



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 suddenly, 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?

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.

Although we cannot grant the one wish every family longs for, ELLE can give them the gift of precious memories that will live in their hearts always.

To meet **ELLE's Kids & Grant a Wish
visit us at
www.ElleFoundation.org**

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