



## Festival of Heroes Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Festival of Heroes Announces 2009 Hero Honorees**

*Sixteen-year-old leukemia survivor and Children's National Medical Center  
social worker to be honored at November 14 event*

Washington, D.C. – Festival of Heroes, the premier fundraising event for the Cancer Program at Children's National Medical Center, today announced its 2009 Hero Honorees, Kate Kiernan and Lynn Hardesty.

Kate Kiernan is a 16-year-old cancer survivor from Chevy Chase, Md. In 2008, Kate was diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukemia. She underwent treatment at the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children's National Medical Center under the direction of Dr. Reuven Schore. In June 2008, Kate's leukemia was declared in remission and she was able to return to school that fall. Kate attends Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, where she plays on the tennis team and enjoys writing and studying literature.

Lynn Hardesty, a clinical social worker with over 19 years of experience, will also be honored. Lynn works at the Patient and Family Support Program in the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children's National. In her position, Lynn has developed a program of supportive services for patients and families undergoing treatment. These programs range from counseling to help families manage the effects of diagnosis and treatment through specialized activities and educational programs to alternative support programs such as art and music therapy. Earlier this year, the Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers named Lynn the Social Worker of the Year.

"I am really honored to be a Hero at this year's Festival of Heroes," said Kate Kiernan. "But the real heroes here are the nurses who came to my room early in the morning and late at night, the doctors who worked long hours for me, and the friends and family members who supported me every step of the way."

"As a 2009 Festival of Heroes honoree, I hope that I can help tell the incredible stories of strength, courage, and compassion at I see every day at Children's National," stated Lynn Hardesty. "The Center for Blood and Cancer Disorders is a place where talented doctors, nurses, and caregivers work tirelessly every day to bring a brighter future to all of our

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patients. I am proud to receive this award and welcome the opportunity to tell the hopeful stories of our patients.”

Festival of Heroes is a night of cocktails, dinner, and dancing that will be held this year on Saturday, November 14 at the Bethesda North Marriott. The event is co-chaired by Deidre Adkins, who founded the event in 2007, and Allison Portnoy. This year, Festival of Heroes aims to raise more than \$250,000 to support the efforts at Children’s National to cure childhood cancer.

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### **About Children’s National Medical Center**

Children’s National Medical Center, based in Washington, D.C., is a leader in the development of innovative new treatments for childhood illness and injury. Among the top pediatric hospitals in America, as ranked by both U.S. News & World Report and the prestigious Leapfrog Group, Children’s National has served the nation’s children for more than 135 years. For more information, visit [www.childrensnational.org](http://www.childrensnational.org).