

angel faces 

Annual Report 2018



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.



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Introduction

HISTORY

Established in 2003 by Lesia S. Cartelli, CEO and award-winning author of Heart of Fire. Cartelli, severely burned at age 9 in a gas explosion, 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



Lesia S. Cartelli,
Founder & CEO

age 9

WHY ANGEL FACES EXISTS?

With medical advancements, survival rates are soaring but leaving patients with the difficulty of reintegrating back to school and into society.

Angel Faces serves the needs of the psychological issues that arise from being disfigured once the patient is discharged from the hospital.



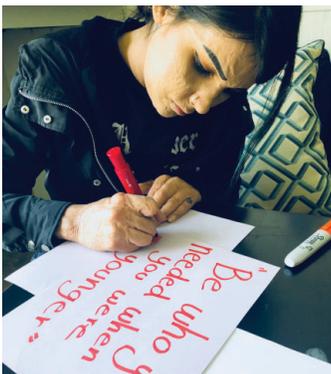


Highlights

01

Levels 1 & 2 Retreats

In June we ran Level I for girls (ages 14-18) and Level II young women (ages 19-29) retreats concurrently. There are several benefits from running two retreats simultaneously, the younger girls who have suffered a disfiguring traumatic injury meet young ladies (who have also endured trauma) as an inspiration, a motivation that their life can, and will, get better. There are also special bonds that form between these two decades. Most notably is the immediate compassion and care the Level II young women have for the younger girls, knowing firsthand what it takes to survive a trauma - a sign of how far they themselves have come.



Each level had its own daily program content. At night the two groups came together learning mentorship and leadership skills. Sixteen magnificent volunteers and four

devoted board members were in attendance for the week. This retreat's theme was "Becoming Brave." All components of the week focused on bravery.

02

New This Year

This year we launched "Ask the Doc" led by Dr. Leigh Ann Price, MD, Medical Director of The National Reconstructive Center in Baltimore (and Board Member of Angel Faces). Anonymous questions (from the girls) were placed in a box - questions they were too afraid to ask their own doctor. Slated for 30 minutes the box was billowing over so we added additional days.

Also new this year, was the climbing wall at Brewster Academy. Amy endured an 80% burn injury as a child that left her with a few digits on each hand and a prosthetic leg. She sat in a small sling on the side, surrendered that it was an activity she could never do. The lead instructor harnessed her up and together we lifted her to begin scaling her own wall assumptions. Amy climbed her way to the top. All of our girls overcame limitations that day. Bravery overtook the room.



Highlights (continued)

03

Mentorship Training

Girls who have been participants in the past return as Resident Assistants (RA's) mentoring new participants. Coached by Cartelli, the RA's present "Through Your Voice"; their personal story, sharing their coping skills for going back to school, friendships, and self-acceptance to the younger girls in a PowerPoint presentation. Preparing the girls months in advance for their presentations involves many, often painful, discussions and interviews about their trauma. The process includes gathering photos of their accident, discussions with their family members and medical professionals.



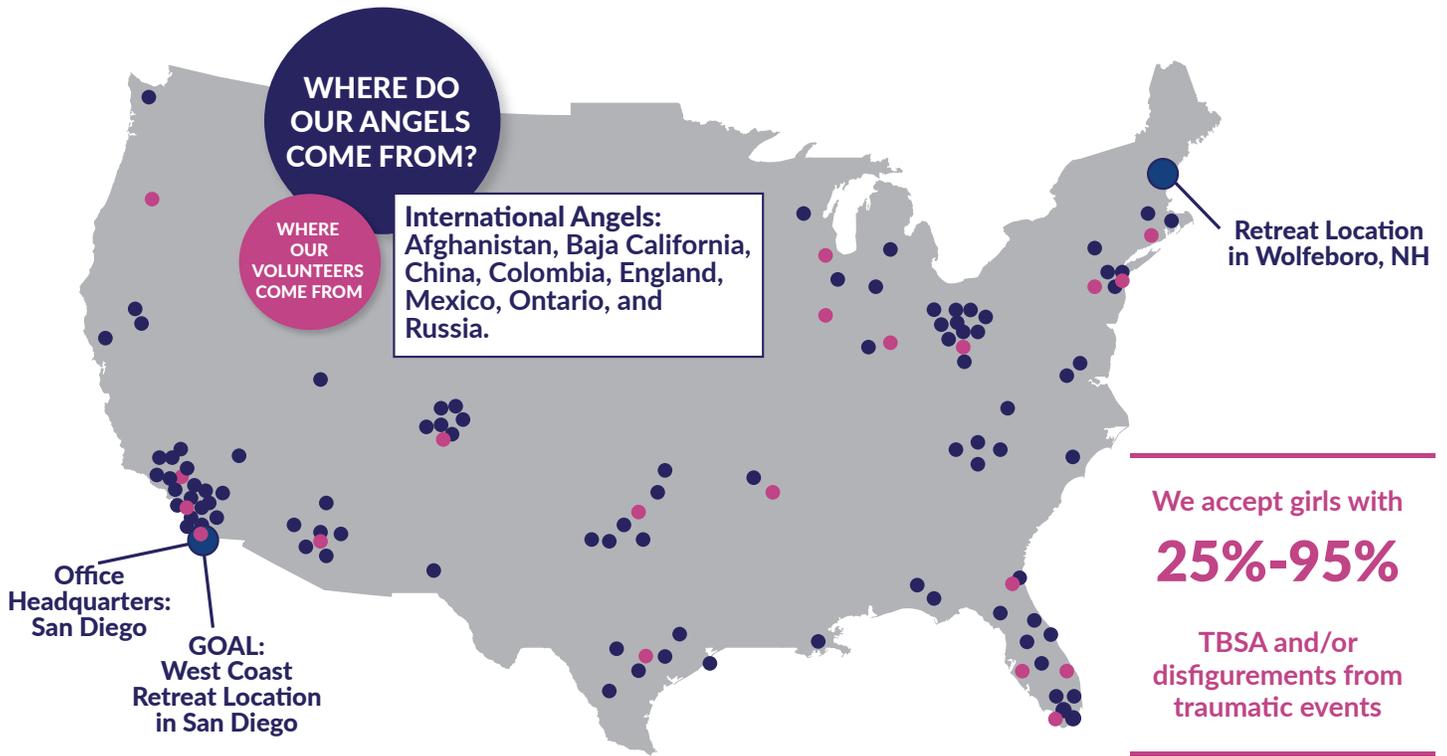
This peer-driven training is a crucial tool in building and recognizing their own resilience while learning leadership skills, thus preparing them for educational opportunities. This raw and real presentation also serves the younger girls in the audience. "She got through it, so can I!" This year we expanded this program in length and had more girls presenting. One of our RA's played the guitar while another sang to close out the evening.

04 Research

Dr. Michael Murphy and his team submitted our research to the Journal of Pediatric Psychology. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

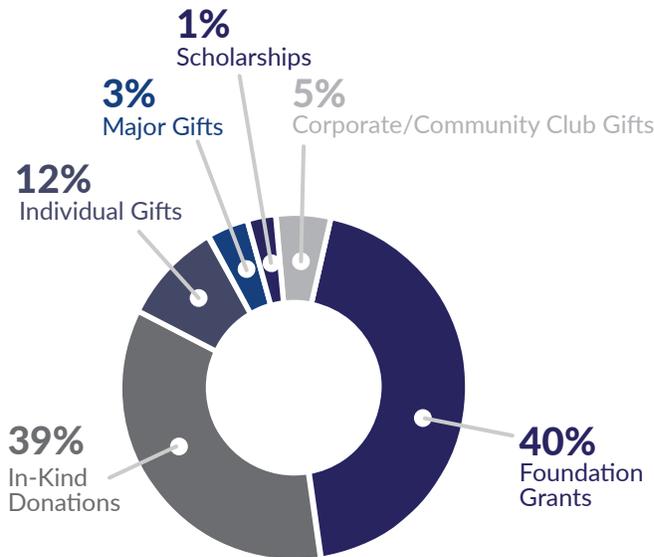


2018 By The Numbers

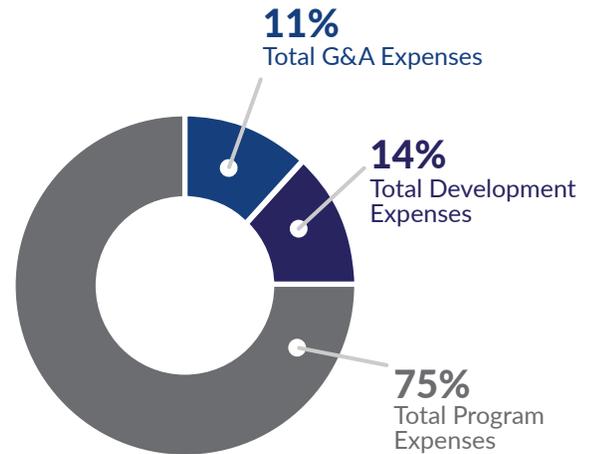


We accept girls with
25%-95%

TBSA and/or
disfigurements from
traumatic events



2018 YTD Contributions



2018 YTD Expense Breakdown

Our Need

Every June, for 12 days, a team of 18 women who are professionals in their selected fields (medical doctors, paramedics, teachers, nurses, occupational therapists, yoga instructors, firefighters) volunteer at our retreats in Wolfeboro, NH.

In addition to the volunteers, three licensed psychologists whose specialty is in grief and loss trauma lead sessions and private consultations throughout the week. It is the mission of Angel Faces to serve and reach more girls and young women with this psycho-educational and healing program.

We need funding to:

1. **Support and sustain** our operations and general expenses for program expenses.
 2. **Add** an additional retreat in San Diego County to include military women.
 3. **Fund** positions of leadership roles at the retreat. Transferring these roles from volunteer to paid positions will bring measured performance with consistent commitment.
-



OUR PHILOSOPHY

Angel Faces' teaches that our traumas and struggles can be a gift when we look upon our life's situations with gratitude. Practicing gratitude creates an opportunity to strengthen our faith and our relationship with ourselves and our community. We teach our participants to accept responsibility for their healing and encourage them to design their future by utilizing the resources available to them. We teach that although they have 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

Who We Touch



AMY, 16

AMY was burned over 80% of her body at age two. After days of lessons and skill building, with just a few digits on her hands and a prosthetic leg, Amy scaled the climbing wall – nothing was to stop her.

Watch Amy dance with her new-found confidence at our Farewell Dance.



ANASTAZA, 24

ANASTAZA joined the Angel Faces family in 2010, shortly after her release from the hospital. Now as an adult, Anastaza claims, “Angel Faces saved my life on multiple occasions. It prepared me for everything I would experience. Attending the Level II Retreat reminded me of my self-worth and now I’m healthier and stronger.”



Every Photo Tells A Story...



Where Are They Now?



BREONNA was burned on her face as an infant from a hot curling iron. She first attended Angel Faces in 2005 at age 14. She navigated a difficult path through her adolescent years then graduated from Cosmetology school. In 2018, Breonna reached out to us. As a newly married woman ready to give back by helping other girls who have been disfigured. This past June, Breonna volunteered with logistics and assisted our long-cherished volunteer, Nancy Ogden West, with Facial Design (formally Corrective Cosmetic).

Today, Breonna and her husband are expecting their first child together in May. It's always a gift when our girls create a good path for themselves with healthy choices. Something tells me Breonna will make a loving mother.



Our Volunteers

Our volunteers come from throughout the United States bringing love, compassion, and educational skills to our retreats.

They are nurses, firefighters, medical doctors, psychologists, clinical research coordinators, makeup artists, massage therapists, child life specialists, occupational therapists, yoga instructors and photographers.

Each volunteer 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!





angel faces 

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