National Collegiate Cancer Foundation 2011 Scholarship Winners

Bailey Barna was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma at the age of 17. As a result of her cancer diagnosis, Bailey became determined "to live my life ON purpose, WITH purpose." Going through chemotherapy and radiation has prepared for the challenges of life, and she is ready to make that life as big and bold as she can. Her advice to other cancer survivors is to fully acknowledge the emotional ups and downs, and use them to develop coping skills and lean on others for help. Bailey's positive outlook is felt by everyone around her. Her close friend wrote that she was inspired by Bailey to become a nurse, and continue to keep hope present in the lives of others. Bailey is entering her sophomore year at Seattle Pacific University with an interest in international studies and political science. Her goal is pursue a career in non-profit management to serve the needs of others both in the U.S. and worldwide. Bailey celebrated her first year in her remission February 2011.

Jimmy Fowkes diagnosed with brain cancer at age 13, doctors told his parents that completing high school would be difficult and college out of the question. Still undergoing treatment five years later, Jimmy is now a sophomore at Stanford University. Active in Lance Armstrong Foundation, he has raised \$200,000 for cancer advocacy and research. He advises other young cancer survivors to take care of themselves and "remember that things like school and work will always be there – but we only get one life."

Katherine Frega was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma at age 17 at the end of her junior year of high school. She is currently undergoing treatment while in school and will be a freshman at Syracuse in fall 2011 studying pre-medicine to become a pediatric oncologist. Her love of lacrosse has inspired her to treat her treatment like a lacrosse game, which motivates her to fight through, even in overtime.

Chloe Greenbaum was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma at age 16 and is now a senior studying pre-medicine at Dartmouth College. She hopes to be a pediatric oncologist one day, inspired by her own experiences. She has also been inspired to "pay forward" all of the support she's received and through her school's cancer society helps other cancer survivors with chores and things they made need help with while undergoing treatment.

Destiny Himmel will be the first member of her family to attend college when she starts her degree in cinematic production at Pierce College in the fall of 2011. Diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at age 16, her mother was her inspiration for fighting. She believes that the cancer survivors she has met are some of the most courageous and inspiring people. Thankful for a second chance at life, she is active advocating in the cancer community.

Cassie Hines has been fighting kidney cancer for three years and continues to pursue her degree in speech pathology at Michigan State University. After one doctor told her there was nothing to do but "make a bucket list and live life to the fullest," she was motivated to prove him wrong. She graduated high school on time, despite going through treatments for her senior year and remains on track to graduate with her class and plans to study abroad in Spain next year.

Amanda Mikel is working on her degree in early childhood education at Arkansas Northeastern College while raising a 4-year-old son. She was first diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at age 21 when she was 8 weeks pregnant. She lost that child and had a recurrence of the cancer when she was pregnant again. She delivered her son early and uses her "will win" attitude to motive her and her family.

Clare Scheller was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia just following high school graduation. Although a severe infection and hospitalization required her leg be amputated and her postpone college, she will start as a freshman at Indiana University in the fall of 2011. She will study psychology in hopes of talking to adolescent cancer survivors. She encourages others to "not let cancer define you, but rather challenge you to make the most of a difficult time."

Jaclyn Tabor was celebrating newly married life and excelling in her sociology Ph.D. program at Indiana University when she was diagnosed with breast cancer (invasive ductal carcinoma) at age 23. She adjusted treatments around her class work and research and continues with the program on schedule. She enjoys making jewelry and has started her own small business to help with finances. She encourages newly diagnosed young adults to find joy in the little things – i.e. bubble baths and day trips! She dreams of a one day taking an African safari.

Jasan Zimmerman is a three-time neuroblastoma and thyroid cancer survivor (ages 1, 15 & 21). After attempting to ignore and move beyond his cancer for 30 years, he has decided he would like to work in cancer advocacy. He is currently working on a master's degree in non-profit administration at the University of San Francisco and hopes to work for a cancer non-profit upon completion.

AnnaLynn Surace is a 25 year old graduate student pursuing her Master's in Epidemiology at the University at Buffalo. She was diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia at the age of 22 and relapsed at 24. Despite having undergone chemo, radiation, full bone marrow transplant & four months of hospitalization over the past few years, she achieved a 4.0 grade point average. She wants to dedicate her professional career researching ways to understand and improve survivorship for cancer fighters like herself. In addition to steadfastly pursing school, AnnaLynn has maintained an amazing balance in her life. Although difficult, she exercises regularly and even completed a 5k within just one year post-transplant. Anna Lynn is extremely active in the cancer community, both as an advocate, fundraiser & mentor to other survivors. She is involved with Relay for Life and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Through it all, AnnaLynn has remained a devoted friend and is always "ready to share her beautiful smile with those around her," as cited in her recommendation letter. Her friend goes on to write, "It is astonishing that in this age where self-involvement seems to becoming the norm, a girl with every excuse to be focused on her own well-being finds so much time and energy to help others."