



*Zlatá rybka*

*Annual Report  
2020*







## *Basic Information*

**Name:** Zlatá rybka, z. ú.

**Established:** 24 February 2015 by registration at the Municipal Court in Prague

**Headquarters:** Západní 488/21, Prague 6, 162 00

**ID:** 03824829

**Web:** [www.zlatarybka.cz](http://www.zlatarybka.cz)

## *People in the Golden Fish*

**Founders:** Katarína and Ondřej Vlčkovi

**Board of Directors:**

Ondřej Vlček – Chairman of the Management Board

MUDr. Katarína Vlčková – Member of the Board of Directors

MUDr. Irena Závadová – Member of the Board of Directors

**Auditor:** Bc. Martina Břeňová

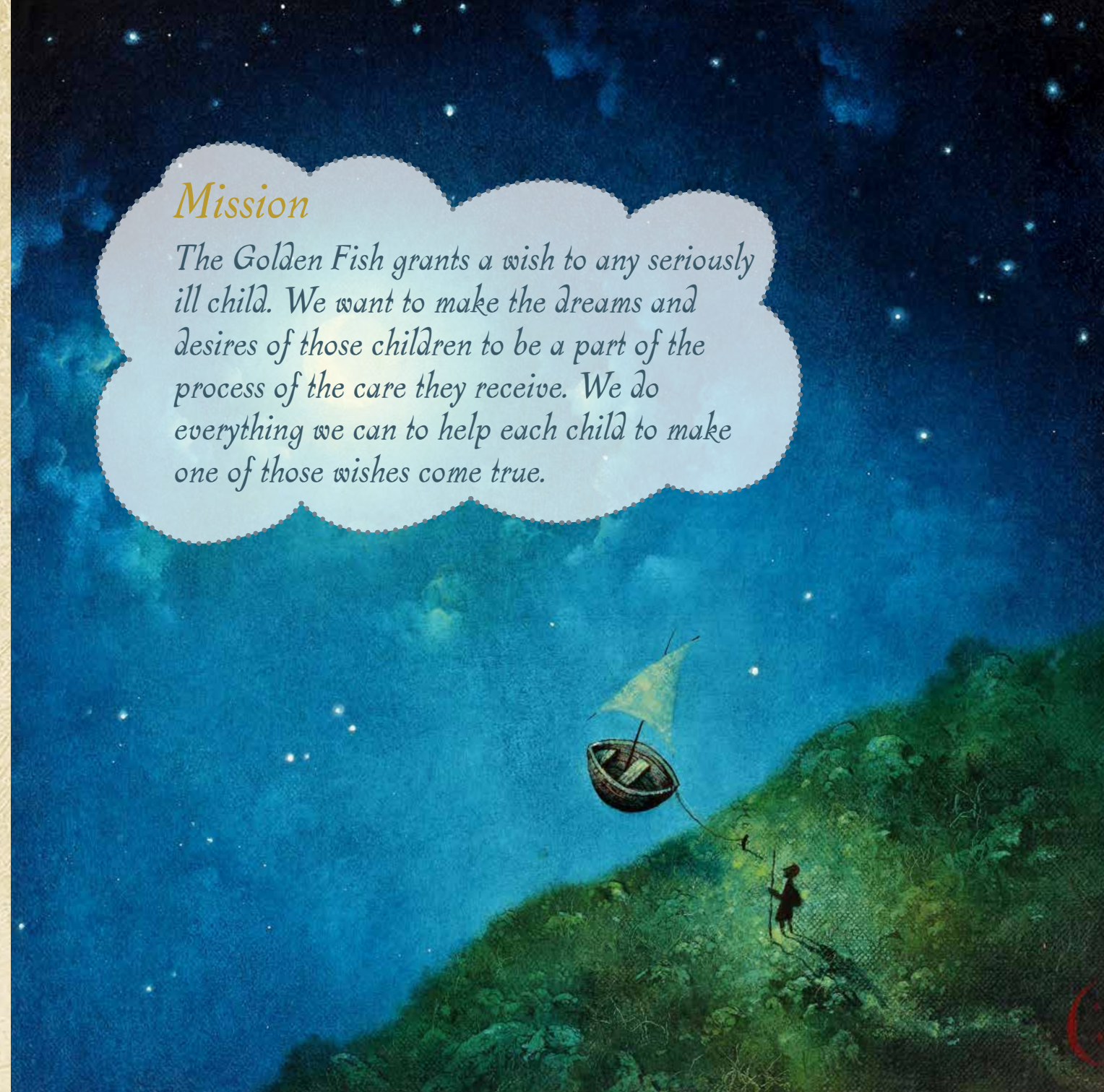
**Statutory representative, director:** Mgr. Karin Pospíšilová

**Implementation team:** Aneta Borková, Ing. Tomáš Hornek, Bc. Kristián Jindra, Mgr. et Mgr. Anna Juráčková, Bc. Martin Kladiva, Linda Machalová, DiS., Bc. Lucie Pekárková, Mgr. Kristýna Pelcová, Ing. Irena Trněná, Michal Zborník

**Accountant:** Ing. Kateřina Ježková

## *Mission*

*The Golden Fish grants a wish to any seriously ill child. We want to make the dreams and desires of those children to be a part of the process of the care they receive. We do everything we can to help each child to make one of those wishes come true.*





# Introduction

Dear readers,

In the fairy tale, the Golden Fish grants three wishes. Our Golden Fish grants only one wish, but a very special one: it grants wishes to seriously ill children under a complicated treatment or those who can no longer be cured. Making wishes is a source of new energy and joy not only for the children but for their parents as well. The whole process includes dreaming of the wish, waiting for its realisation, and finally the realisation itself. The joy of making the wish brings a lot of emotions to the dreamers and their families, and to the ever-growing team of the Golden fish as well

But what can we wish for when we only have one choice? I'm sure if we had three wishes, it would be easier. But if there can only be one wish? What is the right one, the best one, the only one?

Children approach their wishes very responsibly but also very spontaneously. Their dreaming has no geographical or physical boundaries. Children appraise their dreams in different contexts and at different scales than we adults do in everyday life. The most beautiful thing is that children are not afraid of articulating their wishes and believing that their dreams will come true, even if they have no idea how the Golden Fish is going to make it. The children's faith in the magic is a great gift - and a commitment for the Golden Fish to trust the children in return. To believe that the wish they have dreamed up for themselves is truly the best. The best for them, for their life, for the situation they are facing. For some children - from an adult's or healthy person's perspective - a wish may be a very small thing. On the contrary, other children make very ambitious wishes. Children do not judge their wishes in terms of money, hours, or its practicality. They think about bringing joy into their lives, things that can enrich and strengthen them in difficult times, and that can make them happy despite all the injustice and unfairness...

Do you want to get something? To meet someone? To go somewhere? To be in your hero's shoes for a moment?

Or maybe to give a present to someone else?

Is it even possible that an ill child, who spends a lot of time in hospital and whose illness increasingly limits his or her own living space, wishes to please someone else? That another person's joy could be the best wish that the Golden Fish can make come true? That relaxation and some sort of a wonderful experience for a mom, dad, grandma, sibling, uncle, aunt, friend, or teacher would make a sick child happy? Yes, it is not only possible, it actually happens.

Why do children wish to give a present to their loved ones when they can wish anything for themselves?

Children have small hands but big hearts. Their fragile little souls are very deep and rich. They convince the Golden Fish of this every time they meet – over and over again. Both the family members and friends are a part of children's everyday lives and dreams. Children need the company of their beloved ones to experience joy. And just as they enjoy their own well-being, they are as happy when their parents go away for a weekend, their classmates go on a trip, or their teacher goes on a wellness retreat...

But beware. To fulfil these child's wishes, the Golden Fish needs brave and strong allies.

Allies in the form of those whom the child wants to gift and please. Receiving can be much harder than giving. How can we accept the fact that the only wish our beloved child has should be our own joy and happiness? The moment of acceptance of the wish by the recipient is thus usually a tough proposition.

So let us not forget that one of the greatest presents we can give to our loved ones is a respect for their wishes. Let us be ready not only to give but also to receive. With an open heart, humbleness, and joy. This is the message the children send to all of us.

Therefore, this year we are thankful not only to the Golden Fish and its team, of which we are very proud. We also thank the big hearts of the children – there is much to learn from and lots to be grateful for. For their gifts and dreams, that we embrace with respect.

Katarína and Ondřej Vlčkovi  
Founders



# In 2020

**Every 36 hours**

*we received one application and*

**every 51 hours**

*one big wish came true.*



**Every 19 hours**

*we met with the  
dreamers and their  
families in person.*

## *Everyone has a wish*

Right now, you are reading the sixth annual report of the Golden Fish. In the first yearbook in 2015, we described the birth of the Golden Fish and its first experience with the Czech "pond". It was an adventurous read. 2016 was dedicated to the process of fulfilling the wish from A to Z. By the third year, we had enough experience to report back to our readers on our many experiences. The following year the material wishes in particular came into play, and the 2019 yearbook told the stories of the children who longed to meet their idols the most. Last year, we introduced a brief retrospective of the first five years. It all passed by quickly, like water...

What stories await you in the next pages? Well, where to start? For us at the Golden Fish, certainly the most touching ones.

We all know those moments when our heart melts, we smile, and our chest suddenly experiences a flood of a beautiful warmth.

We look at someone who is close to us, and look for sparks of joy in their eyes, closely observing their mimics, and finally we feel happy when a beaming smile and happy eyes meet ours. "¡ She's or he is happy! That's what he or she wanted!" we think. The experience of sharing happiness and joy or making someone happy usually remains deep in our hearts and memories. Even small children in kindergarten learn this. They carefully observe the expression on mommy's face when they bring her a handmade vase, when they wash the dishes unexpectedly, save a few crowns so that daddy's favourite brand of toilet water can appear under the Christmas tree, or when they lend a new toy to their younger siblings. The kids are lucky to have a very special sense for recognising and nurturing the happiness of their parents, siblings or other people that are important to them. Yes, they really do.

When a child gets sick, parents, siblings, grandparents, classmates, aunts, neighbours... They all worry. They do everything they can to help, they care very much. Wrinkles appear on their foreheads, and an unprecedented concern in their eyes. Sometimes they all get strangely nervous and begin to pay an unusual attention to the sick person, sometimes they bring gifts



or offer various benefits. The child gets attention but loses what makes him or her profoundly happy - the ability to make his or her loved ones happy.

I wish I was healthy! I wish my loved ones were happy! Just for a little while...

The longer I meet the dreamers, the more grateful I am that the Golden Fish has the opportunity to do such magic bringing smiles back to the faces of the most important people around the child. Why, then, does the Golden Fish allow making a wish for someone else? Because it turns a child's helplessness into a magical superpower. The power that often lasts much longer than the bad spell itself. It seems hard to believe, but it's true. Therefore I invite you now to read about how the Golden Fish listens to the children's dreams, aimed at making their loved ones happy, and how some of the wishes were fulfilled. .

### Origins of the idea of giving children the opportunity to make a wish for someone else

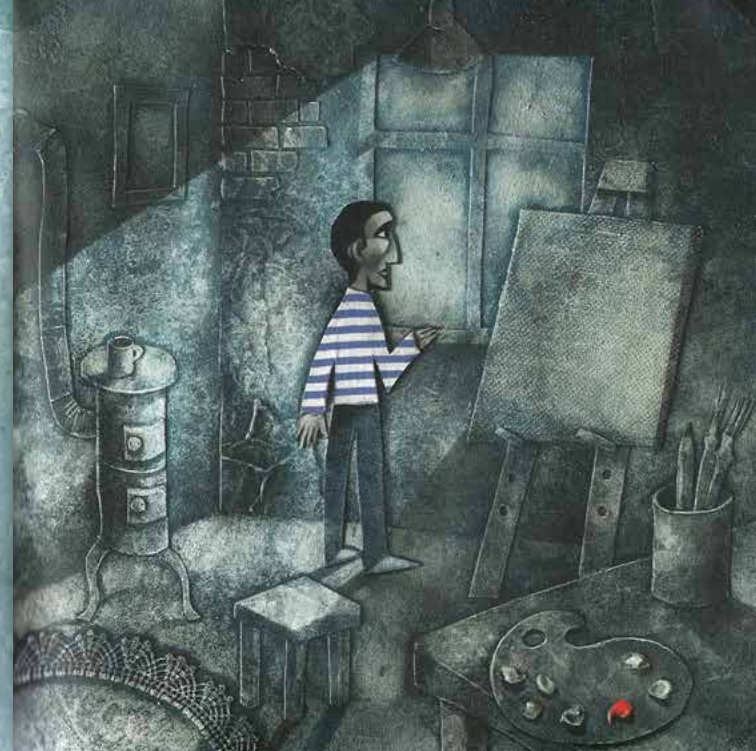
In the early days, the Polish Mam Marzenie Foundation was a great role model for the Golden Fish. Its methodology was based on the widely recognized Make A Wish network. Until recently, I assumed that both organisations offered children five categories of wishes – like the Golden Fish does. In reality both foundations currently offer four categories to children – however, making a wish for someone else is not among them. I remember in the early days of the Golden Fish, rather than talking specifically about wishes for another person, we simply talked about other wishes – the ones that could not be placed in any other category. One example was a wish where a child could give a gift or please someone close to them. But there can also be other kinds of wishes. For example, we encounter wishes like learning something, or advancing someone's personal or professional development - e.g. writing and publishing a collection, singing alongside a well-known band on stage, or similar. It means, we simply lacked a "drawer" for many other children's dreams – because as we all know, children's imagination has no boundaries.

And so the fifth category was created. So that's how it was! It was the children themselves who made us realise the power of that possibility: to give a present to their loved ones.





Bud' studánkou na poušti  
bud' krásná jak naděje  
bud' ta, která odpouští  
bud' plamínkem, co mě zahřeje



*"When we arrived to meet Marek, we were greeted by a typical teenager with mischievous eyes. He was very deliberate about his wish, but he was clear about the category from the start: A WISH FOR HIS PARENTS. He never considered making a wish for himself. He told us he had everything he needed. He would like to give his mom and dad a gift for the loving care they have given him during his treatment.*

*His mommy first tried to convince the dreamer to make a wish just for himself, but his decision was resolute. The wish was, "Two golden necklaces with a half heart-shaped pendant so that they can be joined, with the zodiac sign for my parents, made of yellow gold (mom is a Leo, dad is a Sagittarius) because I want to repay them for the way they take care of me."*

*Kristýna, communication with children and families, and her impression from the process of making the dream come true*

### How often do children wish for someone else?

It is the second least frequently represented category of wishes that children express. But maybe this formulation is not entirely correct. Many children consider it very seriously or even make a wish to please their parents. In our meetings, at least one parent is always present and we usually witness objections from their side: "Don't be silly, it's your wish!" "Don't you dare! It's yours, you deserve it!" "No, we don't want it!". In case the family is not informed in advance of the dreamer's intention, there are always tears of emotion. And not only from the family – we often have a pretty big lump in our throats too. I remember an almost adult dreamer who evicted his parents from the room and said: "I want my parents to go together, just the two of them, somewhere to the seaside and have a great time. They have suffered more than I did during my treatment." And as in many other cases, the parents refused to accept this gift. It took the dreamer a long time to readjust to the possibility of wanting something just for himself. And you know how it turned out? The next year, when we saw each other, the dreamer was returning from his dream trip. The excited parents told us they had recently returned from vacation too. From the seaside. There were just the two of them and they had a great time...



Bud' nadšením, které hoří  
bud' majákem na konci světa  
bud' přístavem v bouřlivém moři  
bud' v románu první  
a poslední věta



During the existence of the Golden Fish, 13 dreamers in total have expressed a wish for someone else. 11 such wishes have already been fulfilled. Girls have made this type of wish a little more often than boys. Most wishes from this category were granted by the Golden Fish in 2019.

It is certainly not surprising that the most frequent recipients are the dearest ones – parents (4), siblings (4), but also aunts and uncles (2), or even the whole family (1). On one occasion, friends and a teacher were the recipients of the expressed wishes.

However, statistics cannot quite capture how children count with their loved ones in their dreams. The dozens of wishes that are included in the categories of experiences or material wishes would not make any sense to children without those closest to them. Children enjoy their wishes coming true precisely because they experience and share their joy together with the family. Very often, the wish becomes a kind of a special bond that glues the whole family together.

### *Has it ever happened that a recipient refused a gift?*

Sometimes dreamers have to change their decisions, and this often happens even before they meet us. The circle of people close to the children will simply talk them out of the decision to receive a gift when the dreamers reveal their intentions. If the dreamer keeps it as a surprise until we meet together, there may still be a rejection by the parents. And the wish cannot be granted without the consent of the guardian. It happens that the wish is rejected by a sibling or another person whom the dreamer wants to please. The sister of one of the dreamers is said to have even made a big drama at home. "I'm going to have fun and you're going to sit there and watch me? Well, forget it!"

However, this story also had a beautiful follow-up. Later on, in a conversation with their mother, the sisters came together to figure out what they could enjoy together. Ten years later, they went to Disneyland for an unforgettable girls' party.

Even if the child changes the expressed wish eventually and the Golden Fish can no longer fulfil them, it is often very important that they are articulated. To put it simply – it is important that the child says loud and clearly: my greatest joy will be to make you happy, to make you laugh.





How do people react when the dreamer wants to make a wish for them? Is it a surprise?



In the first years of the Golden Fish, we stuck to the principle that the recipient must agree with the wish in order to come true. However, there were pitfalls - in particular, there were rejections. For good reasons, with the best of intentions, adults often wanted to simply give the opportunity to make a wish to the child alone. But we observed how that didn't do any good. Ironically, children suffered. Therefore, we changed the practice: the Golden Fish now only requires the consent of the legal guardians. If the child intends to grant a wish just to the parents, we communicate this by making the wish a surprise to the parents and we cover the wording when the child's wish form is signed. Of course there are lots of smiles, raised eyebrows and shaking heads.

Reactions to the gift or a wish fulfilled vary, ranging from surprise, joy, or even admiration or amazement. It is quite impossible

to remain indifferent. In this unusual way, the child is saying that he or she cares about how their parents, siblings, grandparents, and other loved ones are doing. But such a wish also resonates within the children's wider environment.

What are the wishes that children in this category wish for the most often?

Until now, children have chosen material wishes for their loved ones as often as various personal experiences. When a family is struck by the child's serious illness, everyone's life is often turned upside down and many changes occur. Typically, one parent stops working and becomes a caregiver. The household and the lifestyle are often adapted to the needs of the ill child. Everything revolves around it, and all other needs are sidelined. Over time, the child affected by illness begins to notice that time, energy, and money in the family are distributed differently than before. In the material sense, for example, the sick child may be much better off than the healthy siblings. Its room is redecorated and he or she gets a new laptop to manage school better even from the hospital. And then comes the opportunity to fulfil a wish and to balance this asymmetry. The opportunity to show that the child sees what is going on, that he or she cares, that their loved ones are just as important. They are then genuinely happy to get a fancy computer for his or her brother, a dream phone for his or her sister, or a fabulous room for the four younger siblings.



*"Our daughter is happy that you helped her to gift her siblings."*

*Dreamer's mum*



When a child wishes for an experience for someone else, it's a bit of a risky thing. The child has to think about the right wish, and sometimes he or she wants to consult the intention with the Golden Fish. Sometimes the dreamer is a part of the experience too. For example, when the whole family went to visit their aunt in the USA, Disneyland, or Harry Potter Studios thanks to a wish granted. For some wishes, the dreamer was not part of the experience. The recipient enjoyed it alone or with someone close to them. For instance, when a 15-year-old dreamer sent her mom and her boyfriend on a relaxing vacation in a beer spa, we were amazed.

*"It was Sylva's wish that she wanted for me. She wanted me to relax and enjoy some quiet time - as she said it was because I just finished treatment too. It was very nice of her, even though I told her to wish for something just for herself."*

*Dreamer's mum*



Last year we experienced for the first time that a dreamer wished for an animal, a black mare, for his mother. His first wishes expressed were experiences, but unfortunately, due to the pandemic, they could not come true. The illness gradually worsened and this affected the final form of the wish. Feeling that he was running out of time, he longed to leave a vivid memory for his loved ones.

*"Ever since he learned that there was such an organisation as the Golden Fish, he wanted to go visit Japan. Everything looked so promising. Just as the final details were being organised, covid pandemic stepped in!"*

*It was very sad news for my son, his dream did not come true. His hopes hit rock bottom. We waited for things to improve, but in the meantime, my son's condition deteriorated rapidly. He became paralyzed on his left side and remained in a wheelchair. It was clear that the dream (Japan) was not going to happen. So the second wish was to go to the beautiful city of Lourdes, located in the Pyrenees mountains. A pilgrimage town. Who'd have thought this trip wouldn't happen. Again, the physical condition aggravated and the son is not able to move on his own. What can you do... nothing. The treatment is over and you're waiting for a miracle. You pray, that's all you can do. My son's third wish was a Friesian horse. Yes, this wish came true in a few days thanks to the Golden Fish. The son sees that his present has arrived, but he can no longer pet the mare. He just watches the mare from the bed, as she stands by the window for a while so he can realise she's here. He just watched and spoke softly... I'm happy, but I can't ride her anymore, I can't. And so it was, and soon the son died, leaving the black mare as a memory."*

*Dreamer's mum*





## What motivation leads children to choose this type of wish?

There can be many motives, some of which I have already mentioned in the introduction and previous answers. But I remember when I first started to consciously address this question. A colleague and I were visiting a preschool-age dreamer. She was very much affected by the illness, changing behaviour from wild to shy constantly. It took a lot of effort to create an



atmosphere of trust so that she would calm down and we could talk about her wishes. When the moment came, she instantly said she wanted a red flower for Agnes, her older sister. The sister immediately refused this wish, and the little dreamer burst into tears and was not speaking for a long time. At last, she said her wish (a different one) and the Golden Fish granted it. The red flower, however, puzzled me, how to understand it? Why a red flower for a ten-year-old sister? I asked her mother whether she understood the situation. She recalled a "meaningless" incident from her time in intensive care. The separation of the sisters was very hard for the older one, she suffered from the sight of her impoverished little sister, and she closed up herself.

When the mom and dreamer were released home after one cycle of chemotherapy, the girls played together and mom went shopping. Overjoyed to be home again for a while, she bought two red tulips in a pot at the market and brought them home. The girls were excited about it. They were chatting, enjoying the flowers, and displaying them on their windowsill. A bright glow of joy and lightness in the darkest of times. The memory surfaced from the depths when the little girl was asked a question: "What do you want the most?" Behind the red flower was a longing to see her older sister happy again, to frolic with her, to bring back the moment, to relive it. To have that power, to make her happy again.

It was similar in the case of the dreamer who wanted to please his sister most of all. But the problem was that he couldn't speak because of the accident. And so we came to the final form of the wish in cooperation with the family and the specialists caring for Honzik in the special

school. The dreamer was very well taken care of in all aspects. He has a loving and caring family. And a sister who is slowly coming into puberty and has her ideas about how the world around her should be. But it's not always easy to get them across... unless someone helps her.

*"When the date for the realisation of Monika's room approached, I got nervous. Not because of the result - I had confidence that the carpenter would do a beautiful job. Monika had a say in its design, so there was no threat. What I was worried about was the reaction of Honzík. I was afraid he would be puzzled or sorry that it was something for his sister and not for him, or that he would be angry. But I was wrong! Honzík was as excited about the room as Monika was. Since she had no idea that today was D-day, she fought with her parents in the car on the way to the new house. It was only after a while that she noticed that there was a big golden ribbon where the door of the room should be. She didn't hesitate to tear it... and then her emotions overwhelmed her. She collapsed into her mother and Honzík's arms and the tears wouldn't stop. Honzík looked around the room with interest and he was content. He seemed to be saying, 'Nice! That's how I imagined it, my sister is happy - thanks to me!'"*

*Karin, the dream realisation team*

## Are there any differences when fulfilling a wish for someone else?



That's a tough question. In the Golden Fish, the process of reaching the greatest wish of the child, the anticipation of its fulfilment, and the final realisation stage are inseparable. It's one story. And we are part of it, although small. When dreamers think about their loved ones, how they would like to make their dream come true, or at least include them in theirs, we witness a very vivid, emotional process. It's always beautiful, though at the same time very difficult in the context of a serious illness. We often carry with us questions that begin with the word why...





chytěj  
Rodrigo

*"With his testimony, Tomáš shot an unforgettable message into our chests. "I'm happy, I have everything I need, I have a magical life... My mother... Well, I don't even know how to put it... Imagine: when I read Seifert's poem "Mother" earlier, I didn't understand what she had to say. And now? Most of all, I want peace. I'm not afraid. I have hope. I have so many wonderful people around me. They understand that this summer is not as planned, that it's different. What I miss most is not being able to be of service to others. That's what I've always done and now it's turned around, I'm like a baby. I'd like to help others in some way... like in the hospital I took care of a kid whose parents couldn't be there."*

*Karin, communication with children and families and her impression from a fulfilled dream*

Several times we have witnessed how children, or rather adolescents, have admirably coped with the situation of their finitude, how they have taken care of their legacy. When an eighteen-year-old boy wished most of all for a bee swarm, we were quite stunned. A thing for a few crowns. When we gave it to him, it went straight from his hands into the hands of his younger sister. "Now you'll take care of the bees."

How do parents or other family members react when a child decides to make this type of wish and wants to give it to someone outside the family?

It's usually a powerful moment. Sometimes parents have known about their children's decisions for a long time, and it's so "big" for them that they tell us about it on the first phone call. "My daughter was active in sports. So she was thinking about meeting an athlete. She was even considering going abroad. But in the end, it looks like the biggest dream is to treat her teacher to a wellness retreat to relax! When she told me about it, I got goosebumps," the dreamer's mom said.

Petra found something that helped her come to terms with what she had been through. She found a bright spot that stayed with her during her illness and helped her remain part of a normal life. That bright spot for her is her teacher. Why? Best to quote Petra herself:

*"And why did I choose Mrs. Š.? Because she was my support in the worst moments of my life. She wrote me encouraging text messages to the hospital and took the whole class under the windows to visit me. She's incredibly kind, fair, and helps everyone. She never makes fun of us or tells us we're useless. She takes an extra hour to explain the material to me. She is the best teacher in the world!"*

Did it happen that the Golden Fish was unable to grant such a wish?

The desire to fulfil wishes as best as possible according to the dreamer's wishes, on time, and without obstacles is always with us. I don't think this category of wishes is any different in that respect. At the same time, I remember the wish, when we tried our best but the process was not under our control. Part of the wish was a dreamer's story writing and we could not help her in that. Many times we wondered how to do it. We always came to the same conclusion. We could support her, cheer her on, encourage her, or just quietly be with her, and that was it. Making her wishes come true eventually became part of the dreamer's "will".



**Dreamer Ester's wish:** I wish to publish a collection of short stories with my friends, whom I have carefully selected. I wish to be guided through the process of creating a collection, to get someone to advise, supervise and give me advice on how to do it. And if there were any complications, he or she would give me suggestions on how to handle doing it. Because I want others to enjoy it and I want to enable them to publish their work.

**My destiny is in your hands...** A book of short stories about real and imaginary destinies. It is also the title of a short story by Esti, whose dream was to publish a book of short stories written by her and her friends. In 2018, I was approached by the Golden Fish organisation to see if I could help with advice and experience to make this wish come true. At first glance, it seemed like an easy task. But Ester's fate was in the hands of the doctors, and more importantly, in the hands of a higher destiny. Cystic fibrosis and a lung transplant condition narrowed her work options and time. But the dream and the wish were still alive. Putting together short stories to make a book is a daunting task even for a healthy person. Still, she managed to gather the source material, her short story, and those of her friends. The wish and desire to complete this work eventually remained one of Ester's last wishes. I promised her that we would finish the book together with the Golden Fish, no matter how fate rolled the dice.

And it happened, we finished the book, on 30th October 2019 the book launch took place in Prague.

And now I'm supposed to write down some of my feelings and memories. So I started by using most of the introduction from the book because I think it belongs here.

*I was left with the book, but also with a mixture of memories and feelings. A memory of the first meeting with Karin and Irena, when I was hesitating whether to take up the offered role of a coach or what to call it. The memory of my first meeting with Ester, when I had stage fright about whether I was the right and experienced person to give advice. And, on the other hand, whether I was by any chance too "experienced" to advise a girl who was the same age as my daughter. Uncertainty also accompanied my first meeting with Saša, Ester's mother, after Ester had left and we were to meet to discuss whether and how to finish the book. But all the meetings and work on the book was an extremely enriching experience for me. I don't know if I would have had the strength that Ester had. I hope that I have not let her or the others involved, including the authors of the stories, down and that I have perhaps made at least a small contribution. Thank you for letting me be there for a little while, and for letting me meet all of you.*

*Michal Vaněček*

*I couldn't write my impressions from the fulfilment of this wish before I met privately, long afterwards, Ester's mother. She was still living off the energy she had picked up at the launch of Ester's collection. She was smiling, her eyes radiating loving warmth. Ester died "according to her script" six months before the book was published. Before she died, she wrote a lot of notes on paper, instructions about what to do at the funeral and about her death in general. One of her notes concerned a collection of short stories, as yet unfinished. She wanted the Golden Fish to finish it and release it. And so, with Irena, Ester's mother, Ester's mentor Michal and graphic designer Honza, we proceeded step by step with sacred reverence until the end. Somewhere in the back of my mind, I knew that this was how it would be. That the collection would be marked by Ester's death. But I had no idea how incomprehensibly a beautiful bond would connect everyone involved. There was so much emotion in the air when we gathered in the underground of the Literární kavárna (Literature Café) for the launch. You'd look in the air for anger, loneliness, or fear. But the atmosphere was full of joy, loving sadness, and gratitude. That's what I felt, and that's how I'll always remember Ester. Esta, thank you for the opportunity to meet you.*

*Thank you for your trust and for the gift - the opportunity to fulfil your wishes.*

*Karin, communication with children and families*



I remember another very unique wish.  
A wish of a little boy who first wished to  
"meet a golden fish". When my colleague  
and I were in his hospital room, we  
couldn't believe our ears when he said:  
"My greatest wish is for the golden fish to  
be healthy."



• Fotbalový zápas o duši Karla K. •





## *What effect did the fulfilled wishes have on the dreamers and their loved ones?*

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*Cancer treatment is challenging and a granted wish can be a great motivation to complete it. It may help the children to feel important again knowing that someone is thinking about them, listening to them, and trying to give them something they might not dare to wish for.*

.....

*For us, the anticipation of the wish fulfilment was a great benefit that helped us to get through the treatment and it was often the number one topic of our discussions. Dreaming about the trip, an image of the "relax by the sea" often distracted us even at the hospital. And in the end, the holiday itself was the biggest benefit.*

.....

*Due to his illness, Tonda has had limited opportunity to share with others the new experience he gained. The new notebook with its great design has brought him this opportunity, and he is very enthusiastic about showing it off to all his extended family and friends (hopefully they will forgive him for bragging so much). The other benefits are functional, i.e. he uses the notebook for distance learning and also for playing (we got him a steering wheel and pedals so he drives a truck around Europe).*

.....

*This way, Tomáš can get more involved with the other children and feel important, he can give his friends something to do and can offer them a ride. At the same time, we have the opportunity to organise longer trips to more distant places, that we could not reach with a pedal tricycle before. The fact that someone could make his big dream come true was suddenly all he cared about. After being put on medication, which has its good but also negative side effects, you look at your child who is not smiling. Suddenly, with your idea, he's cheerful again and can't wait for his big day.*



.....

*The fulfilled wish brought Markéta a more pleasant time when she was not allowed to move. She started to spend more time at Nintendo with her brother. Some games motivate her to move, which she needs for her rehabilitation. Some just keep her entertained. Sometimes the whole family gets involved and we play team games or compete together.*

.....

*The most important thing for us - and especially for Ondra - was not to receive a material gift, but the feeling that he had won the competition. That he "won" it. He hasn't had many successes and victories in recent years.*

.....

*In short, we thought this was impossible in the Czech Republic.*

.....

*And he is even happier that the Golden Fish documented the whole day beautifully, he still plays the video from that day, browses through the photo book, and remembers his wish over and over again.*

.....

*It was a psychological support and the ONLY way for me to do something for my daughter at that moment...*

.....

*My wish has had a huge benefit because it currently motivates me every day when I see it (I have it next to my bed [bike]). When I can ride my bike, I have big plans. Which I believe I will succeed in..*

.....

*After half a year I saw my son crying with happiness and not pain, he couldn't believe it was happening and he was just excited, maybe this is how children tell themselves that happiness is coming back to them and everything is turning for the better ♥ you are helping them heal because the good mental state is important for a successful treatment.*

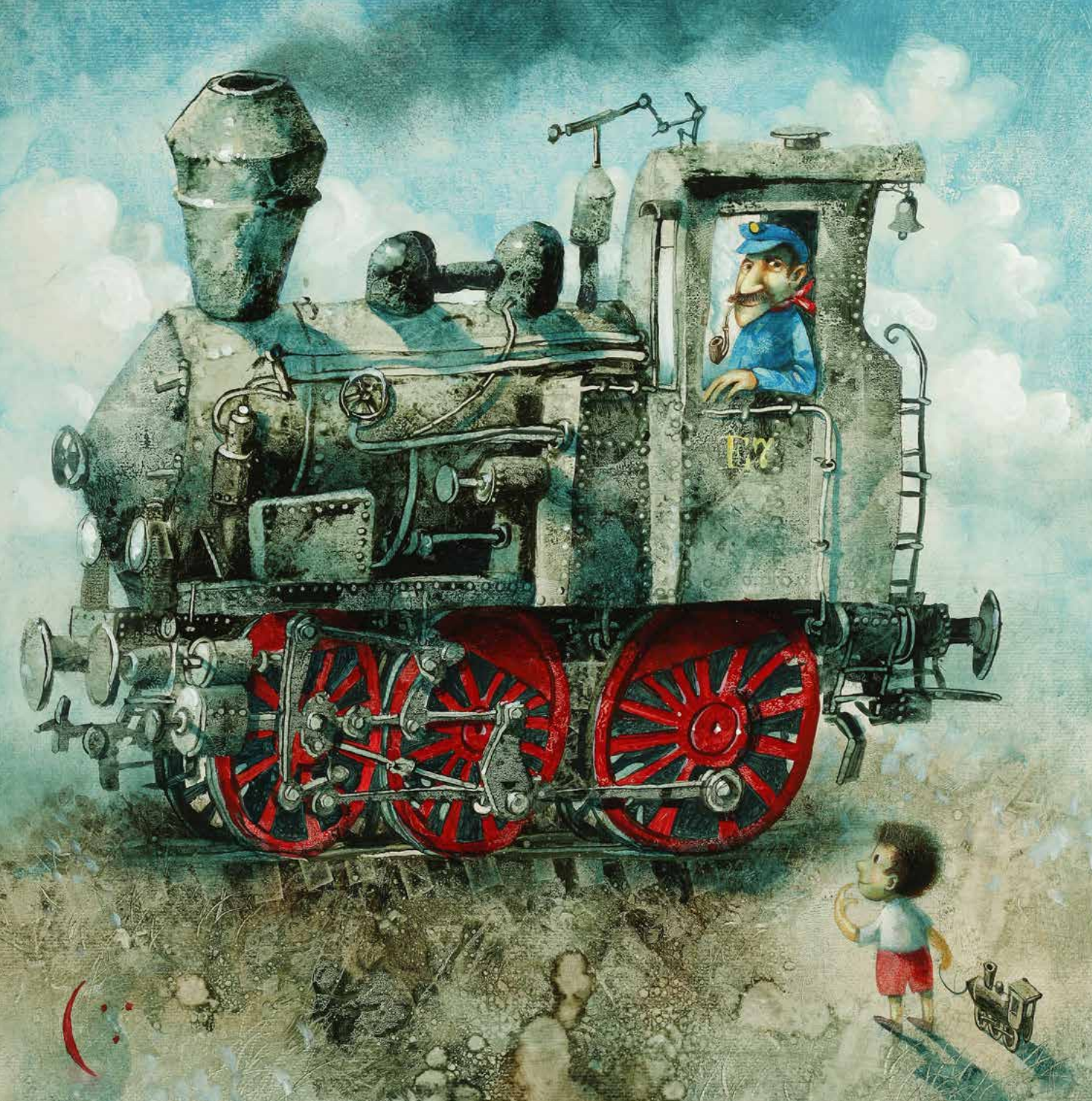
.....

*It's a beautiful project. Every little joy for seriously ill children counts. At the beginning of the treatment, I didn't realise it so much, the child was cheerful and we were full of strength, but gradually the energy was decreasing. That's why any joy is very useful. Plus, she gave Nelinka the vision that there are dreams and these are fulfilled at any time, even when she is ill.*

.....

*Just thinking about what would make them happy is good, and it gives parents a clue about other joys and surprises they can prepare for their ill children..*





.....

*I liked your interview with Láďa, when you draw his attention and he communicated with you for more than an hour. He was quite closed up during his illness and did not communicate much with the people around. Perhaps out of fear that they would only talk about the illness or feel sorry for him. You were able to make him laugh and entertain him and actually after the conversation, he wanted to share with everyone in the family how excited he was.*

.....

*Nelinka says: "Hello Golden Fish, I love you and I love you very much. I would like you to come to my birthday when I am healthy. Greetings to your Neli."*

.....

*Whether the child perceives the simple joy from a gift or appreciates a gesture of concern and help from people who barely know him, the fulfilment of his wish can strengthen his hope of reaching the end of treatment, which is often much more difficult to achieve than all the other wishes.*

.....

*...without exaggeration, there is not a day when we do not remember you and thank you for the gift Kubík received from the Golden Fish. Besides fulfilling his huge dream of having his computer (with a dragon!), this device became the only link between him and his teachers, friends, and the world.*

.....

*Improving mood, distracting from ordinary worries, and facilitating self-acceptance. I'm normal again! And I can do something that not everyone can do. :-) I appreciate that the Golden Fish takes dreamers and their wishes seriously.*

.....

*For us as a family? Huge help, psychological relief, and great joy from overcoming obstacles, which both boys started to manage beautifully on their own.*



.....

*Already looking forward to our holiday with the camper van brought us a lot of joy. Planning the trip, checking out every camper van we came across. After a long time, thanks to the Golden Fish, we went on holiday just the four of us, spending all our time together and it was great. We could finally make up for a long time apart when I spent a lot of time with Ilonka at the hospital and my husband took care of Ilonka's sister Eliška. Finally, we were together, healthy and with extraordinary experiences, what more could you ask for...*

.....

*And the afternoon with Mr. Vašut was so empowering for Staník and the whole family. I am happy that it was arranged immediately and that the wish could be fulfilled at the moment when Staník still had the strength and desire to talk to someone.*

.....

*We have experienced what a childish joy can do in a difficult moment, which is the benefit for our whole family to keep Nelinka happy (and healthy). A happy child and a happy family are very important factors in healing, and the Golden Fish certainly helped us to do that.*

.....

*Great company or project. I am extremely happy that nowadays there are people who can grant wishes to people (children) who have been affected by something... Everyone who is affected by something has the right to fulfil their dream in any way. Just like me.*

.....

*Moreover, he could decide on such a costly matter himself and choose it on his own. I was surprised at how well thought out he was.*

.....

*Children now have their privacy in the garden, their own space where they can play together, where they can rest, and where they can hide. They love to play there.*

.....

*Maja turned six in March, but at that time we were at the intensive care unit and were shuttling between hospital and home. Maja was often neutropenic and we lived in isolation for many months so as not to jeopardise her health. Our motivation after the intensive phase of treatment was the promised celebration of her sixth birthday with friends, somewhere in the countryside, and with a barbecue. ☺ The wish was quite simple, but the important thing was that it pulled us forward. Kids with cancer need motivation, they need something to look forward to all the time, and they need a feasible and tangible goal. For us, it was a celebration with friends.*







.....

*The boys could spend three weeks by the sea with their whole family together and with their assistants and swim for days accompanied by their parents, which improved their health and psychological state in this difficult time and, most importantly, the boys love the sea and their parents could relax, as their assistants could replace them if necessary.*

.....

*Even now, with time, I have tears in my eyes when I remember how the idea of a trip in a camper van*

.....

*with her family immediately improved Ilona's mood during the difficult moments in the hospital. This project helps children in their difficult times to focus on nice things, to believe that it will get better and that it is necessary to fight.*

.....

*Later, when we learned that Stanďa's illness was incurable and that he had only weeks to live, we brought up the subject of the Golden Fish again while talking to the social worker. At this point, it seemed to me that it would be nice to make some of his dreams come true with the help of your foundation. Of course, Stanďa had no idea that he was dying, so I tried to make him feel that everything would be good again. And the Golden Fish contributed to that good. It's amazing how Stanďa's eyes lit up and how much he enjoyed the afternoon. It's great that there is somewhere to turn when all options to please a little patient have been exhausted.*

.....

*I see it as a positive thing that when parents are exhausted physically, emotionally, and financially, the child's wish can be fulfilled by finding someone to arrange and organise the whole thing.*

.....

*For Honzík, it was the engine to start moving forward in physical rehabilitation. When he got to the playground, he barely climbed the stairs... today he climbs the wall by himself and slides down the slide without any obstacles...*





.....

*For Hanka, it means that she already knows that dreams are meant to be dreamed and some of them will come true. The same goes for her siblings. I think we parents will have an easier task of explaining the concept of education to responsibility. They will be able to have a realistic idea of how people can help others, how important non-profit organisations are, and what solidarity is. It's not just about finances, it's about wanting to do something like this, it's about support.*

.....

*The fulfilment of my wish was the fulfilment of a big dream I had had for several years and didn't even hope my dream would ever really become a reality! I'm very happy that now I can be with my dog friends and we can enjoy anything we like whenever we like and for as long as we want...*

.....

*At the time of COVID-19, it was all even more indescribable for us as parents. From the perspective of our son, a child with a big imagination, his playground changes every minute. One day it's a pirate ship, the next it's a fort... He uses his wish every day, just like his inhaler and other gadgets, except that he looks forward to the playground, it's his refuge.*

.....

*There are no words to express the happiness, joy, and improved mental state that the Golden Fish brings to children.*

.....

*Miša still dwells happily beside the bunnies... Every day she cuddles the rabbits and talks to them. She is really happy to have them. She explains to her sister Martinka how and what to do not to hurt them. It's great to see the girls working together. I can tell there's a time of peace. Miša still has her tearful and anxious moments from time to time, but as soon as we take the rabbits out of the cage, everything is immediately better. The rabbits are also a great motivation for daily exercise - we work out and go cuddle with them :)*

.....

*I see it positively, of course. If I'm rich one day, I'll do a similar thing. All in all, it's a strange concept where nobody brags about anything and everything is non-public. It's a great concept. It's kind of a hidden organisation that does a lot of good...*

.....

*Relieved tension and fear of the expected surgery.*

.....

*We are glad that there is an opportunity for children who are this sick to wish for what they want without us, parents interfering. If it were up to us, we wouldn't have bought Jirka a parking lot, but since he made his wish and the Golden Fish grants wishes, we didn't hesitate. Jirka wanted a Hot Wheels parking lot with a gorilla, it was his wish for about 1.5 years, but since he had another parking lot, we didn't want to buy it for him. But when we got in touch with the Golden Fish, there was nothing more to think about. This was the one thing he wanted so badly and he kept talking about it and if it was Christmas he would have written it down again. The benefit was maximum, it was the **MOST AMAZING WISH EVER COMPLETED**, enhanced by the fact that it was fulfilled by the Golden Fish, who does make wishes come true. Moreover, it was his last wish. The parking lot in our family still finds a use, we have a son who is too young for it, but we invited Jirka's friend to play with it, and then we lent it to a cousin until our son grows up.*

.....

*What can I say, it was incredible and I will remember the experience for the rest of my life. It was a little green island in the desert..*



.....  
*You make sick children happy, and parents feel that they are not alone.*  
.....

*My son was very happy with the wish. He wished for a bicycle. He used to ride a tricycle before he could walk and he hasn't let go of it now, he still likes to ride and has higher goals. We are glad that this worry has faded away, it would not have been possible to choose a bike or even deal with it now and he would be sad because we promised him one for his birthday.*  
.....

*He specifically kept our family busy with thinking, joint plans, and the joy of Štěpánek's smile. The Fish came to us during the time of his treatment when our son still had many limitations and was taking oral chemotherapy... he took the fulfilled wish as a reward for all he had managed and endured.*  
.....

*My son felt that he was someone special and that he could pursue his dreams.*  
.....

*Now that we get home from the hospital more often, I am very glad that Šimon always takes his camera with him and takes pictures. He is happy that even the moments that he couldn't capture with his old camera are now easier to grasp and he is more successful. We enjoyed the pictures together again.*  
.....


*The project is amazing. As a parent of a disabled child, it is nice for me to know that someone cares and that we are not alone. In bad times, suddenly there is a golden fin that pulls us out of our misery.*  
.....

*I will never forget your visits to our family when Láďa blossomed and let you into his heart with confidence..*  
.....

*\* Names have been intentionally changed.*







*238 applications,  
58 % boys and 42 % girls  
56 % children with  
oncological disease*

*171 wishes granted;  
74 % material wishes*

## *Statistics 2020*

We received a total of 238 applications in 2020, an increase by 28 % from the previous year. Of the total children registered, 58 % were boys and 42 % were girls. Approximately 10 % of the children registered did not meet the criteria, most often due to a minor diagnosis.

There were no significant changes in the distribution of individual diagnoses. There has been a slight decrease in the representation of the category 'oncological diseases', from 61 % to 56 %. Children with an oncological disease are still the largest group. Applications from the 'other' diagnosis category totaled 26 %, an increase of 7 % from last year. This category mainly includes various neurological diseases. Children with organ failure accounted for 3 % of all applications. Children with cystic fibrosis also accounted for 3 % of all applications, and 11 % of applications were from the muscular dystrophies and spinal muscular atrophy group.

In terms of the age composition of the enrolled children, the most represented groups are children aged 11-14 years (26 %) and 7-10 years (25 %). There was a decrease in the percentage of enrolled children in the 15-18 age group (from 29 % to 19 %). Marginal categories - children under 3 years and over 18 years - continue to be the least represented. These are the categories in which the Board of Directors must decide on an exemption (children under 3 and over 19).

Golden Fish granted 171 wishes this year, which means an average of more than three wishes per week. Unfortunately, four children did not get their wishes granted by the Golden Fish.

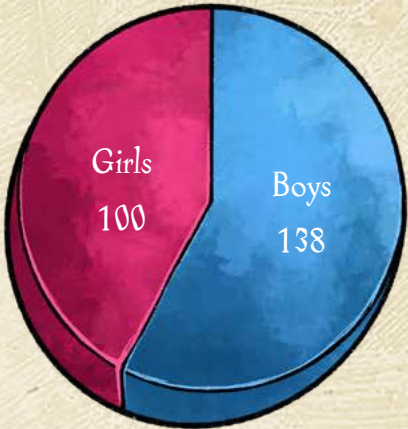
There has been a significant change in the percentage of each category of expressed wishes. Experiential wishes saw a decrease from 32 % in 2019 to 18 % this year, and, conversely, there was an increase in the "I wish to have" wish category, from 59 % (2019) to 74 %. This was linked to the development of the COVID 19 pandemic.



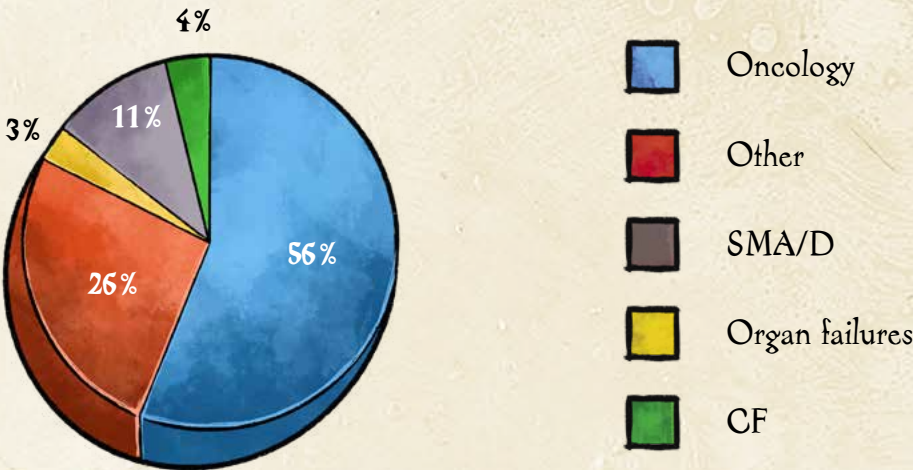
In 2020, we met dreamers and their families every 19 hours on the average. 25% of these meetings were conducted online due to the epidemiological measures.

Every 36 hours we received one application and every 51 hours one big wish came true.

Distribution of dreamers by gender (applications received 2020)



Distribution of dreamers by diagnosis (applications received 2020)

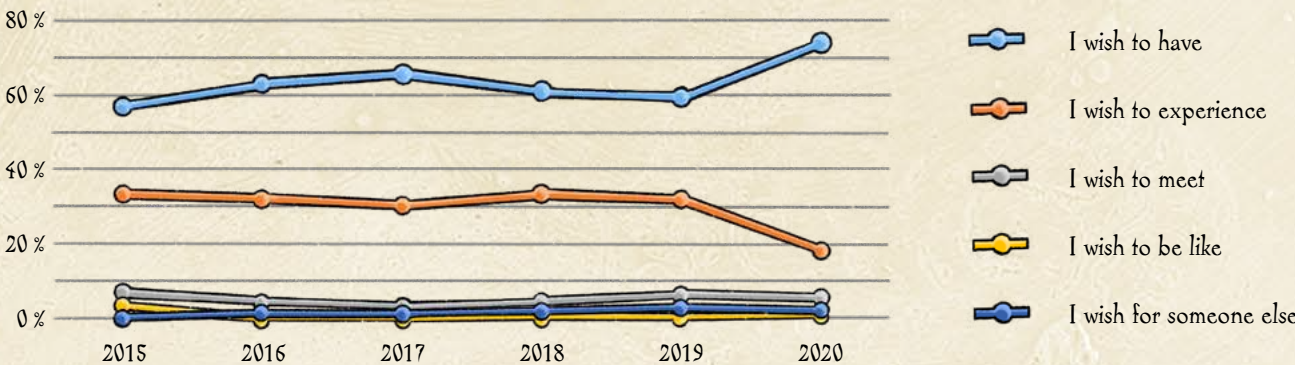


Total number of wishes expressed (wishes expressed 2020) – 206

Representation of categories of expressed wishes (expressed wishes 2020)



Development of the representation of the categories of expressed wishes (2015-2020)





## Audit

The financial data presented show only selected data from the organisation's financial statements. The complete financial statements are kept at the registered office of the organisation and are published in the Collection of Deeds of the Court of Registration. An auditor's report on the financial statements was issued by Deloitte Audit Ltd. on 30 June 2021.

## Financial Report

Since its inception, the Golden Fish has been funded exclusively by its founders.

Financial donations of CZK 40 million were received in 2020. Non-financial donations totaling CZK 49 547 were also received from Alza.cz a.s. Costs for 2020 were forecasted at CZK 20 245 112. The actual costs amounted to CZK 16 850 645,85. This is 83 % of the planned budget, although the number of wishes granted was 100%. This disproportion is the result of the impossibility of realising wishes linked to travel and experiences that are usually more costly. Extraordinary expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic amounted to CZK 28 425.

In 2020, administrative costs amounted to 18 % of total costs, a decrease of one percent compared to 2019.

The organisation covered part of its operational activities through pro bono work and with the help of volunteers. Volunteers worked 222 hours this year.

No remuneration was paid to the members of the Board of Directors in 2020.

A total of CZK 26,629,545.32 has been transferred to 2021.



# Acknowledgement

Please and thank you are some of the basic phrases that we learn from a young age when we ask for something or receive something. The Golden Fish receives a tremendous amount of help from all sides: from the founders of the organisation, the administration, the medical staff, the implementation team, companies, volunteers, friends, and simply everyone who is involved in running the Golden Fish and making wishes come true for seriously ill children.

Let us express our great and sincere thanks.

It would be impossible to distinguish which help is most important for the Golden Fish. Each detail has a role to play, and it gives the Golden Fish the dimensions that make it stronger. However, without Katarina and Ondřej Vlček, the Golden Fish would not be here. So there would not be the possibility to put the pieces together in a way that would lead to the fulfilment of the greatest wishes of children, and that's why the first thanks goes to them. We also thank Irena Závadová, a member of the Board of Directors, and Martina Břeňová, who has the important function of the supervisor.

A thank you also goes to the entire implementation team. To all the employees who have been with the Golden Fish since its foundation, to those who have joined the Golden Fish gradually, and to those who have joined the Golden Fish only recently. Managing, representing, organising, administration, dreaming, producing, it just wouldn't work without it. Thanks for your work.

Another important link to making wishes come true is the doctors, nurses, therapists, psychologists, social workers, and other staff in healthcare facilities and the patient-centred organisations we work with. Thank you for the time you take to convey information about the Golden Fish and the opportunity to grant a wish to your clients. Thank you for your great cooperation in making wishes come true, and for the extra work you put in for the dreamers whose health needs to be carefully monitored during wish fulfilment.

The dreamers, their parents, grandparents, and friends who trust in us and our abilities, that we will enter their lives with respect and dignity, and that we will be able to find out their greatest wish and do our best to make it come true. Thank you. We are not alone in granting children's wishes. And that's why we thank all our suppliers, volunteers, and all the people who help us. Sometimes a material wish seems like a simple task, but as covid times have shown us, everything can be unexpectedly complicated. We are so grateful that even in these times our suppliers are still trying to find goods in the shortest possible time, that they are providing services, manufacturing, rebuilding, transporting as if there were no limitations. Without you, we definitely couldn't have done it, thank you.

Special thanks to our volunteer Stela Ambrosová who made sure that the Golden Fish could reach children and families as quickly as possible in 2020. She helped out the Golden Fish with outreach and communication directly in the hospitals.

Finally, we would also like to thank the facilities that the Golden Fish has for its work: always prepared and cleaned by the cleaning lady who constantly spoils us with baked goodies. We appreciate a beautiful place to work to make our dreamers' wishes come true.

*Once again, thank you all!*





## *Thanks for Your Help and Long Term Support of the Organisation:*

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Stela Ambrosová  
Jan Bárta  
Romana Beyerová  
Lenka Breitkopfová  
Jana Burešová  
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Lenka Dominiková  
Ladislav Dvořák  
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Helen El Hassanová  
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Kateřina Holnová  
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Jana Holubová Šemberová

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Jana Langrová  
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Jan Mašek  
Michal Mertl  
Gustav Pavelka  
Lenka Piškulová  
Zuzana Perná  
Svatava Poulson  
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## *Thanks for cooperation in making a specific wish come true in 2020:*

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Martin Vasquez  
Jindřich Vladyka  
Tomáš Vondráček  
Nad'a Zachová  
Martin Židlický





## Our Big Thanks to These Celebrities who Made Children's Wishes Come True in 2020:

Jan Bendig - singer	Marek Vašut - actor
Ben Cristovao - singer	Jakub Voráček - NHL hockey player
Petr Florian - youtuber Pedro	Philadelphia Flyers, and his girlfriend
Přemek Forejt - Master Chef	Marketa
Radek Kašpárek - Master Chef	Kryštof
Jan Punčochář - Master Chef	Lollipopz
Taras Provoznykovi - youtuber Tary	Mirai
Sebastian - singer	

## Thanks to the Companies that Contributed to Making Children's Wishes Come True in 2020:

Allianz pojišťovna, a.s.	Canaria Travel CZ s.r.o.	Greece Tours Prague, spol. s.r.o.
ALZA.cz, a.s.	PhotoSkoda Centre	Hamleys
Apparel BOX s.r.o.	FISCHER Travel Agency, a.s.	JS Chocolate, s.r.o.
ArgoMed a.s.	PRICE	Bicycles Luňák
MOMO Studio	CeWe Color, a.s.	Prague Airport, a. s.
Atypical buildings s.r.o.	CykloAdam s.r.o.	Prague City Hall
Balony Prague s.r.o.	Courtyard Honětice	Jakub Voracek Foundation
Barrandov Studio a.s.		

Piccolino playgrounds  
Potterfan  
Princo International, spol. s.r.o.

Promedica Praha Group, a.s.  
Black Bear Residence  
RubMe

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DEBRA ČR, z.ú.  
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Nadační fond Radost dětem  
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Znesnáze21  
ZŠ a MŠ při FN Motol



## *Special Thanks*

At this point, we would like to express our great thanks to the Lollipopz girl dancing group. They are small girls, but they helped the Golden Fish a lot repeatedly. With their empathy and cheerfulness, their meeting with the dreamers is always a wonderful, several-hour "ride". These colourful girls: Ellie (green) – Eliška Kavková, Nikky (blue) – Nikol Höfnerová, Pája (yellow) – Pavlína Halvová a Nikča (pink) – Niky Grecu are wonderful, and the Golden Fish says: "Thanks girls, you are the best!"

The team of the Martina Slaninová and Ondřej Vokál legal service helps the Golden Fish with all possible legal matters every year. They provide their services pro bono. Thank you very much, we appreciate your support a lot.

We would like to thank the script editor Marta Dušková and the whole team of the CT2 (Czech television 2) program Klíč (The Key), who approached the topic of fulfilling the wishes of seriously ill children in a very sensitive way. We would also like to thank these families: Marouškovi, Staňkovi, Řehovi, and Stela Ambrosová and her family for sharing their stories. Volunteers Kateřina Adamská and Luděk Rudovský, MUDr. Pavel Timr and Mr. and Mrs. Vlčkovi also contributed to the program.

Thank you very much!

The year 2020 was somewhat different because of the global pandemic. We needed more than ever to ensure the safety of our dreamers and their families. Ms. and Mr. Romana Beyrová and Pavel Hanuš were very helpful in purchasing the protective medical equipment, and we thank them for their help.

*Thank you!*







## Epilogue

The Golden Fish's vision is to make a wish granting a common part of care for seriously ill children in the Czech Republic. Since its foundation, the Golden Fish has tried to bring this vision closer to reality with every step it makes. Sometimes it succeeds in moving forward faster, sometimes slower, but the direction is always the same.

Like everyone else, this pandemic year complicated the work of the Golden Fish. We were searching for safe ways to stay close to seriously ill children despite the circumstances and cope with the challenges it presented. Looking back I am very proud to say that even the virus has not diminished the Golden Fish's determination. We kept on increasing the number of children's dreams fulfilled, although the actual granting of wishes (due to protective sanitary gear) sometimes looked more like the scenes from a science fiction movie.

Despite the difficult circumstances, the Golden Fish continued to grow and develop. We entered 2021 with a new internal team structure and a plan to establish an office in Moravian region too. We are also working harder to ensure that information about the Golden Fish reaches as many children and their families as possible.

Throughout the six years that the Golden Fish has been swimming among the children, meets many people who are willing to help. Thank you all very much. And a big thanks also to those who got the Golden Fish ready for this great journey.

Tomáš Hornek









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