



For Immediate Release

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LOCAL STUDENT NAMED CHILDHOOD CANCER SCHOLAR

WASHINGTON, DC – The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy (CCCA) is pleased to announce that Amelia Corl, a graduate of Nansemond River High School in Suffolk, is a CCCA College Scholar award recipient. Amelia is a survivor of Hodgkin's lymphoma and is currently attending The College of William & Mary, planning to graduate this spring and pursue a master's program in the fall.

As a CCCA College Scholar, Amelia will receive a \$2,000 academic scholarship and will complete an advocacy project that benefits children with cancer. Amelia was selected as one of two award recipients based on her academic achievements, letters of recommendation and chosen advocacy project.

Amelia was an 18-year-old freshman at William & Mary when she suddenly found herself thrust into the world of cancer with a diagnosis of Hodgkin's lymphoma. Amelia encountered significant hurdles as a cancer patient in a university environment — there was no comprehensive medical leave policy and no survivorship support groups. She had to delay her education to undergo chemotherapy and radiation. After achieving remission, she returned to school with a new host of challenges, including the fear of relapse, concerns about insurance coverage, lingering late effects from her treatment, and social isolation.

This fall, Amelia will begin her graduate studies in a health field. She plans to start up a new student organization for young adults who have survived serious childhood illnesses like cancer and those who are managing chronic diseases like diabetes. Amelia's organization will be a support group but also an advocacy network that works to tackle policies around medical leave, student accessibility, and student health resources — finding solutions to the same problems that plagued her as a patient and student.

"This project is important to me because I have nothing like this in my life now. It is difficult to heal in isolation and it is essential that we meet the growing needs of young survivors. We need to expand our resources to help the growing number of childhood cancer survivors thrive as they move into adult lives," said Amelia.

At William & Mary, Amelia serves as a Wellness Ambassador for the McLeod Tyler Wellness Center and sits on the Counseling Center Advisory Committee. She's also served as a leader at William & Mary's chapter of Active Minds, an organization dedicated to encouraging dialogue among students regarding mental health issues.

"It may be hard for our voices to be heard individually, but together we are a powerful group of uniquely strong and insightful young people," said Amelia. "We can survive and thrive together, as a community, better than we can alone."

The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy (CCCA) is the leading national advocacy organization working to achieve access to less toxic and more effective pediatric cancer therapies; to expand resources for research and specialized care; and to address the unique needs and challenges of childhood cancer survivors and their families. CCCA leads efforts to ensure that these needs and perspectives of children with cancer are integrated into the highest deliberations on health care and cancer policy at the Federal level.