



ELLE FOUNDATION, INC.

*In Loving Memory of Lauren "ELLE" Richmond
June 6, 1993 – December 20, 2008*

**Creating Memories of Joy for Children
With Cancer & Granting Final Wishes
for Children Battling a Recurrence**



The Heart of the ELLE Foundation

At the age of 10, Lauren "ELLE" Richmond was diagnosed with a very rare and tenacious chordoma tumor on her brainstem. For over five years Lauren fought numerous recurrences. She knew that a recurrence is more emotionally and physically devastating than a first diagnosis. Lauren would say: "With a first diagnosis, you have a plan. You go through surgery, chemo, and radiation with the hope and faith that you are going to get better. It's a terrible thing to go through, but there's hope. Then all of a sudden, whether it's a month, a year, or two years, it comes back. Now you feel...why can't I catch a break, what did I do wrong?" In her final days Lauren wrote, **I AM UP TO YOU** – and charged her parents, Laurie & Dean and older sister, Dana, with taking care of **her final wish & foundation**, which Lauren defined as the "**Reason for Her Journey**". Lauren's mission for the **ELLE** Foundation is to give children with a recurrence of cancer and their families a moment to forget, to laugh, to rejuvenate their spirits. Lauren continues to teach us that with love, perseverance, courage, and compassion for others you can turn a terrifying experience into something good and make a difference in the world.

Why is the ELLE Foundation Important to Children with a Recurrence of Cancer? What Makes Us Different from Other Wish Granting Organizations?

The **ELLE** Foundation is the only wish granting organization whose primary mission is to grant final wishes for children battling a recurrence of cancer. Many of **ELLE's** wish children are on palliative or hospice care, so time is of the essence in fulfilling their wishes. Their recurrence of cancer is often a secondary cancer caused by the chemo that was used as the treatment for their first diagnosis. When medical options may be coming to an end, all a child and their family wants and needs, is a moment of joy in their lives. With your support, the **ELLE** Foundation is here to create memories that their hearts will treasure forever.

Join ELLE's Wish Team

The **ELLE** Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is operated on a 100% volunteer basis - staffed by Laurie, Dean, Dana and a family of volunteers. Our financial support comes from the generous donations of family, friends, community organizations & businesses all touched by Lauren's journey and the journeys of **ELLE's** Kids. With the average wish costing between \$4,00 and \$8,000, with your support, our goal is to never turn a wish child away due to a lack of funds.

- The **ELLE** Foundation, Inc. qualifies for many organizations' matching gift programs.
 - Direct your workplace charitable giving donation to the **ELLE** Foundation Inc., Bridgewater, NJ.
- Nominate the **ELLE** Foundation to receive a donation from your employer, school, sports team, local club or organization.

To learn more and make a donation, please visit our website at www.ElleFoundation.org
ELLE Foundation holds the GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency.

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