

**Make-A-Wish Foundation®**  
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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Make-A-Wish Recipient to Join Mike Williams Jr. for the “Last Great Race on Earth!”

ANCHORAGE (March 1, 2011)—After diagnosis of chronic kidney disease and a subsequent kidney transplant last August, 14-year-old Stephanie was informed that her wish to attend the Iditarod Sled Dog Race would be granted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Stephanie, a Renfrew, PA resident, has always loved huskies and after learning about the Iditarod in school, thought it would be exciting to see the race in person.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation, a nonprofit organization that grants wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions, has joined forces with the Idita-Rider Program and local gold mine, Donlin Creek, to make Stephanie’s wish possible.

Stephanie will not only have a chance to watch the Iditarod—a timeless tradition that commemorates Alaska’s past, but will also experience the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to ride with Mike Williams Jr. on March 5<sup>th</sup> during the ceremonial start in downtown Anchorage.

While in Alaska, Stephanie and her family will participate in Iditarod festivities, including lunch with Mike, the musher banquet, and the official race start in Willow on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Stephanie would love to share her story and welcomes the opportunity to talk with media. To coordinate an interview, please contact Nicole Sheldon, Make-A-Wish Foundation Regional Director at 907-258-9476 prior to March 5<sup>th</sup> and at 907-360-5001 on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Celebrating 25 years of granting wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions, the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Alaska & Washington has brought hope, strength and joy to more than 4,500 local children through its wish granting process. This year, the local chapter will grant 332 wishes. For more information about the local chapter and how you can **share the power of a wish®** please call 877-510-WISH or visit [www.northwestwishes.org](http://www.northwestwishes.org).*

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#### Media Opportunity

- **WHAT:** Wish kid rides with the Iditarod’s Mike Williams Jr. in ceremonial start
- **WHEN:** March 5<sup>th</sup> around 9 a.m. (exact time yet TBD)
- **WHERE:** Downtown Anchorage