

The Emily Davis Memorial Scholarship Foundation

EM Emily's Story

Emily Davis lived with her family in Ellicott City, Maryland. Unlike her younger brother, Spencer, and her older sister, Alex, who enjoyed playing sports, Emily loved creating art—drawing, painting, pottery and crafts. Emily's parents, Jake and Carol knew from early on that she was a spirited and thoughtful child. Emily was gifted with emotional insight, a deep compassion for others and an inner strength and determination.

In February of 2002, at the age of thirteen, Emily was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, a rare bone cancer. She left school to begin aggressive radiation and chemotherapy treatment at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. The treatments continued for months. During that summer Emily under-went a stem cell transplant. Throughout the medical attack on the cancer she endured great pain. She lost her hair but not her optimistic spirit.

That summer, Make-A-Wish Foundation fulfilled Emily's special wish and outfitted an art studio in her basement complete with a potter's wheel, glazes, a kiln, an easel and paints. Emily and her friends held a week-long art camp for neighborhood children. Emily and her friends created some special memories.

By September of 2002, she was well enough to return to classes at Centennial High School. That fall season the Make-A-Wish featured an oil painting Emily created on the Foundation's fund raising Holiday cards. Within months, the bone cancer recurred and began attacking Emily's skull, causing her great pain. She left school again for more treatment at Johns Hopkins.

In the spring of 2003 Emily was chosen by the Baltimore Sun as the first ever Howard County Unsung Hero. The 2003 Howard County Relay for Life was dedicated to Emily and she was the keynote speaker at the Relay Kickoff. Emily's touching speech cited her many blessings. Her battle with cancer continued. In the fall of 2003 she entered a clinical study at the National Institute of Health and received a bone marrow transplant from her sister, Alex. For a time following this procedure she felt better than she had in a long time. Emily created artwork for a necktie that was sold during the Holiday season through the Miracle Network to support the Johns Hopkins Children's Center.

During Emily's battle she had inspired a group of her classmates to form a team, Emi's Army, to raise funds for the American Cancer Society by participating in the annual Relay for Life. Several of her classmates let their hair grow long and then had ten inches or more cut off and sent to Locks of Love, the organization which makes custom wigs for disadvantaged children with long-term medical hair loss.

In the fall of 2003, Emily celebrated her fifteenth birthday. She had battled her cancer for over two years and countless doctors' visits, procedures, treatments and hospital stays. Through it all, she remained positive, brave, and always more concerned for others than her self. In late December, she developed a serious fever returning to NIH, the cancer had returned. Emily died on February 27, 2004.



The Memorial Scholarship Foundation

When her peers in the Centennial HS Class of 2006 cross the stage at graduation in June, Emily will be there through the granting of the first Emily Davis Memorial Scholarship. What started as an idea by her friend and classmate, Jenny Feldmann, to honor Emily has evolved into a community-wide effort of her family and friends. The Foundation plans to raise enough money to award the Emily Davis Memorial Scholarship annually as well as helping parents of children with cancer for many years to come. In granting the Scholarship we celebrate Emily's life in the best way possible: by helping a deserving student as they pursue their dream.

Primary fundraising will occur on Wednesday, September 21, 2005 with a day of events including a golf tournament, a dinner and live auction. There are many ways corporations and individuals can support this effort. For more information, you can either go to the website, www.emilydavis.org or call co-chairs Jake and Carol Davis at (410) 313-8111 or John and Linda Feldmann at (410) 461-5975.