The Heart of the ELLE Foundation
At the age of 10, Lauren "ELLE" Richmond was diagnosed with a very rare and tenacious chordoma tumor on her brainstem. For over five years Lauren fought numerous recurrences. She knew that a recurrence is more emotionally and physically devastating than a first diagnosis. Lauren would say: "With a first diagnosis, you have a plan. You go through surgery, chemo, and radiation with the hope and faith that you are going to get better. It’s a terrible thing to go through, but there’s hope. Then all of a sudden, whether it’s a month, a year, or two years, it comes back. Now you feel...why can’t I catch a break, what did I do wrong?"
In her final days Lauren wrote, I AM UP TO YOU – and charged her parents, Laurie & Dean and older sister, Dana, with taking care of her final wish & foundation, which Lauren defined as the "Reason for Her Journey". Lauren’s mission for the ELLE FOUNDATION is to give children with a recurrence of cancer and their families a moment to forget, to laugh, to rejuvenate their spirits. Lauren continues to teach us that with love, perseverance, courage, and compassion for others you can turn a terrifying experience into something good and make a difference in the world.

Why is the ELLE Foundation Important to Children with a Recurrence of Cancer? What Makes Us Different from Other Wish Granting Organizations?
The ELLE Foundation is the only wish granting organization whose primary mission is to grant final wishes for children battling a recurrence of cancer. Many of ELLE's wish children are on palliative or hospice care so time is of the essence in fulfilling their wishes. Their recurrence of cancer is often a secondary cancer caused by the chemo that was used as the treatment for their first diagnosis. When medical options may be coming to an end, all a child and their family wants and needs, is a moment of joy in their lives. With your support, the ELLE Foundation is here to create memories that their hearts will treasure forever.

Join ELLE’s Wish Team
The ELLE Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is operated on a 100% volunteer basis - staffed by Laurie, Dean, Dana and a family of volunteers. Our financial support comes from the generous donations of family, friends, community organizations & businesses all touched by Lauren’s journey and the journeys of ELLE’s Kids. With the average wish costing between $4,00 and $8,000, with your support, our goal is to never turn a wish child away due to a lack of funds.
- The ELLE Foundation, Inc. qualifies for many organization’s matching gift programs.
  - Direct your workplace charitable giving donation to the ELLE Foundation Inc., Bridgewater, NJ.
- Nominate the ELLE Foundation to receive a donation from your employer, school, sports team, local club or organization.

To learn more and make a donation, please visit our website at www.ElleFoundation.org
ELLE Foundation holds the GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency.

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ELLE Foundation, Inc. (Tax ID #26-4755717) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization.