

The Dream Journal

July **2025**

CELEBRATING YOU AND THE DREAMS YOU MAKE POSSIBLE!

With precious little time left, you helped Elishaba "live and breathe life with joy."

Moments captured by Kait Taylor Photography.



Thank you for helping Elishaba give her daughter the perfect Sweet Sixteen

Elishaba overcame a traumatic start to build a life of her own with her two beloved children. Then she was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. Thankfully, you were there. Elishaba grew up in a ramshackle 341-squarefoot log cabin in the Sangre de Cristo mountains of New Mexico and then in a remote valley in the Alaskan wilderness.

She endured the most horrific, relentless abuse from her father, revealed in her memoir, "Out Of The Wilderness." Eventually, she gathered the courage to flee on a snowmobile.

Despite the ordeal of her early years, Elishaba found the strength to forgive her father.

She went on to have two children of her own—a son named Michael and a daughter named Esther.

Eleven-year-old Michael has special needs and requires constant care after a stroke left him partially paralyzed six years ago.

"He is my little sunshine," Elishaba says. "He has endured so much with a smile."

In February 2024, Elishaba was diagnosed with stage IV glioblastoma. Doctors did their best, but the treatments were aggressive and left her exhausted. In the end, Elishaba decided to stop.

When her doctor asked Elishaba what she wanted to do with the time she had left, she said, "love on my children."

Elishaba had seen how Esther selflessly helped care for her younger brother, and with her Sweet Sixteen approaching, she wanted to do something special just for her. But she needed help.

Elishaba reached out to Dream Foundation, sharing her Dream of celebrating her daughter's Sweet Sixteen in Hawaii, a trip Esther would remember for the rest of her life.



Esther will always remember the love that made her Sweet Sixteen possible.

Moments captured by <u>Kait Taylor Photograph</u>



"I want my children to remember a happy mother, not a sick and dying sad mother." – Elishaba, diagnosed with glioblastoma.

Once again, the Dream Foundation community opened their hearts and helped Elishaba spend a magical week in Kauai with Esther.

Alaska Airlines and Turo helped with transportation. Polynesian Adventure welcomed them as their guests at a luau, and Kaua'i Backcountry Adventures kindly donated an unforgettable mountain tubing experience.

Without your love and support, Elishaba's Dream would not have been possible.

Thank you for showing someone who knew no kindness for many years of her life that there are good, caring people in the world, and what it means when we are there for each other.

Ways to Give

In honor of Christina: A legacy of love and adventure

During Christina's breast cancer battle, two common themes emerged: to travel and see as many beautiful places as possible before her journey ended, and an emotional plea to never be forgotten.

Those sentiments inspired Christina's Fingerprint Fund, a Named Fund created by her parents in partnership with Dream Foundation to honor their beloved daughter.

The fund's name comes from a quote by author Judy Blume—"Our fingerprints don't fade from the lives we touch."

Named funds allow families to make charitable contributions, receive tax deductions, and then direct grants to causes close to their hearts.



"Our daughter, sister, aunt, friend, niece, and cousin who is so incredibly loved and missed by so many." - Christina's mom Wiesia

Wiesia explains, "Christina's Fingerprint Fund was established to help those who are battling cancer go on their own adventures, make beautiful memories with their loved ones, and fulfill a Dream that brings them joy."

The fund has helped U.S. Army veteran Michele take her Dream trip to Hawaii with her family after being diagnosed with terminal breast cancer at 39 years old.

Christina's fund will continue to touch the lives of others.

If you'd like to speak with someone at Dream Foundation about how you can create a legacy of Dreams, contact rita@dreamfoundation.org.

To learn more about Christina, please visit <u>www.ChristinaZajicek.com</u> or IG <u>@czajicek</u>

Welcome to your July Dream Journal!



Elishaba's childhood was the kind that can leave deep scars. Yet, after a remarkable escape from an abusive father, she grew into a loving mother of two.

She deserved a long and joyful life. But last year, she was diagnosed with a glioblastoma and given less than 12 months to live.

It's hard not to read her story and think how unfair life can be. But it also shows the incredible difference this compassionate community can make for families facing the end of life.

I'm so thankful for you.

You can read Elishaba's inspiring story in this edition of your Dream Journal. I know it will move you as much as it moved me.

With appreciation, Kisa Heyer, CEO, Dream Foundation

You can help make end-of-life Dreams come true with a gift of \$25.



Patricia's daughter wants to visit her mother!

Will you help?

Patricia is in hospice in Scottsburg, Indiana, with end-stage Alzheimer's. Her dedicated hospice team feels that she only has a few weeks left to live, if that.

It was Patricia's social worker who wrote to Dream Foundation for help.

Patricia has a daughter who lives in an RV in Arizona with her husband and companion animals. They can't leave the animals alone, so Patricia's social worker asked Dream Foundation for help to pay for gas that would allow Patricia's daughter to make the drive of over 2,000 miles to say goodbye to her mother.

Patricia's social worker and hospice team know that it would mean everything to Patricia to see her daughter one last time, and how important it is for her daughter to share precious final moments with her mother.

Dreams like Patricia's show that every second, every moment, and every gift counts, and how your kind support can transform someone's end-of-life journey.

Thank you for being there.



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS & MAILING ADDRESS | 1528 CHAPALA STREET, SUITE 304, SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101