

Be Loud! Sophie Foundation

Supporting Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Patients and Their Families at UNC Hospitals



The inspiration behind Be Loud! Sophie Foundation is Sophie Steiner. A sophomore at East Chapel Hill High School, Sophie was an incredibly courageous and generous spirit with a passion for photography, dance, and taking care of others. She especially loved the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and could be found in the audience every time they appeared on the Memorial Hall stage.

After being diagnosed with germ cell cancer at age 14, Sophie became committed to helping other families coping with the enormous challenge of having a child with cancer and addressing the emotional and physical needs of adolescent and young adult patients specifically. Sophie died at home last August, but through the work of the Be Loud! Sophie Foundation, her dream of helping other patients and families is coming true.

Carolina Performing Arts (CPA) is happy to support the foundation's efforts and encourage others to contribute to this great cause. Last Saturday, CPA partnered with the foundation to bring **Hope Boykin** of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to UNC Hospitals to teach a movement class for cancer patients and their families. For more information on the foundation and its activities, please visit <http://beloudsophie.org>.



Photo: Cameron Morrison

Contributions to the foundation support two closely related efforts with the overall goal of enhancing the independence, dignity, sense of empowerment, privacy, and identity of adolescent and young adult cancer patients:

Address the unique needs of adolescent and young adult cancer patients. Adolescent and young adult cancer patients have unique needs: to maintain their identity, to keep in touch with their friends, and to be treated as the emerging adults they are. Funds will be used to give adolescent and young adult cancer patients access to personalized, age-appropriate resources.



Photo: Cameron Morrison

Support complementary medicine. Provide adolescents and young adults access to approaches such as massage, yoga, meditation, and acupuncture to improve their outlook and treatment.

Through these efforts, the foundation supports UNC's commitment to improve the care it provides to adolescent and young adult cancer patients and their families and to become a national leader in addressing the unique needs of this age group.

*Be Loud
And move with grace
Explode with light
Have no fear
Sophie Steiner*