



Teens and Young Adults Get it Together

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Christina DiBaudo, 13thirty Cancer Connect
christina@13thirty.org
office 585-563-6221
mobile: 585-704-8701

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Rochester-Based 13thirty Cancer Connect to
Open Location in **Syracuse** in July**

The Organization founded to “make a difference, to make things better” aims to serve adolescents and young adults affected by cancer in the Central New York area

WHAT: 13thirty Cancer Connect, a Rochester-based organization that helps adolescents and young adults with cancer live their very best lives, is moving down the Thruway to open a Syracuse location for teens and young adults in the Central New York Region. The organization has been home to hundreds of teens and young adults with cancer since 2001, thanks to the vision of Executive Director, Lauren Spiker, who lost her daughter, Melissa, at the age of 19 to the disease.

Why Syracuse? And why now?

A Syracuse teen named Charlie Poole used to travel 95 miles with his mom to meet new friends who understood. His love for 13thirty Cancer Connect, a place so vital for patients and survivors alike, became the driving force behind the organization’s planned expansion to Syracuse. Charlie looked for resources and support for others like him in his community, and found what he was looking for at 13thirty.

Sadly, Charlie died in August 2018, leaving a hole in the hearts of all that knew him. His family directed donations in his memory to 13thirty Cancer Connect. These funds were added to memorial donations given in honor of a Rochester teen, Hannah Metzler, who died from cancer in 2014. Donations made in her memory were also earmarked for 13thirty’s next community-based center.

13thirty has pledged to make a difference for teens like Charlie and Hannah in the Syracuse area with its second location in their honor.

WHO: Lauren Spiker, Executive Director, 13thirty Cancer Connect; 13thirty teens, young adults and families; 13thirty friends and donors; civic leaders including NYS Senator, Rachel May; key sponsors including representatives from the Jim and Juli Boenheim Foundation, CNY Community Foundation, and Wegmans; hospital staff from Upstate University Hospital.

WHEN: Thursday, July 11, 2019

Grand Opening - 9:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

***An Open House will immediately follow a brief ceremony and ribbon-cutting.**

WHERE: I3thirty Cancer Connect

1035 7th North Street, Suite E

Liverpool, NY 13088

Editor's Note: Lauren Spiker, honored guests, and I3thirty Cancer Connect teens, young adults, and families will be available before and after the event for interviews.

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