



Melissa Arias

President and CEO

Make-A-Wish® Alaska and Washington

Melissa oversees the strategic direction and day-to-day operations for Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington.

Melissa joined the local Make-A-Wish chapter in September 2018. She has 18 years of experience as a non-profit executive and previously served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Advancement & External Relations at the University of Washington's Bothell campus; Director of Development for the Domestic Abuse Women's Network (DAWN) and spent five years in private legal practice.

She has a Juris Doctorate degree from Seattle University School of Law, a bachelor's degree from the University of Washington. Melissa has also completed a certificate in non-profit management from Seattle University.

Melissa is passionate about working on behalf of children and families and has concentrated her volunteerism in that space. She is currently the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Scholarship Foundation of Northshore, a member of the Association for Fundraising Professionals and the Washington State Bar Association. She has served on numerous other boards and been a member of a variety of professional organizations.

When not at work she enjoys reading, spending time with family and cheering on the Huskies.

"History will judge us by the difference we make in the lives of children."
~ Nelson Mandela

Session(s)

Fostering an Organization that is Accessible and Welcoming