

Make-A-Wish® Insider

SUMMER 2023

MELISSA ARIAS
President & CEO



Dear Eleni,

This year has been full of firsts for me. My son graduated from high school. I learned A LOT about hockey from our first [Seattle Kraken wish](#). And, I had the pleasure of witnessing your generosity at our Wish Night Gala & Auction, where for the first time in many years, more than 700 supporters of ours were in a room together. Our inspiring wish children are also creating some firsts here at Make-A-Wish Alaska & Washington—wish kids like Krystin and Ruby, who remind us of the importance of making the world a better place.

Having experienced firsthand how isolating hospital stays can be, Krystin wished to make those long nights and never-ending days a little less lonely for children at Seattle Children's Hospital. With the support of our community partners at Build-A-Bear Workshop, Krystin hosted a Build-A-Bear workshop so the kids in treatment could create their own special friend to keep them company when they need an extra hug. She is the first wish kid from Alaska choosing to use her wish to give back to others.



Ruby is another selfless and brave child using her wish to help others. Ruby, who is from Eastern Washington, underwent a transplant and wished to publish a book to help other children understand the process and remove the stigma surrounding transplantation. Check out this amazing sneak peek of her soon-to-be published book!



Her courage and determination are truly awe-inspiring. Be on the lookout for more information surrounding Ruby's book launch!

Your generosity has played a significant role in another first for our chapter: helping us to grant the most wishes in a single year. I couldn't be more grateful. I am so proud of our wish kids and the impact they continue to have.

With deepest gratitude,

Melissa

P.S. We currently have over 600 children who are still waiting for their wishes. About 70% of these involved airline travel. You can make more wishes like Krystin's and Ruby's come true by donating your airline miles during our **Wishes in Flight mileage drive**.

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