

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 18, 2009

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Ready, Set, Go... The Journey Forward After Childhood Cancer Treatment
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to host very special event on March 14th for young cancer
survivors and their families

The CT Chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society invites young cancer survivors and their families to a free program, “***Ready, Set, Go... The Journey Forward After Childhood Cancer Treatment.***” Presented with support from the Connecticut Challenge, *Ready, Set, Go...* will feature specialists from the HEROS Clinic at Yale University, Yale Pediatric Neuropsychology, CancerCare of CT and Wind Over Wings who will work with children and their parents to explore issues that young children and families may face as cancer survivors. This special event will take place on Saturday, March 14th from 10am-2pm at the Eli Whitney Children’s Museum in Hamden, CT. Due to space restrictions, attendance will be limited.

Ready, Set, Go... will start with the **Soaring with Hope** program, where guests will meet Skywalker, a golden eagle, and his three rescued bird friends and become inspired by their stories of recovery, rehabilitation, and Survivorship. A complimentary lunch will be served, followed by **Crafting Ways to Cope**, for Children and Adolescents and **Being Proactive: Understanding the emotional and learning challenges a child can face as a cancer survivor**; for parents and adult family members. The event will end with an ice cream social.

The treatment of childhood cancer is one of oncology’s great success stories. Most children and young adults under age 20 diagnosed with cancer prior to 1970 had little hope of being cured. Since then, cure rates, as measured in five-year survival, have increased to 78 percent (Ries et al., 2002). Consequently, the size of the population of survivors of childhood cancer has grown dramatically—to 270,000 individuals of all ages as of 1997. This translates into about 1 in 640 adults between the ages of 20 to 39 who have a history of cancer and it’s estimated to increase to 1 in 250 young adults by the year 2010.

Not widely recognized are the unintended consequences of this success. Along with the impressive gains in survival have come “late effects,” which may impair some survivors’ health and quality of life. These late effects include complications, disabilities, or adverse outcomes that are the result of the disease process, the treatment, or both. Patterns of late effects have emerged among subgroups of childhood cancer survivors that have contributed to an appreciation of cancer as a chronic disease with implications for continuing care.

Ready, Set, Go... is a free event, but space is limited. To register or for more information, please contact Shelley Carpenter, Patient Services Manager, at The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Phone: (203) 427-2049 or email: shelley.carpenter@lls.org

About the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society® (LLS) is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer. The LLS mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world and provides free information and support services.

Founded in 1949 and headquartered in White Plains, NY, LLS has chapters throughout the United States and Canada. To learn more, visit www.LLS.org or contact the Information Resource Center at (800) 955-4572, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET. www.lls.org.

About the Connecticut Challenge

The Connecticut Challenge is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing greater services and resources to Connecticut's 120,000 cancer survivors. Founded in 2005, the organization funds special cancer survivorship clinics for adults and children at Yale Cancer Center, a children's survivorship clinic at Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford and a new survivorship program at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport.

Funding for Connecticut Challenge programs comes primarily from the CT Challenge bike ride, a non-competitive ride based in Fairfield, CT that raises money for survivorship clinics, research grants, symposiums and survivor education and awareness events. Riders of all ages and skill levels can register for a 12, 25, 50, 75 or 100-mile ride and raise funds from personal sponsors to support their efforts. The 2009 Connecticut Challenge will take place on Saturday, July 25th, starting and finishing in Fairfield, CT. To register to ride, volunteer or make a contribution, please visit www.ctchallenge.org.