

For immediate release
Contact: Bre Gregg
Communications
bgregg@joyrx.org
503-200-5104

Twenty-five Children & Teens Named “2009 Community Heroes”

The Annual Award Recognizes Courage in Those Battling Life-threatening Illnesses

August 31, 2009 - The Portland-based Children’s Cancer Association (CCA) is pleased to announce the **2009 Community Heroes**, a group of 25 children and teens recognized for their exceptional courage, wisdom, and grace in the face of serious medical challenges. Eight of the Heroes reside in the Portland Metro Area.

Community Heroes are selected each year from a group of 100 children and teens nominated by local medical professionals, and represent a diverse group in terms of age, ethnicity, and diagnosis. The Portland-based **Children’s Cancer Association** created the award and manages the program.

The Children’s Cancer Association announces its roster of **Community Heroes** each August. The award is given to children and teens in Oregon and Southwest Washington, and honorees enjoy “Hero” status for the next twelve months.

Community Heroes are honored throughout the year with the **Wall of Courage**, a traveling display that features photographs and information about each honoree. The wall celebrates the remarkable achievements of each Hero, and serves as inspiration for everyone who visits this display.

The Wall of Courage will be unveiled **Sunday, September 13** at CCA’s annual **Celebration of Courage Family Festival**, a free event that takes place each year at the **World Trade Center in downtown Portland** (1st Ave. and Salmon St.). The Wall is the centerpiece of the festival, which runs from **noon till 4 pm** with no admission charge. The Celebration of Courage Family Festival is an all-ages event with live music, face-painting, arts and crafts activities, and balloon art, all free of charge.

The Children’s Cancer Association is a non-profit organization that provides seriously ill children and their families with programs and services not offered by other organizations. CCA provides a multi-tiered service to families at no cost, offering the **Music Rx**[®] and **Chemo Pal**[®] in-hospital programs, special gifts and financial support through the **LifeSupport Family Enrichment** program, and use of a family retreat home on the Oregon coast, **the Caring Cabin**[™].

For general information, contact CCA at **503-244-3141** or visit **www.JoyRx.org**.

SEE 2009 COMMUNITY HEROES PORTRAITS ATTACHED HERE. All photographs by Joni Kabana. Jpeg photo files available on request. Contact Bre Gregg, 503-200-5104 / bgregg@joyrx.org.

2009 Community Heroes

Children and teens recognized for their courage and grace in battling serious illnesses.

The Community Heroes Award is a program of the **Children's Cancer Association**.

For more information contact Bre Gregg, Communications, at 503-200-5104 / bgregg@joyrx.org.



Jayden Alvin-Anderson
Vancouver, Washington



Amos Anzures-Linares
Portland, Oregon



Nadia Ellsworth
Portland, Oregon



Cole Flack (right)
Fall Creek, Oregon



Jendra Gamel
Beaverton, Oregon



Amber Gentry (right)
Portland, Oregon

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Avarie Giles (center)
Battle Ground, Washington



Karime Gutierrez (left)
Portland, Oregon



Cedehlia Jeffers
Molalla, Washington



Cole Johanson (center)
Portland, Oregon



Aamir Khandwalla (right)
Portland, Oregon



Malakai Mack (center)
Portland, Oregon

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Liam McNassar
Tigard, Oregon



Cooper Miller
Sweet Home, Oregon



Sherod Nichols (center)
Longview, Washington



Derek Quintero-Cruz
Vancouver, Washington



Brianna Roach (right)
Hillsboro, Oregon



Ashley Roth
Lake Oswego, Oregon

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Maria Ruiz (right)
Kelso, Washington



Anthony Signorelli
Beaverton, Oregon



Matthew Stone (center)
La Pine, Oregon



Lopaka Swope (center)
Aloha, Oregon



Caden Thrasher
Redmond, Oregon



Eli Walker (center)
Wilsonville, Oregon

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Shaniqua Warren (right)
Portland, Oregon