



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## **The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Washington D.C. Chapter Announces Local 2021 Students of the Year Winners of Whittle School and Studios and Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School**

*— Local High School Students Relentless in Virtual Fundraising Shatter National Records for Much Needed Cancer Research & Support —*

**Washington, D.C. 3/15/2021** – Every nine minutes, somebody in the U.S. dies of a blood cancer. And, in today's times of uncertainty, cancer patients need support now, more than ever. Through The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Washington D.C. Chapter's innovative fundraising campaign, Students of the Year, more than 91 motivated high school candidates broke both local and national records by raising **over \$3 Million in just 7 weeks** through virtual fundraising for LLS's cutting-edge cancer research and patient services. Team CUREsaders led by Calla O'Neil (Junior at Whittle School and Studios in Washington DC), Ella Song (Junior at Whittle School and Studios), and Kaeden Koons-Perdikis (Sophomore at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School in Washington, DC), raised the most funds across the D.C. Region and earned the winning title, "Students of the Year." These fundraising superstars raised funds to support LLS's goal of finding cures for blood cancers and ensuring that patients have access to lifesaving treatments.

Students of the Year is a seven-week philanthropic leadership development program during which students foster professional skills such as entrepreneurship, marketing, and project management in order to raise funds for LLS, a global leader in the fight against cancer. This year's campaign was executed through virtual fundraising events only. The title Student(s) of the Year is awarded to the candidate or co-candidates in each community who raises the most funds during the competition. Top local fundraisers become eligible to win the national title. The students raise money in honor of a local patient hero who is currently battling or is in remission from a blood cancer.

"Congratulations to Calla, Kaeden, and Ella and all our candidates, supporters and volunteers who helped to make Students of the Year a huge success. Despite fundraising in a virtual world, they never lost hope," said Ria Freyberg, LLS's Mid-Atlantic Executive Director. They remained committed to the over 1.3 million people living with or in remission from a blood



cancer, many of whom are children. For these individuals, it's not just about winning a title; it's all about the impact they are making in their communities and the generations ahead of them."

First runners up were awarded to Team Gators Beat Blood Cancer led by Emma Dowd, Katie Yost, and Jules Ciatto (Juniors at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, MD) and Second Runners up was awarded to Team Panthers Against Cancer led by Sofia Fernandez ('21) and Ava Curley ('22) (From The Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, MD).

The record-breaking grand total was raised as a result of combined efforts from all 42 teams lead by 91 candidates with over 400 team members. Full list of candidates below:

Madison A. from Academy of The Holy Cross Class of 2022  
Samantha A. from James W Robinson, Jr. Secondary School Class of 2021  
Elson B. from Sidwell Friends School Class of 2023  
Citiana B. from Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School Class of 2022  
Sophia B. from Bullis School Class of 2023  
Jake B. from Justice High School Class of 2021  
Hogan B. from Connelly School of the Holy Child Class of 2022  
Franco B. from Gonzaga College High School Class of 2023  
Ainona B. from James Madison High School Class of 2021  
Addison B. from Academy of the Holy Cross Class of 2021  
Jules C. from Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart Class of 2022  
Katrina C. from South County High School Class of 2022  
MC C. from Connelly School of the Holy Child Class of 2021  
Anna C. from Yorktown High School Class of 2022  
Sofia C. from Quince Orchard High School Class of 2022  
Colby C. from Damascus High School Class of 2023  
Elizabeth C. from Damascus High School Class of 2023  
Caitlin C. from Walt Whitman High School Class of 2024  
Ava C. from The Holton-Arms School Class of 2022  
Mary Katherine D. from Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School Class of 2022  
Maddie D. from Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School Class of 2021  
Emma D. from Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart Class of 2022  
Ethan E. from St. Albans School Class of 2022  
Ben E. from Bishop O'Connell High School Class of 2022  
Ella F. from Chantilly High School Class of 2021  
Gavin F. from Chantilly High School Class of 2023  
Sofia F. from The Holton-Arms School Class of 2021  
Ella F. from Academy of the Holy Cross Class of 2021  
Mia F. from National Cathedral School Class of 2022  
Alyssa F. from Oakton High School Class of 2023  
Megan G. from Connelly School of the Holy Child Class of 2022



Tess G. from Academy of The Holy Cross Class of 2022  
Benji G. from Gonzaga College High School Class of 2023  
Sofia G. from Sidwell Friends School Class of 2023  
Alex G. from Georgetown Day School Class of 2023  
Aubrey G. from Washington-Liberty High School Class of 2021  
Cali H. from Walt Whitman High School Class of 2022  
Elissa H. from Washington-Liberty High School Class of 2022  
Natalie H. from Quince Orchard High School Class of 2023  
Will H. from T.C. Williams High School Class of 2022  
Emory I. from Washington-Liberty High School Class of 2021  
Deuce I. from W. T. Woodson High School Class of 2022  
Gevvie Johnson Walt Whitman High School Class of 2022  
Kennedy K. from Oakton High School Class of 2021  
Claire K. from Connelly School of the Holy Child Class of 2022  
Allison K. from Yorktown High School Class of 2023  
Jamie K. from Georgetown Day School Class of 2022  
Kaeden K. from Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School Class of 2023  
Victoria L. from Georgetown Day School Class of 2023  
Grace M. from Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School Class of 2021  
Jack M. from St. Albans School Class of 2022  
Grace M. from Justice High School Class of 2022  
Kalle M. from Yorktown High School Class of 2022  
Katie M. from T C Williams High School Class of 2022  
Christina M. from Walter Johnson High School Class of 2021  
Michael M. from James W Robinson, Jr. Secondary School Class of 2022  
Alexandra M. from T C Williams High School Class of 2022  
Taylor M. from The Madeira School Class of 2022  
Shirin M. from James W Robinson, Jr. Secondary School Class of 2022  
Katie M. from St. John's College High School Class of 2022  
Cate N. from Walt Whitman High School Class of 2022  
Tessa N. from Walter Johnson High School Class of 2021  
Amanda O. from The Madeira School Class of 2022  
Calla O. from Whittle School and Studios Class of 2022  
Therese O. from St. John's College High School Class of 2022  
Meghan P. from South County High School Class of 2021  
Valeska P. from St. Andrews Episcopal School Class of 2022  
Sydney P. from Yorktown High School Class of 2022  
Salonee R. from James W Robinson, Jr. Secondary School Class of 2022  
Kylie R. from Bishop O'Connell High School Class of 2021  
Amelia R. from Langley High School Class of 2022  
Isabella R. from Oakton High School Class of 2022



Holly S. from Yorktown High School Class of 2021  
Sophia S. from Academy of the Holy Cross Class of 2022  
Henry S. from Justice High School Class of 2021  
Lyndsey S. from Bullis School Class of 2023  
Kendra S. from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Class of 2022  
Ella S. from Whittle School and Studios Class of 2022  
Ashley S. from Oakton High School Class of 2022  
Anna S. from Langley High School Class of 2022  
Emery S. from James Madison High School Class of 2023  
Ella S. from James Madison High School Class of 2022  
Hannah T. from Academy of the Holy Cross Class of 2021  
Grace T. from Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School Class of 2022  
Andria T. from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Class of 2022  
Ike W. from James W Robinson, Jr. Secondary School Class of 2022  
Molly W. from Washington-Liberty High School Class of 2022  
Matthew W. from James Madison High School Class of 2021  
Bailey W. from Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School Class of 2022  
Katie Y. from Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart Class of 2022  
Naureen Z. from James W Robinson, Jr. Secondary School Class of 2022

Thank you to our generous sponsors Aurora Innovations and Wilkinson Stekloff along with our media partners, ABC7 and Washingtonian.

To learn more about LLS's Students of the Year program and how it might work for you or someone you know, visit: [www.Studentsoftheyear.org](http://www.Studentsoftheyear.org).

### **About The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society**

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society® (LLS) is a global leader in the fight against 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, provides free information and support services, and is the voice for all blood cancer patients seeking access to quality, affordable, coordinated care.

Founded in 1949 and headquartered in Rye Brook, NY, LLS has chapters throughout the United States and Canada. To learn more, visit [www.LLS.org](http://www.LLS.org). Patients should contact the Information Resource Center at (800) 955-4572, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET. For additional information visit [lls.org/lls-newsnetwork](http://lls.org/lls-newsnetwork). Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

### **About The Mid-Atlantic Region**



LLS serves more than 150 markets across the country. These markets are grouped into 27 Regions and the Mid-Atlantic is one of the highest revenue-generating regions in the nation. The Mid-Atlantic serves Washington, D.C.; Maryland; and the Virginia Counties of Loudoun, Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria and Prince William. In 2020 LLS invested \$1.3 million locally towards research, we reached 1,690 households through education & outreach and 629 patients were connected with support services.

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