors. Erie Street will be closed to all traffic for both days. **Thank You to Marous Bros + DTW Bar & Restaurants.**



## Settler's Landing Charity Concert

Cleveland's 2nd Annual Settler's Landing Charity Concert is a free-admission event featuring local Cleveland musicians performing in a beautiful downtown park. Last year, we were fortunate enough to raise \$20,329 to help WAGS 4 Kids, a Berea-based charity that provides service dogs for children with special needs. We had a fantastic time gathering together through music, food, friends, and family to raise this money for a great cause. Huge thanks to Jru Shurtleff and Ear Jrum Events for this in-kind effort.

**Thank You to Earjrum Events**



### AND PRESENTED TO

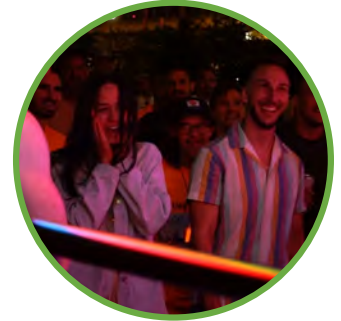
Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities; The AJ Federal Building, Department of Defense; Cleveland State University Nursing Program; NASA Glenn Research Center; Ohio Worker's Compensation; Veteran's Affairs Council; USPS; Army Recruiting; Local Quota International Chapters; Women of Fairmount Temple; Local Kiwanis Chapters; and more

# Volunteer Spotlight: Jru Shurtleff



In the spring of 2023, WAGS 4 Kids received a call that would forever change the course of one summer night—and the lives of many families. Jru Shurtleff reached out with a simple yet powerful question: I'm organizing my first event, a free-admission charity concert. There's no tickets—just asking people to donate whatever's in their heart or budget, and proceeds will go to WAGS 4 Kids. How would you feel about that? Then, as if that wasn't enough, he followed with, Oh—and if it's cool—any chance you know how to build a website?

At first, Executive Director Sera Nelson thought she'd be providing support to Jru, offering resources to help him get started. But when they spoke, she quickly learned that Jru didn't need assistance—he was already a step ahead. The website was purchased and built, and the GoFundMe campaign had already surpassed \$10,000. Nelson was left in awe, I was shell-shocked. You meet good people—great people—in charity work, and it's a blessing. But every so often, you meet someone who reminds you that true, pure goodness really does exist in the world. The kind of goodness that needs no prompt, that doesn't ask for anything in return, that doesn't need a reason to give. It's just there. And that's Jru.



On July 7, 2023, over 500 people gathered for the inaugural Settler's Landing Charity Concert in Cleveland, featuring Barrio Food Truck, an incredible group of volunteers, gift basket raffles, a gift card pull, and a music lineup that played until midnight. People from all generations—kids, Gen X'ers, Millennials, Gen Z'ers, and Boomers—danced the night away, raising more than \$20,000 for WAGS 4 Kids' programs and services. But the ultimate surprise? Jru donated ALL the gross proceeds, covering every single expense himself. This incredible generosity set the tone for what was to come.

In 2024, Jru returned to Settler's Landing for a second year, bringing hundreds of Clevelanders together once again for a night of music, dancing, eating, and shopping. Small businesses set up tents, and a portion of their sales also went to WAGS 4 Kids. When asked why he chose WAGS 4 Kids, Jru shared, WAGS 4 Kids seemed like the ideal charity for a fundraiser like this because, while they are an impressive and impactful organization, they're still a relatively small-scale charity and don't always see sizeable donations. When I reached out to WAGS 4 Kids, they were ecstatic over the idea and tremendously grateful that we chose them. Regardless of how much money we raised, I know we made a real difference for WAGS 4 Kids.

Jru is quick to emphasize that this event has been a team effort, with his friends and family playing a huge role. One of the most incredible parts of this entire experience has been seeing how it has already brought the people of this brilliant city together. I am optimistic and hopeful that this concert will continue to be a huge success. He points to Settler's Landing Park as a place of immense personal significance, a spot where he and his loved ones have gathered, shared stories, and formed bonds. Settler's Landing has always been an incredibly special place in my life. What started as a tailgate spot has evolved into something much more meaningful. It's become a place where family and friends would gather, share support, and create lifelong memories.

So, when Jru chose to host the charity concert at Settler's Landing, his heart was already there. To call it gratifying would be a vast understatement. It's literally a dream come true in so many ways. This concert is about more than just music; it's about a community of people gathering to appreciate what we have, to celebrate the gifts we've been given, and to give back to those who were born without those same privileges. This will be a night I'll remember for the rest of my life, but make no mistake, this is not my concert. This is our concert.

We at WAGS 4 Kids are endlessly grateful for Jru's selflessness, his unwavering support, and his belief in the power of community. His generosity and dedication have made a profound impact, and we are honored to have him as a part of the WAGS 4 Kids family. Thank you, Jru, for proving that sometimes, the best things in life come when we simply choose to give.

## Thank You To These MVP's!



Russa Wenzel



Deanna Von Ault



Bobby Skinner



Nick Brumbaugh



Natalia Jamison

# Staff Spotlight: Ashley Bosserman



We are thrilled to shine a spotlight on one of our newest and most dedicated team members, Ashley Bosserman. Ashley's journey in the service dog field began in 2017 when she raised her first service dog. Since then, she has devoted herself to working with service dogs in various capacities. She continued to volunteer as a foster for multiple service dogs while serving as the assistant director of a service dog organization in her hometown. In March 2024, Ashley joined WAGS 4 Kids as the Associate Trainer for Northeast Ohio, bringing with her a wealth of experience and a heart full of compassion.

From the moment Ashley joined our team, she made it her mission to support families through every step of the service dog journey—from the initial application through to the lifetime of the animal. She has also become a key figure in supporting our training programs, working closely with Josh Allender to become fluent in the language of WAGS 4 Kids and build strong relationships within the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) environment. This includes providing valuable perspective and support to both staff and ODRC trainers, as well as offering additional support to Foster Families and stepping in as needed to provide substitute care or guidance.

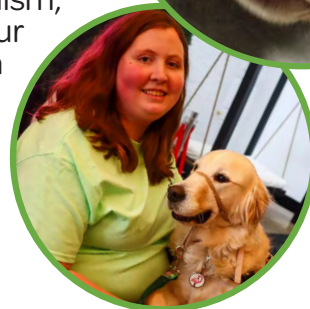
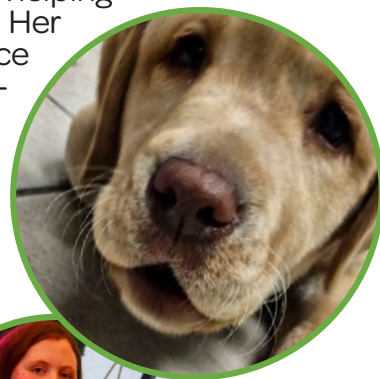
In her time with us, Ashley's impact has been immeasurable. She and her service dog, Hoopoe, have quickly become a comforting presence for both the families we serve and the WAGS 4 Kids team. Her experience working with children who experience sensory overwhelm and behavioral disturbances, combined with her deep empathy, has made her an invaluable resource for parents who are often navigating the confusing and unknown territory of service dog placement.

This year, we are excited to share that Ashley will be shadowing Lisa Schultz to add Placement Services to her already extensive skill set. Working directly with families is where Ashley truly finds her passion and purpose, and we know she will continue to make a difference in the lives of every family she touches.

Ashley holds a degree in Applied Disabilities from Millersville University and continues to advocate for individuals with disabilities in her role as a Behavioral Health Technician with Ohio Guidestone. Outside of work, Ashley is deeply involved in her community, serving as a member of the International Association of Social Role Valorization, participating in various disability programs, and dedicating time to her church. She also enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and, of course, her own service dog, Hoopoe.

Ashley's ability to combine her expertise, experience, and passion for helping others has made her an invaluable member of the WAGS 4 Kids team. Her dedication to empowering families and enhancing the overall experience for our clients aligns perfectly with our mission to provide inclusive, high-quality services to children with special needs. We are confident that her continued growth and involvement will further elevate the impact of WAGS 4 Kids and strengthen our ability to serve the community.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Ashley on our team. Her compassion, experience, and dedication continue to make a lasting impact on the families we serve. Ashley, we are deeply grateful for your professionalism, commitment, and the significant contributions you've made to our organization. Your ongoing commitment to excellence is making a profound difference in the lives of the families we serve.



# Kids Who Can! Youth Empowerment Program

As part of our mission at W.A.G.S. 4 Kids, we maintain a strong commitment to and belief in the ability of children who are able to help those not as fortunate as themselves.

Our Kids Who Can! Youth Empowerment Program is designed specifically to empower individual students and youth groups to engage whatever individual gifts and talents they may have to benefit to local children challenged in their everyday lives.



## Inclusion Always, In All Ways

To date - **10,791 children** have been educated by WAGS 4 Kids about service dogs, how they differ from the other working classes, as well as how kids can use their personal power and passions to be a positive ally and friend to the disability community.

Learn more about our Kids Who Can! program and submit your ideas at [www.wags4kids.org/kids-who-can-youth-program](http://www.wags4kids.org/kids-who-can-youth-program).

## Outreach and Education

Education about service dogs and the importance of being inclusive of classmates and individuals with disabilities is a large part of our Kids Who Can! Youth Empowerment Program. 2021 saw a delightful return to classrooms across NEO. In previous years, our outreach has included a series of talks from pre-K - 12th grade in addition to being invited to guest lecture at Cleveland State University Nursing School.

We are so grateful to work with schools across Northeast Ohio and are especially thankful to the teachers who continue to welcome us into their classrooms. We hope to partner with more schools in the future for other Kids Who Can! projects, programs and events.



### Special Thanks To

Beachwood School District  
Berea City School District  
Cleveland State University  
First Step Parma  
Hawken Schools  
Lake Ridge Academy

Lakewood Catholic Academy  
Louis Agassiz Elementary  
Oak Elementary School  
Olmsted Falls City Schools  
Parma City School District  
Perry High School

Pleasant Valley Elementary  
Rocky River City Schools  
Solon High School  
Stow-Munro Falls Schools  
Strongsville Middle School  
The Goddard School

We are a practical example of accessibility, adaptability, and inclusion. Interested in having W.A.G.S. 4 Kids speak in your classroom? Contact us at [info@wags4kids.com](mailto:info@wags4kids.com).

# Facts By The Numbers

Unique Impressions **2,300,578**

Number of Service Hours **275,940**

Cost To Train Each Dog **\$35,000**

One Month Of Training **\$18,089**

Partner Family Fundraising **\$9,000**

Avg. Cost Of One Puppy **\$2,500**

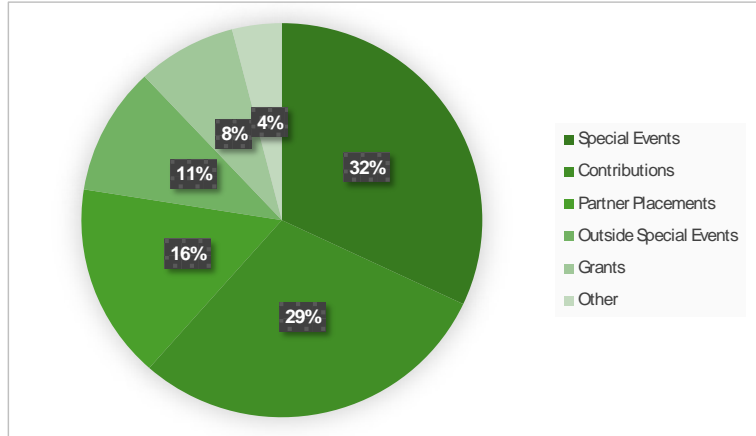
First Year Vet Costs Per Dog **\$858**

Number of Partnerships **151**

## Investing In Our Future

All audited financials can be found on our website at [wags4kids.org/resources](http://wags4kids.org/resources).

**2024 Revenue: \$371,624**



**32%** - Special Events

**10.5%** - Outside Special Events

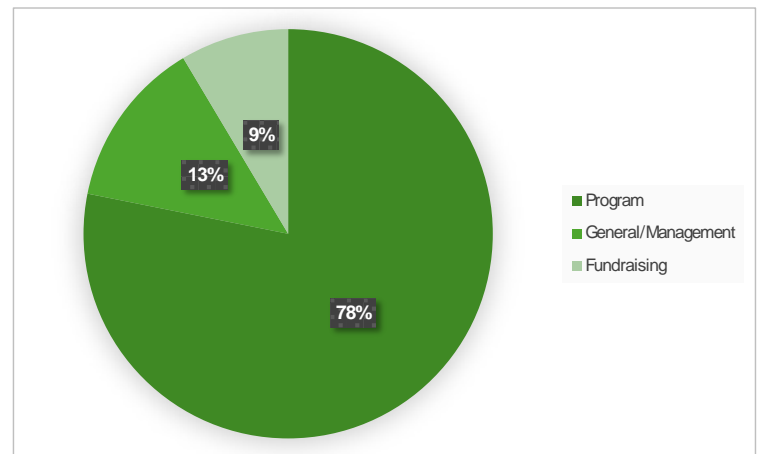
**29.5%** - Contributions

**8%** - Grants

**16%** - Partner Placements

**4%** - Other

**2024 Expenses: \$354,523**



**78%** - Program

**13%** - General / Management

**9%** - Fundraising

Working Animals Giving Service **for kids 11**

# The W.A.G.S. 4 Kids Foundation

The W.A.G.S. 4 Kids Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit established in 2021 with a focus on providing sustainable support to kids within the disability community by helping families in their pursuit to obtain their licensed service dog. Public awareness and education also play a large part in the mission of the WAGS Foundation as we engage and speak with the greater NE Ohio community providing educational support for schools, community programs, and businesses as well as resources for parents and professionals.

## MEMBERS OF THE W.A.G.S. 4 KIDS FOUNDATION BOARD



**Wendy Crann**



**Brian Greene**



**Laurel Sustar**

## THE W.A.G.S. 4 KIDS FOUNDATION FUNDS

As of October 2024 WAGS Foundation scholarships are going NATIONAL! Dedicated to serving children with special needs as early in their life as there is a need and an interest - we are taking it one step further. Now - any family within the USA under contract with an ADI recognized service dog training organization may file to receive a WAGS Foundation Scholarship up to \$1,000. Together - we will create opportunities, one child at a time.



### The Leona M. Osrin Endowment Fund

The Leona M. Osrin Endowment Fund is named after a dear friend, volunteer, and advocate for W.A.G.S. 4 Kids. The fund has authorization to make an annual contribution supporting the programs and ongoing operations of W.A.G.S. 4 Kids.

### The W.A.G.S. 4 Kids Partner Placement Scholarship Fund

The W.A.G.S. 4 Kids Scholarship Fund has authorization to make an annual contribution supporting scholarships for Kids In Need to cross the fundraising finish line towards their service dog for life.



For more information or to make a contribution, please contact Executive Director, Sera Nelson, at [sera@wags4kids.com](mailto:sera@wags4kids.com) or call 216.586.5853 ext 2.

# In Memoriam: **Leona Osrin**



It is with deep sadness that I share the news of Leona Osrin's passing. Leona was truly a WAGS 4 Kids legend, impacting the lives of hundreds of children, parents, siblings, teachers, and therapists who were lucky enough to be impacted by her spirit, not to mention the scores of community allies who were lucky enough to receive a letter from her throughout her nearly eight years with WAGS 4 Kids. To say that Leona lived boldly would be as close as one could come to describing the passion, tenacity, and fervent dedication with which Leona lived every day. Full of love and eager to make an impact, she left no stone unturned in her enduring pursuit to seek attention, care, and support for those she loved. None more so than her partner in life and love, Stanley Kline.

In all of Leona's life experiences, great and small, she never gave up believing in the best of people. It started on Christmas day, 2016, when Leona responded to a story she saw in The Plain Dealer about W.A.G.S.'s work for local children with disabilities.

Her donation led to a contact from founder, Wendy Crann, and Leona's spirit of volunteerism took off from there. During her tenure, she hand-wrote over 9,500 letters advocating for WAGS 4 Kids, disability awareness, and children in need throughout Ohio, raising \$497,900.30 between January 2017 and January 2025. More than the funds raised, Leona created a community.

**It takes passion and dedication. When you write letters, you never know who you will reach, she added. I want to make a difference. I send words from the heart to reach the heart. You can't be happy if you're only into yourself.**

In 2018, Leona was honored with the W.A.G.S. 4 Kids Hall of Fame Legacy Award for the ripple effect created by her personal dedication, involvement, and support. Thanks to Leona's efforts, she went on to name seven service dogs in training, many of which have now been placed: Woofie, Miracle, Karma, Tara, Magic, Champ, and Angel.

I cannot stress enough what it meant to Leona to leave a legacy built in service and be surrounded by people who believe in the continued pursuit of healing, knowing that every future service dog placed would be guided by her efforts. There is no doubt that the legacy of Leona Osrin will be felt for years, if not generations, to come. It is a legacy built on one woman's unrelenting belief in her own personal power and the power of the pen.

To know Leona was to love her, and her passing leaves our community heartbroken. We are forever grateful for having had Leona Osrin as part of our WAGS 4 Kids family. As we struggle with this huge loss, let us remember the tremendous amount of love and laughter Leona brought to this community. May we all continue to carry Leona in our hearts and never lose sight of our capabilities.

Warmest wishes to you and all you love,

**Sera Nelson**

Sera Nelson, Executive Director  
Working Animals Giving Service for Kids  
*You Are A Diamond In The Crown Of Life.*  
*Remember Leona, Continue Her Legacy*



**Courtney & Woofie**



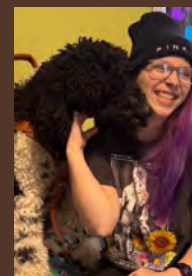
**Nic & Miracle**



**Hazel & Karma**



**Parker & Tara**



**Bridget & Champ**

# In Memoriam: Leona Osrin

Leona Osrin was a shining example of the absolute power that comes from practicing kindness, generosity, and selflessness. Here she discusses why she chose W.A.G.S. 4 Kids as her legacy charity...



***And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.***

*1 Corinthians 13:13*

For me, the desire to support the Cleveland non-profit W.A.G.S. 4 Kids was born out of a need to be of service to a cause greater than myself - to matter and to make a difference in this brief life while I still could do so. How very fortunate I am to be able to be of service to such a remarkable organization, and one that surrounds itself with people who believe in their ongoing, healing mission.

I was personally drawn to W.A.G.S. 4 Kids when I read about them five years ago in the Plain Dealer. This was not an accident, as I believe a higher power had directed me to read about their service dog placement for autistic and disabled children and their families.

Being a donor as well as a fundraiser for W.A.G.S. 4 Kids has given my life a renewed sense of purpose and meaning. I cannot stress enough what it means to leave an ongoing legacy by including W.A.G.S. 4 Kids in my will. I love knowing that with every future service dog they place, my hand and heart guided their efforts.

***He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own.***

*Confucius*

**\$450,000+  
Raised as of  
December  
2024**

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## Leave a Legacy of Inclusion and Compassion

Planned giving is a way in which you can give to W.A.G.S. 4 Kids by including us in your overall estate or financial plan. Doing so could also provide you with immediate or future tax benefits. Planned giving opportunities include will bequests, charitable remainder trusts, a charitable lead trust, and/or a beneficiary designation of a life insurance policy. We recommend that you consult your tax advisor, financial advisor, or your attorney to determine which strategy is best suited for your individual situation.

**Discuss your plans with us by calling 216.586.5853 or emailing [info@wags4kids.com](mailto:info@wags4kids.com)**

**14 Working Animals  
Giving Service** *for kids*

# Our Donors



We may not be able to change the whole world, but we can change the whole world of one child...one child at a time.

Make a tax-deductible donation to W.A.G.S. 4 Kids and change the life of a child living with mobility disabilities, mental health challenges and autism spectrum disorders. We need donors like you in order for W.A.G.S. 4 Kids to keep critical services available to our families and service dogs in training. It's thanks to the kindness and generosity of the following donors that we can continue growing possibilities, one child at a time.

## Outstanding Donors Lifetime Giving

*Donors listed in alphabetical order.*

### **\$100,000+**

Anonymous  
Bil-Jac Foods  
Eric Brown  
SMART Local Union #33  
Tito's Handmade Vodka

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FirstEnergy

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Earjrum Events  
Ethos Hospitality Group  
John & Laura Crowley  
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Nature Stone  
Tawney Stitely  
The Lerner Foundation  
The MPB Charitable Foundation  
Yardi Systems

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Chady & David Hall Foundation  
Don & Anne Stager Family Foundation  
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General Electric Foundation  
Glenn\* & Jeanette Brown  
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House of La Rose  
James Crowley  
Morning Sun  
Medical Properties Trust  
Network for Good  
Rachael's Rescue

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American Legion Post #91  
Benevity Community Fund  
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Brenan Bardige  
Cargill  
Charlie Shuck  
Charlotte Bell  
Cooper Foundation  
Corey & Betsy May  
Connor oundation  
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David Chrencik  
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IICF  
James Kelly  
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Wayne County Auditor  
Zapis Charitable Foundation



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Xel Foundation

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Chris Kuhn  
Christine Ash

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Amy Harmon  
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Kelly Parker  
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Laura Lucic  
Laura Sheridan  
Laura Stabler  
Laurel Croxford  
Lauren Frey  
Lauren Hoffman  
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## Outstanding Donors Lifetime Giving

*Donors listed in alphabetical order.*

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# Our Donors



## Outstanding Donors Lifetime Giving

*Donors listed in alphabetical order.*

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# Our Donors



## Outstanding Donors Lifetime Giving

*Donors listed in alphabetical order.*

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Thank you to every individual, organization, foundation and business that has donated in support of all of the W.A.G.S. 4 Kids programs and children in 2024. Your generous donations help us to continue providing life changing service dogs for children in your community.

A green dot (•) denotes a recurring donor. Donors listed in alphabetical order.

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Help us continue to grow possibilities at [www.wags4kids.org/donate](http://www.wags4kids.org/donate)

# Get Involved



## Fundraise With Us

W.A.G.S. hosts and participates in fundraisers throughout the year. You can support our efforts - and have a great time in the process - by spreading the word about, attending, and/or volunteering at our fundraising events!



## Sponsor a Child or a Dog

Join us in helping local children with disabilities and change a life. Sponsor one of our service dogs in training or donate to one of our Kids In Need to make an impact that will last a lifetime!



## Join The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors supports the work of W.A.G.S. 4 Kids and provides mission-based leadership, fundraising support and strategic governance. Join our board to become a real change-maker in your community!



# Why W.A.G.S. 4 Kids?

## Working Animals Giving Service for Kids is unlike any other service dog training organization.

Your bequests, life income gifts, donations and volunteering help W.A.G.S. 4 Kids empower the youth with disabilities of Northeast & Central Ohio. They also help empower the inmate trainers who, through our program, learn how to live a more productive, meaningful life of helping others.

### Because of your support:

- Children with special needs and their families are empowered physically, mentally, emotionally and more through the partnership of a custom trained mobility service or autism service dog. Because every child deserves a friend for life.
- There's no need for parents to uproot their family, spend thousands of dollars traveling thousands of miles to a training facility to receive a service dog. We start in the home and we never leave. Their family is our family—because all a parent should worry about is helping their child.
- ODRC Apprentices are certified as Service Dog Trainers, provided training, education and technical assistance as part of the ODRC's Offender Workforce Development. The workshop is designed to enhance the employability of individuals with a criminal history.





**W.A.G.S.**  
4 kids

**Connect with Working Animals Giving Service for Kids**

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