



MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROVIDE HEALING RETREATS AND
ONGOING SUPPORT FOR ADOLESCENT
GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN WITH BURN/
TRAUMA INJURIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR
OPTIMUM POTENTIAL AND DEVELOP
MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS
FOR THEMSELVES, THEIR
FAMILIES, AND THEIR
COMMUNITIES.

angel faces 
ANNUAL REPORT

2017

www.AngelFaces.com



Lesia S. Cartelli,
Founder & CEO



age 9

angel faces

HISTORY

Established in 2003 by Lesia S. Cartelli, CEO and Award-winning author of *Heart of Fire*. Cartelli was severely burned at age 9 in a gas explosion. She created Angel Faces to empower girls and young women to embrace their trauma and physical appearance with resilience and gratitude. We provide girls and young women opportunities, survival strategies, and inner strength needed to create a future of hope and abundance. Funding is secured from donors and grants from private foundations and corporations.

www.LesiaCartelli.com

WHY ANGEL FACES EXIST?

With medical advancements, survival rates are soaring and patient's lives are saved but leaving them severely and permanently disfigured. Their difficulty reintegrating into society and back to school seems insurmountable to themselves. Due to our healthcare system limitations, hospitals rely on programs such as Angel Faces to serve the needs of the psychological issues that arise from being disfigured.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

1

LEVEL 1 RETREAT In mid-June, 19 girls throughout the US and abroad attended Level I retreat (ages 14-19) in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. The retreat theme was "Let Your Light Shine"; the participants painted clear lighted bottles as a reflection of their inner bright light and self-acceptance. Program components covered grief, loss, social interaction (how to handle staring, and unwanted questions), boundaries, relationship building, facial design, goal setting, art therapy, as well as building resilience and gratitude from their trauma. Watch recent Angel Faces news coverage during this retreat [here](#).



"In many aspects I am still the same girl before I came to the Angel Faces retreat but walking away with a new found confidence and one step closer to emotionally healing my wounds inside and out."

Kelsay, age 19, Iowa

2

MENTORSHIP TRAINING Girls, return as Resident Assistants (RA's) assisting the leaders while mentoring new participants. Coached by Cartelli herself, The RA's present "Through Your Voice" (TYV) sharing their personal story of tragedy to triumph to the younger girls in a PowerPoint presentation. Preparing the girls for the presentation (over a period of months) involves many, often painful, discussions and interviews about their trauma. The process includes gathering photos of their accident, interviews with family members and medical professionals. Their presentation includes the tools in their recovery process such as "this is how I navigated going back to school..." This peer driven training is a crucial tool in building and recognizing their own resilience, and teaching them leadership skills thus preparing them for educational opportunities. The hands-on presentation also serves the younger girls in the audience. "She got through it, so can I!" This year we expanded this program in length and had more girls presenting. One of our RA's played the classical violin closing out the evening.

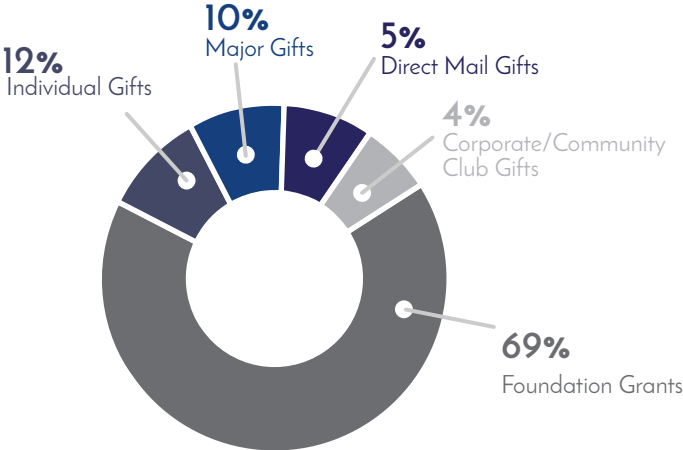
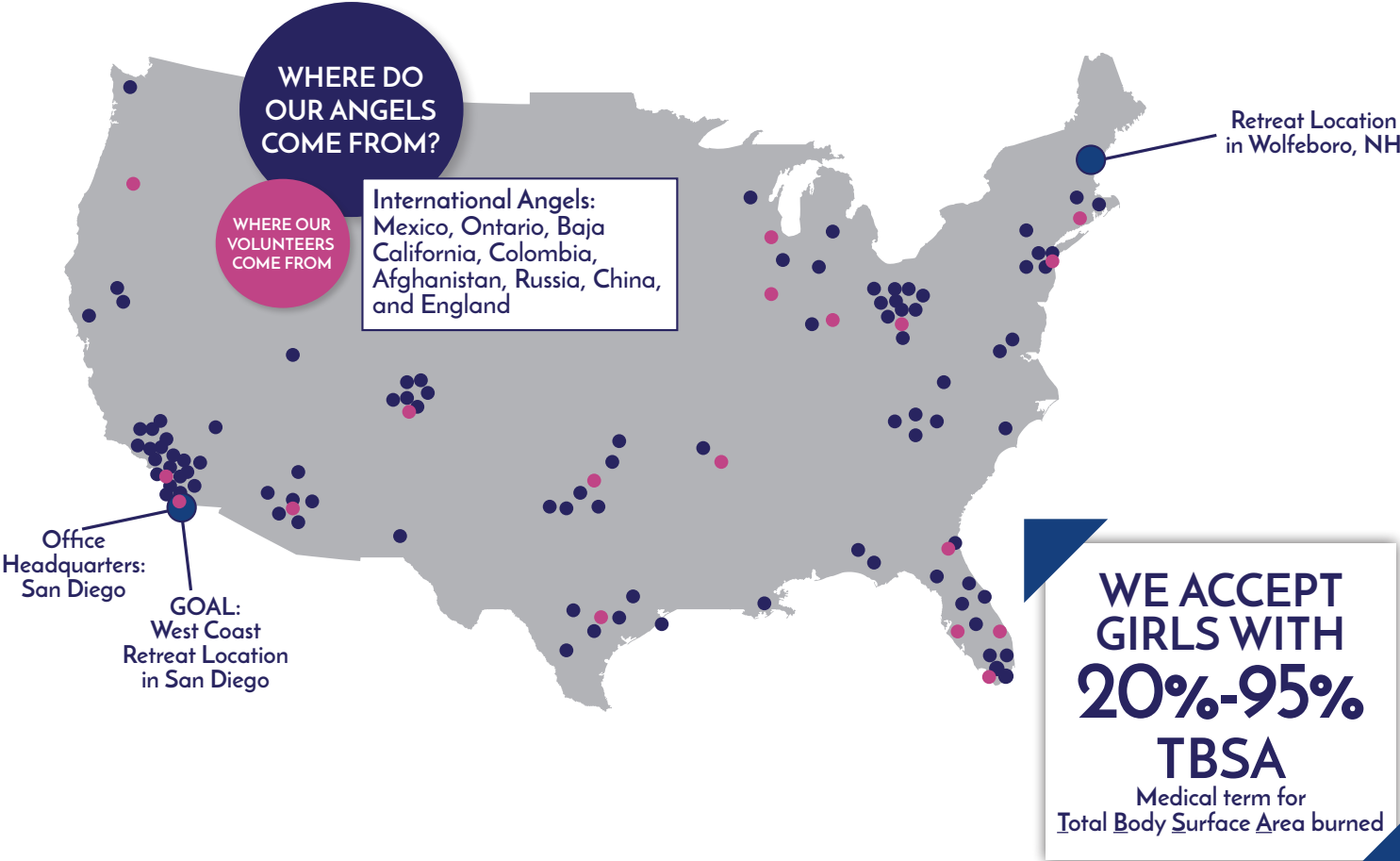
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YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL LAUNCH We are aware of the continuous struggle our girls face in-between retreats. We developed The Youth Advisory Council with the goal to strengthen, reinforce, and sustain the lessons learned during the peer-driven retreats. Led by board member, Michael Murphy, Ph.D. from Massachusetts General Hospital, The Youth Advisory Council is a group of alumni girls and young women (who have completed both levels of retreats) who acknowledge the value and impact attending the retreats has made on their own lives - and now wants to give back to the organization. The goal of the Youth Advisory Council is to assist Angel Faces in three areas: a) consult with AF staff to keep program content current; b) recruit girls who need our program; c) strengthen the AF community by mentoring girls who fear upcoming surgery, anxiety of reentering school, etc.

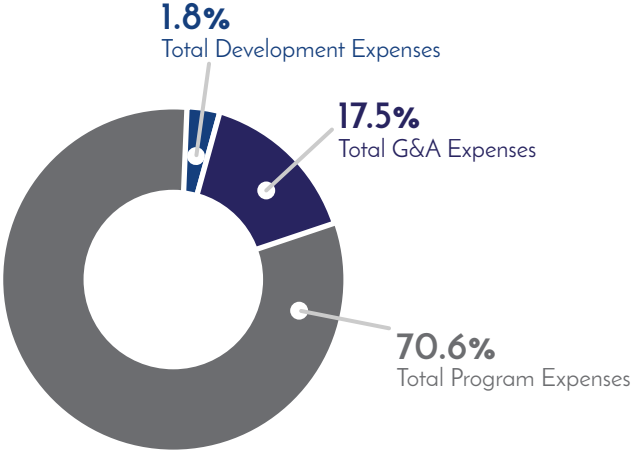
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RESEARCH Dr. Michael Murphy, and his team continue to compile, analyze, and write up the results of pre and post questionnaires. The evaluations provide evidence of statistically significant improvements on five of the seven measures used. Our findings have continued to show positive impact on our girls and have been summarized in an award winning poster at the American Burn Association in Miami, in November. The findings have been submitted for publication in The Journal of Pediatric Psychology. Click [here](#) to see poster abstract.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS



2017 YTD Contributions
(Excluding In-Kind Donations)



2017 YTD Expense Breakdown



OUR NEED

Level 1 retreat is our flagship, the first step for girls with severe injuries (some just months out of the hospital) come to heal, learn survival skills and tools for coping with their injuries and the path ahead, such as reentry back to school, how to handle when people stare or ask unwanted questions.

Every June, for 12 days, a team of 16 women who are professionals in their selected fields (paramedics, teachers, nurses, occupational therapists, yoga instructors, firefighters) volunteer at our Level 1 retreat in Wolfeboro, NH. In addition to the volunteers, two paid licensed psychologists whose specialty is in trauma lead sessions and private consultations throughout the week.

It is the mission of Angel Faces to serve and reach more girls with this educational and healing program.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Angel Faces' teaches self-responsibility. We teach the girls that **THEY** are responsible for their healing and designing their future by utilizing the resources that are available to them. We teach that although they survived a traumatic event, their recovery is reflected by their willingness to create something good from their injury. Often the girls will ask, "Why did this happen to me?" I respond, "So you can transform your life and create something good in the world" ~L. Cartelli

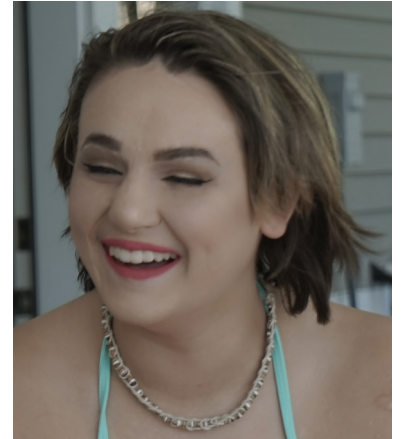
We need funding to:

- 1 Support and sustain our operations and general expenses.
- 2 Add a Level II retreat to be held on the West Coast in the United States.

WHO WE TOUCH

MCKENNA, 16

This was McKenna's first retreat; to which she arrived with hesitancy. McKenna burned 74% of her body at age eight. After a week of encouragement, she shed her tough exterior and saw herself as a beautiful young lady. McKenna was hesitant to come to the retreat. She participated in all aspects, even the hard topics such as grief and loss.



LINA, 19

Lina was burned as an infant in Columbia, she was then adopted out of an orphanage by an American family. After a lifetime of dealing with unwanted stares, shocking reactions from the public along with intrusive questions, Lina felt ugly and unwanted. After the Staring and Teasing session, Lina came up to me, threw her arms around my neck saying, "Do you have any idea how much you all are helping us girls?"

FAHIMA, 20

Fahima was severely burned as an infant in Afghanistan, her home was bombed. She was extremely nervous when she had to turn her phone in on the first day. We figured it was normal behavior until we realized she receives texts every evening from her family in Afghanistan assuring her they are still alive and have not been bombed. Once we assured her of their daily check-ins, Fahima became engaged and extremely grateful for the retreat and learning how to cope with her trauma and looking different in society. In her country, girls with scars are often beaten and 'hidden' from public view.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

EVERY PHOTO TELLS A STORY...



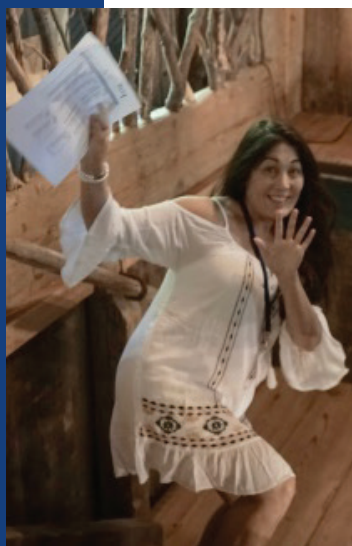
MELISSA attended her first retreat at age 19. She was severely burned in an accident during her first year of college studying to be an aeronautical engineer. After several reconstructive surgeries and an intense recovery, Melissa went back to the university, finished her degree, came back to Angel Faces as an RA and is now an Engineer at Parker Hannifin, in Irvine, CA. Go Melissa!!!



OUR VOLUNTEERS



Our volunteers come from the United States bringing different talents, love, compassion and skills to our retreats. They are nurses, firefighters, clinical research coordinators, professional makeup artists, massage therapists, child life specialists, occupational therapists, yoga instructors and photographers. Each one has a special place on the Angel Faces team and in our girls' hearts. Without these selfless devoted women Angel Faces would not be where it is today. We salute you!





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