

SARATOGA SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY GIRLS LACROSSE ACCEPTS LACROSSE OUT CANCER CHALLENGE IN HONOR OF FRIEND AND SCHOOLMATE OLIVIA ALLEN

**Saratoga Teens Come Together To Defeat Pediatric Cancer By Raising Funds for Innovative Research and Patient Care Programs**

**Saratoga Springs, NY, May 1st** – The Saratoga Springs High School and Shaker High School Varsity Girls Lacrosse teams will come together in a spirited match-up on Saturday, May 9th at 11am at Saratoga Springs High School to honor the memory of Olivia Allen, a friend and schoolmate lost to leukemia just over two years ago. By accepting the LaCROSSe Out Cancer Challenge, these student-athletes are uniting to raise money for both the Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation (PCRF) and the Live Like Liv Foundation—organizations dedicated to advancing pediatric cancer research and supporting children and families affected by cancer.

Olivia Allen succumbed after living with blood cancer for nearly a year. Regrettably, her experience is not unique. More children under 20 years old are lost to cancer than any other disease. As the players hope to underscore, funding breakthrough research and supporting families through their journey are both essential to improving outcomes and saving lives.

The Live Like Liv Foundation was created to honor Olivia's legacy by supporting pediatric cancer patients and their families through programs that provide comfort, connection, and moments of joy during treatment. Inspired by Liv's strength and spirit, the foundation is committed to ensuring that no child or family faces cancer alone.

"We are proud of the way our players are stepping up to help other kids. Unfortunately, too many of them have a friend, relative, or peer who has faced cancer. We all feel that it's important to contribute and ensure a better future for kids," said Jennifer Furze, Head Girls Lacrosse Coach for Saratoga Springs High School.

"Creating a world without pediatric cancer takes all of us," said Bonnie Lattimore, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships at the Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation. "Research takes significant funding, and progress is limited by a lack of resources. We're grateful to these athletes for helping to close that gap while also supporting organizations like the Live Like Liv Foundation that provide critical care, comfort, and connection for families."

Prior to the opening draw, the players from Shaker will complete 41 passes with the players from Saratoga Springs in honor of Olivia Allen and the 41 children diagnosed with cancer each day in the U.S.

Their goal is to raise \$15,000, and they have already raised nearly \$4,000. There is still time to help them reach—or even exceed—their goal. Each \$50 raised supports a vital hour of research through PCRF. To support their fundraiser, please visit this site.

Due to research advances, overall survival rates for childhood cancers have grown by 70 percent in the past 40 years. Still, about 20 percent of children with cancer do not survive today. Among those who do, approximately two-thirds will experience long-term chronic health conditions from treatment, and one-quarter will face severe or life-threatening late effects. To address these challenges, the Pediatric Cancer

Research Foundation invests in research that pushes the boundaries of science and accelerates the development of safer, more effective treatments tailored to children and young adults.

To learn more about childhood cancer research and how you can help, visit [pcrf-kids.org](http://pcrf-kids.org).

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### About the LaCROSSE Out Cancer Challenge

All lacrosse players, regardless of age or level, are encouraged to participate in the LaCROSSE Out Cancer Challenge. Here's how:

1. Accept the Challenge!
2. Register to LaCROSSE Out Cancer at [www.lacrosseoutcancer.org](http://www.lacrosseoutcancer.org).
3. Decide which Challenge works best for you:
  - Complete 41 reps of your choice (ex. passes, shots, groundballs, wall ball, etc.) each day for one week at any time.
  - Complete 41 reps once a week for a whole month.
  - Have a LaCROSSE Out Cancer game where friends and family members can donate \$41 in support of the cause. A portion of the ticket proceeds could support your campaign. Have an "I Stand For" moment, ceremonial check presentation, PA reads and social media.
  - GET CREATIVE! Come up with your own challenge/initiative involving the number 41!
4. Invite friends and family to donate \$41 in honor of the 41 kids diagnosed with cancer each day in the US.
5. Challenge your teammates and other teams across the country to join you!
6. Send photos/videos to us at [@lacrosseoutcancer](https://twitter.com/lacrosseoutcancer) or [@pcrf\\_kids](https://twitter.com/pcrf_kids) or [info@pcrf-kids.org](mailto:info@pcrf-kids.org) to be featured on our social media.

Everyone can be a part of transforming pediatric cancer care and saving lives, even if you don't play lacrosse. Donate to research [here](#).

### LaCROSSE Out Cancer Clinic-May 8th

In addition to the game, the Saratoga Springs program will host a youth lacrosse clinic on Friday, May 8th from 5:30–7:00pm at the Saratoga Springs High School back turf. Open to players in grades 1–8, the clinic will be led by Saratoga High School coaches and players and will focus on skill development in a fun, supportive environment. All proceeds from the clinic will benefit LaCROSSE Out Cancer and the Live Like Liv Foundation.

The cost to participate is \$41, symbolizing the 41 children diagnosed with pediatric cancer each day in the United States. Registration can be completed by making a \$41 donation at the team's fundraising page and including the participant's name with the donation. Players should bring a stick, goggles, mouthguard, cleats (or sneakers), and a water bottle. Waivers will be signed at drop-off. For questions, please contact Head Coach Jennifer Furze at [jenfurze@gmail.com](mailto:jenfurze@gmail.com).

### About the Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation (PCRF)

The Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation (PCRF) is dedicated to funding innovative research that improves outcomes for children battling cancer with the goal of making it possible for them to beat their disease and realize their full potential. Since 1982, PCRF has raised \$61 million and is at the forefront of driving advancements in

pediatric oncology- partnering with researchers, institutions, and donors to find cures and ensure brighter futures for children and families affected by cancer.

Guided by our priorities—Powering Research, Equitable Care, and Survivorship & Mental Health—PCRF focuses on accelerating groundbreaking research, reducing disparities in access to care, and enhancing quality of life for survivors. The Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation is a GuideStar Platinum-rated charity. Together, we are transforming the landscape of pediatric cancer treatment and support, one discovery at a time. For more information, visit [www.pcrf-kids.org](http://www.pcrf-kids.org).

### **About the Live Like Liv Foundation**

The mission of The Live Like Liv Foundation is to enhance the lives of children fighting cancer by offering support that goes beyond medical care. The foundation is committed to funding recreational activities, camps and unique events tailored for those living with cancer. Additionally, the foundation also supports siblings, allowing them to participate in activities together and/or in the grieving process. Through these efforts, TLLLF aims to bring hope, joy, and a sense of normalcy to children and their families during the most challenging times. For more information, please visit <https://livelikelivfoundation.org/>.