

# Our CBO's Unwrapped Thoughts

Hello Friends.

Wow — what a year! In 2024, It's Your Birthday, Inc. celebrated our 10th birthday. Thanks to your support, we hit our September Birthday goal of raising \$10,000 to give 50 children unforgettable fun birthday memories.



These moments matter. They're more than parties—they're sparks of joy and hope when kids need it most. This year, we partnered with 26 shelters and schools to celebrate over 400 children.

It wasn't always easy. Rising costs and early board turnover challenged us, but we stayed focused, simplified our work, and kept the fun going.

Now, with new board members and big goals ahead, we're aiming to celebrate 500 kids in 2025. That's 500 moments of joy during tough times—and we can't wait!

Thank you for making it all possible. Your support, heart, and generosity mean everything to It's Your Birthday, Inc. and, more importantly, to the children and families we serve.

Here's to more birthdays, more smiles, and more memories in 2025!

With gratitude and excitement,

Kolanda

Rolanda Finch Chief Birthday Officer & Founder It's Your Birthday, Inc. (IYBI)



**Our Mission:** To create a fun and memorable birthday experience for children in homeless and domestic violence shelters.



**Our Values:** 

Fun

Innovation

**Flexibility** 

Integrity



**Our Strategic Priorities (2024-2026)** 

Set the Stage to Support Local /
Regional Growth & National
Expansion

Establish a High Performing Board & Leadership Structure

Build a Future Proofed & Effective Fundraising Capability

Develop a Robust Technological & Operational Infrastructure

Cultivate a Diverse, Effective & Consistent Volunteer Base

Strengthen IYBI's Brand Recognition & Community Engagement

## **Key Achievements**

Community Women
Against Hardship
Outstanding Executive
Non-Profit Leadership
Award
(Rolanda Finch)

62

\$15 Gift Cards donated during the We Gift Cards
Drive, donating a total of nearly \$1,000



St. Louis Cardinals Pitching in the Community Award (IYBI)

85

no-sew blankets created by volunteers during Martin Luther King (MLK) Day of Service Small Business Monthly Wonder Woman Award (Rolanda Finch)

250

pillowcases decorated by the community for children at Belleville Main Street Kid's Day

## 2024 Highlights

## Q1 | EXPANDED OUR REACH & IMPACT

- Hosted our 1st Annual Board Retreat at Room at the Inn.
- Launched a two-year partnership with BOMA (Building Owners & Managers Association) of Metro St. Louis for fundraising and volunteer support.
- Sponsored our first birthday party outside the St. Louis Metro area for a 4-year-old in a homeless shelter.

## Q2 | GROWING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

- Expanded reach with three new shelters—The Core Collective of St. Vincent (MO), YWCA (IL), and Lydia's House (DV shelter, 2nd location).
- Connected with the pickleball community at Chicken N Pickle's Juneteenth event, leading to a new partnership.
- Butler's Pantry continued to provide delicious birthday party meals.

## Q3 | MILESTONES & MOMENTS

- Celebrated our 10th birthday with 179 children, donors, and volunteers at a Cardinals game (thanks, Cardinals Care!).
- Raised funds for 300+ toys at the BOMA Golf Tournament.
- Welcomed our new board treasurer, Willie Logan.

## Q4 | COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

- The Novel Neighbor's customers donated 62 birthday books in celebration of their 10th birthday.
- Volunteer Jack Perry ran a half marathon to raise funds for birthdays.
- BOMA shopped for toys—bringing even more joy to our children.







## 431 Birthday Memories Delivered in 2024!

## 2,709 BIRTHDAY MEMORIES DELIVERED SINCE 2014

189 Birthdays-in-a-Box¹

131 Birthday Surprises<sup>2</sup> 37 Birthday Parties<sup>3</sup> **4** Happy Born Days⁴

Birthday Memory Options: (1) Birthday-in-a-Box: A box of toys and a Build-A-Bear for the younger birthday children, plus a Schnucks Market gift card (sponsor) for mom to buy a cake and treats. Older children receive gift cards and hygiene/beauty products. (2) Birthday Surprise: The birthday child or mom is able to select a gift from Amazon, allowing them to get exactly what they want. The gifts are delivered to the shelter for the mom to wrap and give to their child. (3) Birthday Party: A fun-filled celebration at the shelter with decorations, games, entertainment, and treats! Multiple children are celebrated. Each birthday child gets a toy, and moms receive hygiene/beauty products, making the day special for everyone! (4) Happy Born Day: We provide mothers who give birth while in the shelter their choice of items from Amazon—with things for baby and for mom. We want mom to know she is special. (5) Birthday-in-a-Class: This is also offered on behalf of the mom to celebrate the child with their classmates. Unfortunately, we have not done any since 2020.

### DONOR SHOUTOUT — BIG THANKS FOR BIG IMPACT!



Schnucks donated \$6,000 in \$25 gift cards to include in our Birthday-in-a-Box, giving moms the chance to buyr their child's favorite birthday meal, ice cream, or cake—no need to stress over making a "unicorn" cake from scratch!



Thanks to Maxine Clark, 91 children in shelters received Build-A-Bear cuddly companions, filling their birthdays with love, joy, and hope. Your gift made them feel seen, celebrated, and truly special — thank you for making magic happen, Maxine!



We're beyond grateful to Butler's Pantry and BOMA St. Louis! **Butler's**Pantry fueled our celebrations with \$5,700 in meals, and BOMA

gave \$20,000 in toys, cash, and unforgettable birthday memories—

bringing joy, hope, and connection to the families we serve.

### THANK YOU TO OUR SHELTER PARTNERS!

Thanks to our incredible partners across Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Pennsylvania, we're making birthdays special for those who need them most. We couldn't do it without you!

Legend:

Domestic Violence (14) Homeless (14) School District (1)

Includes 3 who will start in 2025 – Keyway Center for Diversion and Reentry (MO), Coburn Place (IN) and Friends Association (PA)



Missouri







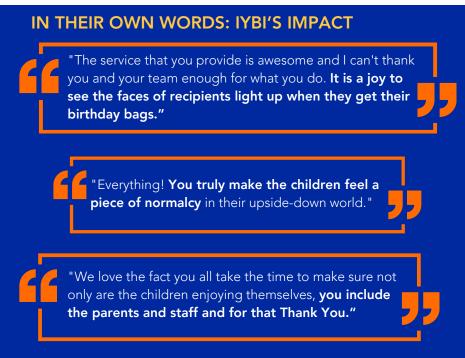
Indiana Pennsylvania

## Why Shelters Love IYBI

OVERALL SATISFACTION RATING: A PERFECT 5/5! + + + +

(based on 18 shelter survey responses)

**Survey Summary:** Shelters appreciate It's Your Birthday, Inc. for its compassion, organization, and dedication to making birthdays special for children. The birthday options and gifts bring joy, creating a sense of normalcy and inclusion. Many expressed gratitude for the impact, especially on children experiencing hardship.





### OUR BIRTHDAY HEROES: THE HEART OF EVERY CELEBRATION

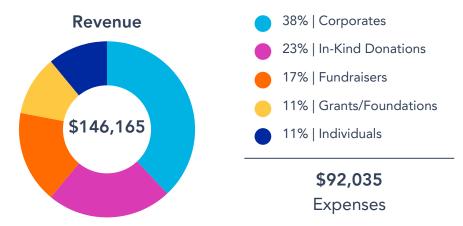
In 2024, seven dedicated volunteers—IYBI Birthday Heroes—brought the joy of birthdays to life across our partner shelters, ensuring each child felt seen, celebrated, and loved. Whether hosting parties or delivering birthday boxes, they showed up with consistency, care, and compassion. Together, they donated over 500 hours of their time, contributing an estimated \$16,745 in volunteer value. Their efforts created unforgettable

moments and a sense of belonging for children facing difficult circumstances. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to making every birthday special.



## 2024 Financial Overview

Thanks to generous donations from our partners and the community, IYBI was able to make a significant impact in 2024. Note: Financial figures (right) represented as of year ending December 31, 2024.



### **OUR GENEROUS PARTNERS**





























\* new partners in 2024

## **MAJOR DONORS^ AND GRANTS**

We are grateful to our grant partners, whose generosity brings joy, hope, and birthday memories to children in shelters. Their contribution helps us create moments of celebration that remind kids they are seen, valued, and loved. With heartfelt appreciation, we recognize their support.

A special thanks to our top individual fundraisers—Dave Peacock, Gloria Robinson, and John Vance—for turning their birthdays into celebrations of generosity!

AMERICAN MILLING, LP

ARCHFORD CAPITAL STRATEGIES - ARCHFORD ANGELS

ARSENAL CREDIT UNION BOMA ST. LOUIS

CARDINALS CARE CLEMENTINES CREAMERY

MIDWEST PETROLEUM COMPANY

NORDSTROM CARES QUIK TRIP

STARBUCKS NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT

THE SAIGH FOUNDATION

<sup>^</sup> major donors are organizations or individuals who donated \$10k or more in 2024

## **Board of Directors**

Our Board of Directors is made up of dedicated community leaders and thought partners who guide IYBI toward a sustainable future. They ensure ethical governance, strong financial management, and the resources needed to advance our mission of bringing fun birthday memories to children in shelters. As we move into 2025, we're focused on recruiting committee leaders to strengthen our leadership and impact.

#### **ROLANDA FINCH**

**CBO & Interim Board President** 

Director, Learning & Development

#### **VICKIE HENSON\***

#### Secretary

Retired - Former Chief Collaboration Officer Second Thought Communications

#### CASANDRA BLASSINGAME

#### **Board Member**

Chief Development Officer Epworth Children & Family Services

#### MONTRICE WILLIAMS

#### **Board Member**

Realtor

Caldwell Banker Gundaker

#### **TOWANNA FRASIER\***

#### **Board Member**

**Principal Solutionist** IvyLink Consultant

#### KIRK ROSS

#### Vice President

Partner

Taligent, LLC

#### AMANDA BOLTON

#### **Board Member**

Contract Manufacturing Manager Nestle Purina

#### **CRYSTAL GRANT**

#### **Board Member**

Regional Health & Safety Director American Water

#### **RICARDO MARTINEZ**

#### **Board Member**

Consultant

Adelante Consulting LLC

#### WILLIE LOGAN

#### **Board Treasurer**

Intercompany Manager The Boeing Company

#### ATTALLAH SINCLAIR\*

#### **Board Member**

Senior Architect Slalom Build London

#### **LISA SIMS**

#### **Board Member**

Director, Product Delivery Mastercard

#### **RUSSELL CORN**

#### **Board Member**

**Board Member** 

Builders Owners & Managers Association

We're grateful for our 2024 Board Members—John Vance, Gloria Robinson, Jittaun Allen, Arnita Jones, and Taylor Gadus—who dedicated their time, energy, and support to our mission. Thank you for being part of this journey!

## MAKE A — DONATION

Scan the QR code to donate in less than 60 seconds and help make a child's next birthday extra special today!



### **ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GIVE**

- Venmo: @itsyourbirthdayinc-Rolanda
- CashApp: \$itsyourbirthdayinc
- Check: Make checks payable to "It's Your Birthday, Inc." and send to: PO Box 2222, Florissant, MO 63032
- a Amazon Wish List: Purchase gifts directly for children in need
- Schnucks Rewards: Donate your rewards to support our mission

## **CONNECT WITH US**

### STAY INFORMED. TAKE ACTION. MAKE AN IMPACT.

Join our online community to stay up to date on our mission, see the impact of your support, and find ways to advocate for children in need. By following us, you'll get access to inspiring stories, behind-the-scenes looks at our work, volunteer opportunities, and ways to help brighten birthdays for kids facing hardship. Every like, share, and comment helps raise awareness and bring joy to children who deserve to be celebrated.

#### **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



facebook.com/BirthdayMemory/



linkedin.com/company/it-s-your-birthday-inc/

### JOIN OUR EMAIL COMMUNITY

@memorablebirthday

https://www.itsyourbirthdayinc.org/contact

### **CONTACT US**



itsyourbirthdayinc.org



(314) 623-8301

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<sup>\*</sup> returning board member





It's Your Birthday, Inc. is dedicated to bringing joy to children in shelters by ensuring they feel celebrated on their special day. Through birthday parties, gifts, and meaningful experiences, we create moments of happiness and normalcy for kids facing hardship. Every child deserves to be seen, valued, and celebrated. Join us in making birthdays brighter at itsyourbirthdayinc.org.

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