



# LAILA'S GIFT

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating Milestones, Empowering Families, and  
Building Inclusive Communities

Laila's Gift advocates for, supports, and celebrates children with special needs and disabilities, and their families, by rejoicing in the unique gifts they bring into the world.



**DONATE TO LAILA'S GIFT**  
[www.LailasGift.org/donate](http://www.LailasGift.org/donate)





# REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF IMPACT AND GRATITUDE

## A Message From Our Founder:

Celebrating Our Journey, Empowering Families, and Building a Future of Inclusion.

## DEAR FRIENDS AND CELEBRATORS,

As I Reflect On This Past Year, I Am Filled With Gratitude For The Incredible Community That Surrounds And Uplifts Laila's Gift.

Together, we have continued to champion children with special needs and disabilities and their families ensuring they feel seen, valued, and celebrated. This year, our program has reached more families than ever before. By delivering joy through our Milestone Celebrations at our newly opened Celebration and Advocacy Center, each milestone represents the power of love, creativity, and resilience.

None of this would be possible without your unwavering support. Whether you donated, volunteered, or shared our mission, you played a vital role in transforming lives. I am constantly inspired by the stories of impact—stories of hope, connection, and belonging – they remind us why this work matters so deeply.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the road before us. With your help, we will grow our programs, strengthen our partnerships, and reach even more families in need. Together, we are not just building a nonprofit; we are building a movement of inclusion and compassion.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being a part of our journey. Here's to another year of making every child's story one of celebration and possibility.

With gratitude and hope,

*Shari Bailey*

Shari Bailey  
Founder & CEO, Laila's Gift





# ABOUT LAILA'S GIFT

Laila is the heart and inspiration behind Laila's Gift®

## OUR UNIQUE NONPROFIT

Inspired By Laila Who Lives With A Rare Syndrome Called Jacobsen Syndrome, Laila's Family Established Laila's Gift.

Laila's Gift® stands as a unique beacon in the nation, offering unparalleled support and celebrations for children with special needs and disabilities, embracing not just the child but their entire family in a joyful community of inclusion.

Laila's Gift® was established to create a vibrant foundation that goes beyond merely recognizing and celebrating children with special needs and disabilities; it serves as a fundamental lifeline for the entire family. Understanding that the journey can be challenging across each family member, the organization prioritizes providing support, services, and advocacy for family caregivers, who often face their own struggles while nurturing their children.

Additionally, Laila's Gift® recognizes the importance of including siblings, ensuring they feel valued and supported as they navigate their unique roles within the family dynamic. By fostering a community that embraces every member, Laila's Gift® empowers Sunflower Families to thrive together, turning challenges into shared celebrations of love, resilience, and connection.



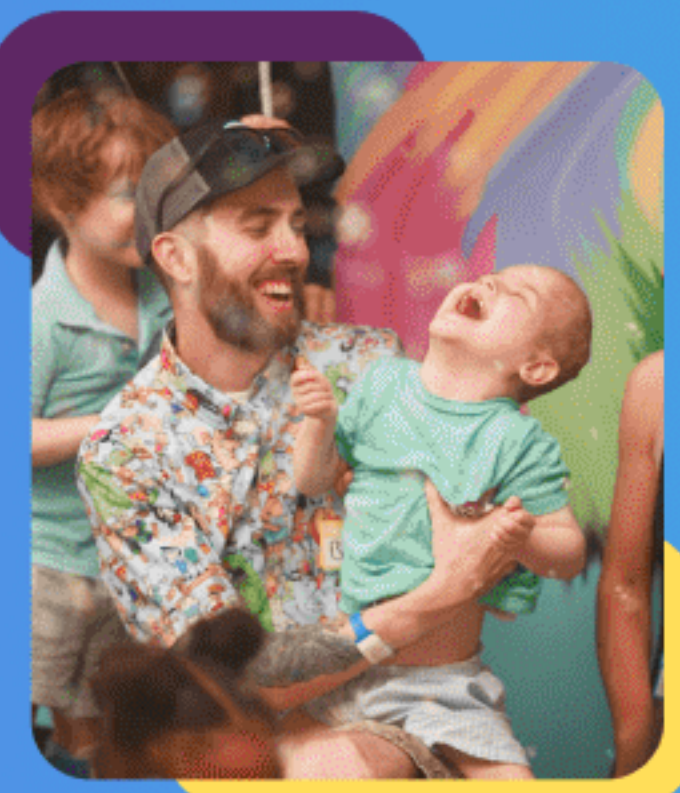
### PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Learn More About Our Programs & Services

## OUR CORE VALUES



Community



Compassion



Empowerment



Connection



Family



### OUR MISSION

We advocate for, support, and celebrate children with special needs and disabilities, and their families, by rejoicing in the unique gifts they bring into the world.



### OUR VISION

Our vision is to have a world where children with special needs and disabilities are celebrated and embraced by their community, with a strong network of support around them and their family because we recognize the obstacles they, and their caregivers, face.





# YEAR IN REVIEW

A Snapshot of Our Impact



### CELEBRATION & ADVOCACY CENTER

Opened the Celebration and Advocacy Center in Harford County, Maryland.



### BIRTHDAY & MILESTONE CELEBRATION

Celebrated the birthdays and milestone achievements of 120 children with special needs and disabilities.



### PARTNERED WITH JMS CELEBREE SCHOOLS

Formed a partnership with JMS Celebree Schools to expand our reach and create handcrafted celebration cards.



### CAREGIVING UNBOXED PODCAST

We launched the *Caregiving Unboxed* podcast and successfully released six episodes.



### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NATIONAL LAUNCH

We announced we are expanding our reach nationally through our Celebration in a Box™ program.



### ADVOCACY PROGRAM

We are excited to launch a new Advocacy Program called “Cherish Every Beat”. More details will be released early 2025!



### COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Collaborated with Walmart, United Way of Central Maryland, the Dresher Foundation, and many local businesses to expand our Birthday and Milestone Celebration events, as well as community engagement initiatives.



### COMMUNITY EVENTS

Hosted 15 community events, enabling our organization to reach a significant milestone of over 1,000 families since the inception of Laila's Gift in 2022.



### 2024 PLATINUM TRANSPARENCY

We are proud to announce that Laila’s Gift has earned the Platinum Status from Candid, recognizing our commitment to transparency and accountability.

This prestigious designation reflects our dedication to sharing comprehensive information about our goals, strategies, and impact with our supporters.







## OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

The Parents Of Rylan And Landon Share Their Emotional Story Of Navigating Special Needs And Cancer, Expressing Gratitude For Laila's Gift In Creating Unforgettable Moments Of Joy And Support.

In a heartfelt testimony, the parents of Rylan and Landon—twins born with special needs—share their emotional journey as one of the boys was recently diagnosed with cancer. Despite facing significant challenges, the family remains optimistic and resilient.

They express deep gratitude for Laila's Gift, an organization that recently helped celebrate the twins' first birthday celebration, marking a significant milestone for the family. The parents emphasize how Laila's Gift's mission has allowed them to create unforgettable and invaluable moments, providing support and joy during difficult times.

Their testimony highlights the importance of community and the profound impact of celebrating life's special moments, even amidst adversity.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We Are Excited To Shine The Spotlight On Stefanie, A Dedicated Volunteer And Owner Of The Delightful Family-Friendly Establishment, Jurassic Park, Who Has Made A Remarkable Impact Through Her Unwavering Support For Laila's Gift.

Stefanie has attended several of our celebrations, bringing her infectious enthusiasm and kindness to each event. Not only has she volunteered her time, but Stefanie has also mobilized staff from her organization to assist with our celebrations, demonstrating her commitment to our mission. Her efforts have helped create memorable experiences for the families we serve, ensuring that every detail is attended to with care and compassion.

Stefanie's positive energy and genuine passion for helping others have inspired everyone around her. Her willingness to lend a hand and her dedication to making our events special truly embody the spirit of community. We are incredibly grateful for her support and the invaluable contributions she has made to Laila's Gift. Thank you, Stefanie, for being a shining light in our organization!





# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Transparency and accountability are fundamental to our mission.

We allocate 84% of every dollar directly to programs that benefit children and families. The other 16% is allocated to administrative and fundraising costs.

## REVENUE

Total Revenue: \$162,967.84 ↑



**DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS**  
\$93,056 ↑



**GRANTS**  
\$44,911.04 ↑



**FUNDRAISING EVENTS**  
\$25,000 ↑

## EXPENSES

Total Expenses: (\$129,805.50) ↓



**PROGRAM SERVICES**  
(\$109,723.84) ↓



**ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS**  
(\$7,261) ↓



**FUNDRAISING COSTS**  
(\$12,321.50) ↓

**+33K**

**NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT**

\$33,661.50 ↑





# VOLUNTEER & DONOR HIGHLIGHTS

These collaborations enabled us to secure funding and sponsorship for our community events.

## HONORING THE HEART OF OUR MISSION

Recognizing The Generosity And Commitment Of Our Volunteers, Donors, And Recurring Supporters



### VOLUNTEERS

**87** individuals dedicated **764** hours to our programs



### DONORS

Over **175** individuals and organizations contributed to our mission.



### RECURRING DONORS (CELEBRATORS)

**27** supporters committed to monthly giving through our "Become a Celebrator" initiative.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS





# LOOKING AHEAD

Charting Our Five-Year Vision to Expand Impact, Empower Families, and Foster Inclusion.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

As Part Of Our Strategic Plan, Laila's Gift Will Prioritize...

1

### EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

Expanding Our Impact Expanding the national reach of our Celebration in a Box™ program.

2

### EXPANDING SUPPORT

Expanding the Sibling and Caregiver Support Program to reach and support more families.

3

### ENSURING LONG-TERM IMPACT

Fostering long-term sustainability through the growth of our recurring donor base.

4

### CULTIVATING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Building upon programs to raise awareness, promote inclusiveness, and cultivate a "we are one" community mindset.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A Heartfelt Thank You To Our Supporters



### DONORS

Your generosity drives the success of our mission.



### PARTNERS

Your dedication serves as a daily source of inspiration for us.



### VOLUNTEERS

Your time and dedication make our work possible.



### SPONSORS

Your generosity helps us continue our mission.







**LAILA'S GIFT**

*Celebrating One Gift at a Time*

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# HOW YOU CAN HELP

Want to join the movement?

Contact us to unwrap the gift of discovery  
and learn more about how you can get  
involved!

## LAILA'S GIFT

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## JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



#SunflowerCelebrations

#LailasGift



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