



Dear Matías

Twenty Four years ago you came into our world and changed us forever. I couldn't wait to be your mom and to watch you grow into the amazing young man you became. Of course you know I want to tell you in person and give you the biggest and longest hug, but since I can't, I write you a letter each year. So here I go..... I don't want today to be a day about losing you, but a day about celebrating you. You filled our world with profound happiness each and every day of your 19 and a half years with us. I want to share a couple of dreams and thoughtsbut tears are rushing out of my eyes faster than I can type. I really didn't think I would be this much of a mess, but here I am on a rainy day in Charlotte, listening to sad holiday music missing you so.....

I woke up this morning to another beautiful and thoughtful message from Miia --once again thanking me for bringing her favorite human (who made her laugh and love so easily) into existence. I tell her she is welcome and I also marvel at the fact that you brought Miia into our world. It all means something --we are supposed to be connected because of you. What you meant to so many people who were lucky enough to know you and spend time with you. You made such a difference, I hope you knew that in some small part of you. I close my eyes and I can see your smirky half smile and hear your soft steady voice, its like you are with us. It's comforting.

I want to tell stories and laugh about silly things you did, I want to imagine you being healthy and happy and living your best life back in Boston—maybe living with one of the Jacks (Hogan and/or Riedell), it would have been great to see you reconnect with old friends. Attend a Red sox or Bruins game at the spur of the moment or meet your brother or the Clossey boys out for a beer. I know they are all trying to live their best lives because of you, to honor you and to carry your selflessness and kindness forward. That is all I can really ever hope for, is that each and every person you touched in your short life goes on to spread love and joy the way you did. You brought unimaginable joy to us and you leave us with unimaginable grief, but it's ok, I don't ever want to lose the grief, it reminds me that you are still so very close to my heart and a part of me.

I think you would be really pleased to hear that Mason asked to join the MRF board this year, he is our VP of Public Relations. He focuses on our social media and highlights some of the great work we have done this year, from awarding the annual MRF Character Award and Scholarship to deserving high school hockey player, Asher Camero (who is a goalie no less, Mason was excited to hear that), to our annual fundraiser at Top Golf in August which was a great result enabling us to give funds to NAMI Charlotte as they launch a cutting edge public support database called the NAMI Navigator that will help to connect people in need with current and available resources, and MRF was the presenting sponsor at NAMI's annual walk for hope in November. As we look forward to 2026, we are setting our sights on Katie's Blessing (www.katiesblessingcenter.org) --which is the first under 18 residential behavioral health facility in the state of NC set to open late 2026. Prior to this facility, children often had to leave the state to get longer term help that so many are in need of. We are really excited about supporting this worthy cause. We want to continue bring awareness, help and hope to those affected by

mental health in your name, and in your honor. You only wanted to help others; it's the selflessness that always shined through. In that vein and as in years past, Mason, your Dad and I will bring a trunk load of gifts to children in need this holiday season, just like you used to when you were growing up to celebrate your birthday. Our main donation site will be The Matthews Help Center ([Home - Matthews Help Center](#)) this year. We are humbled to do this in your memory and be your representatives to spread love.

I don't want this letter to end, but know we won't ever stop celebrating you. We love you, we cherish your memories with us and we hope you are at peace. We miss you every second of everyday. We want you to know today and always that you are loved. Happy 24th Birthday, sweet Matías.

Please toast to Matías today, share a smile and a memory. He would love for us all to take the time this holiday season to think of others and donate our time or resources to kids in need. He leaves a legacy of love, proud parents, family and friends who call him our son, brother and friend. We appreciate your support and friendship. Hug your loved ones and keep making beautiful memories. www.matiasrosadofoundation.org