



December 14, 2020

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington, **we are so deeply honored to have been chosen as the charity of choice for the Dorothy Jane Foundation's Christmas Spectacular event.** Since 2016 we have partnered with the Foundation to bring hope and joy to children facing critical illness across Washington State and Alaska. To date, almost \$100,000 have been raised from individuals at this event. These funds have supported children waiting for wishes throughout Snohomish County and the surrounding communities.

When a child is diagnosed with a critical illness, so much of their childhood is taken away. They may not be able to go to school for fear of catching a cold which could send them back to the hospital. They may not be able to play sports because they don't have the energy and the stamina to compete. And, in some cases, they can't live in the same home as their siblings because they need to be under the constant care and supervision of medical professionals. When these children are stripped of the most basic rights of childhood—the things most of us take for granted.

A wish takes a child and their family out of their current state—the doctor appointments, surgeries and hospital stays—and transports them into a world of hope and possibility. The wish is a catalyst that sets in motion a world of new beginnings and new opportunities. In many cases, they see themselves as strong and whole again for the first time since diagnosis. A wish provides a shared experience with their care team, volunteers and family. It buoys their spirits and counterbalances the adversity childhood illness puts on their lives and relationships.

You, like the Dorothy Jane Foundation have been a part of making transformation possible in our community. Again, we invite you to help support a wish today, by making a gift during the virtual Christmas Spectacular. This year, our chapter will grant 370 wishes and that's just the beginning. There are enough children waiting for their wishes to fill 7 full-sized school buses. **If we could grow our program to add an additional two wishes month over month, we'd realize our vision of a wish for every eligible child in less than five years.**

Once again, thank you to the Dorothy Jane Foundation, Dr. Sanford Wright and all the hundreds of individuals who make the Christmas Spectacular successful. **Because of you wishes are happening every day!**

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa".

Melissa S. Arias
President and CEO
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P.S. To learn more about Make-A-Wish Alaska & Washington or to read stories of the impact wishes are making. Please visit www.akwa.wish.org and click on the about us tab on the left-hand tool bar.