

Danielle Craven
Two-Column Storyboard

July 2, 2011 Dear Mazlyn,	Image of a letter
I am writing to you from Sitka and want to share with you a story from our life that I want you to keep in your heart forever.	Picture of Sitka scenery.
Your father and I finished off a successful school year, proud we had brought you into this earth. Our Groundhog's day baby, Mazlyn Jean, your namesake is Marr'aq (Oscar Lekander), Nayangaq (the late Mrs. Kilbuck),	Picture of Mazzy as a newborn.
and Aliaq, your grandma's youngest brother.	Picture of Ali
When you were just 3 months old we left Bethel to introduce you to your Michigan Craven family.	Picture of the state of Michigan
You were an angel flying 10 hours to Detroit.	Picture of Mazzy in airplane.
Your Craven family loved you and dreaded the day you left.	Picture of Mazzy with Craven family.
We had to move to the little town of Sitka in Southeast Alaska so I could finish my Master's of Arts in Teaching program, a place we had never been.	Picture of Sitka.
Something I want you to know is that the circumstances we moved under were very stressful. I had to finish the program or else I'd risk losing certification and a career in teaching, Daddy didn't want to leave his family only after seeing them for two weeks after two years, Dad would also miss the beginning of his XC season, and we didn't have a place set up to stay in for the summer. The rental fell through, the dorms fell through and we had no where to stay 24	Picture of a dark sky.

hours before we arrived.	
But, Someone had us on His mind. The morning of June 5, a day after my 28 th birthday, I looked into your beautiful bright eyes for strength. I told my professor that I was unsure about finishing because of our housing situation. He told us to go to Juneau but I knew that wasn't possible. I contemplated changing plans and was slowly being trampled by obstacles all around me. We were set to leave your Uncle Heaths house, and I felt a hopeless.	Close up of Mazzy.
But, then the phone rang and it was the voice on the other line that startled me, it was one I had never heard, Chester Rathbun, but a call that changed our lives forever.	Picture of a phone.
We arrived in Sitka the next afternoon and climbed into the maroon suburban, sounding just like a Bethel truck, the muffler groaning and blaring. We arrived at 101 Cascade Creek Road, right next to the United Pentecostal Church.	Picture of Parsonage.
Kristen, Stewart and Colby welcomed us.	Picture of Rathbun family.
They immediately loved you and loved us for who we were. Every morning Steward and Colby sang to you and you especially loved, "Father Abraham."	Picture of Mazzy with boys.
While in Sitka, you started to roll, pull yourself up,	Picture of her rolling
and eat oatmeal and rice cereal. Sweet potatoes gave you gas and bananas gave you a sour face.	Picture of her eating.
Each week, Monday through Friday, from 9-4, mom had to go to school and you and daddy played all day long.	Picture of Mazzy and daddy
You went fishing on the ocean, hiked along the beach and had fun at the playgrounds.	Picture of Mazzy outside on the beach.
Most importantly, living with our new family, the Rathbun's, showed us how important it is to love God and know Him. He made a way for us to be in Sitka. He placed us in a safe and loving home.	Picture of a bright sunset.

He gave mom the strength to finish her education goals. He gave dad the strength to care for you day in and day out. And he gave you a special spirit as you grew from being 4 months to 6 months.	Picture of family at graduation.
There is much more that we did and saw, but this is what I want you to know for now. I love you. Mommy	Picture of mom and Mazzy.