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**New Alliance to Advocate on Behalf of Children with Cancer  
Issues Core Principles for Quality Care**

**Alexandria, VA** - In recognition of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, a newly formed childhood cancer alliance has announced seven core principles of quality cancer care for children and adolescents living with cancer.

The Alliance for Childhood Cancer, representing nearly twenty national patient advocacy groups and professional medical and scientific organizations, has been established to advocate on behalf of the youngest victims of cancer. Patient advocates, many of whom are either cancer survivors themselves or are parents of children with cancer, are joined by oncology professionals representing the multidisciplinary spectrum of cancer care in a unique alliance that brings concerned parties together to advance the interests of children with cancer.

“This Alliance was forged because there is a real need for children and adolescents with cancer to have a more effective voice...to be represented when policies that will affect their care are being made at the national and state levels,” said Dr. Ed Forman, Co-Chair of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer. “That’s what the Alliance is all about....collectively, we can promote the best interests of these children and their families and make a positive difference in their care.”

The core principles set forth by the Alliance for Childhood Cancer address seven areas of critical importance to ensuring quality care for children and adolescents living with cancer, including:

- 1) access to pediatric oncology specialists
- 2) treatment by a multi-disciplinary team of specialists
- 3) insurance coverage for clinical trials
- 4) access to the full continuum of care including insurance coverage for these services
- 5) portability of insurance coverage
- 6) long term follow up care
- 7) funding to support research to improve children’s and adolescents’ care and quality of life and the training of skilled pediatric cancer specialists.

The complete set of *Core Principles for Comprehensive Quality Cancer Care for Children and Adolescents* is attached.

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“These seven principles were derived from a unique collaborative effort by those who know the devastating consequences of pediatric cancer first hand,” said Dianne Traynor, Co-Chair of the Alliance. “Who better than survivors, family members, patient advocates and childhood cancer specialists to assume this mantle of guardianship on behalf of cancer’s youngest victims?”

The seven principles of quality cancer care will be announced during the second annual Childhood Cancer Gold Ribbon Days event, scheduled for September 12-15 in Washington, D.C. This event is an organized effort by the larger childhood cancer community to raise awareness of pediatric cancer; to call attention to the fact that cancer claims more children’s lives than any other disease; and to advance policies that best serve children and adolescents with cancer and their families.

The concept for the Alliance for Childhood Cancer emerged from the American Cancer Society’s National Summit Meetings on Childhood Cancer in 1999 and 2000. The Summit participants created a task force to implement the recommendations from the summit. One recommendation was to establish an alliance of concerned parties that would increase awareness of childhood cancer, advance research and policies to prevent cancer and improve diagnosis, treatment, supportive care and survivorship of children and adolescents with cancer. The Alliance for Childhood Cancer was officially launched on September 12, 2001.

Current organizations participating in the Alliance for Childhood Cancer include:

AirLifeLine  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Cancer Society  
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology  
Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses  
Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers  
Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation  
Children’s Brain Tumor Foundation  
Children’s Oncology Group  
Cancer Research Foundation of America  
Foundation for the Children’s Oncology Group  
Hope Street Kids  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
National Children’s Cancer Society  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation of US  
Starbright  
The Children’s Cause

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