

**PRESS CONTACT**

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**SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RALLY AGAINST CHILDHOOD CANCER**

*“Students at CICS Ralph Ellison Raise Money For St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital”*

**(May 12, 2009) CHICAGO** – Students at CICS Ralph Ellison on Chicago’s Southside have partnered with St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital Rally Against Childhood Cancer, an initiative designed to inform high school students about the hospital, while raising funds to support the fight against childhood cancer. The Rally Against Childhood Cancer is designed to combine school spirit, class competition and fundraising for St. Jude.

Students at CICS Ralph Ellison (grades 9-12) participated in a weeklong pledge drive where they asked their family, friends and local community to join the effort to help save lives. To celebrate the success of the drive and to help increase awareness for the St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, students will rally on May 12, by participating in various relay races, basketball shooting contests and jump-rope tournaments. The rally will take place in the school gymnasium from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Members of the campus community who would like to support the great efforts of the Ellison students are welcome to attend.

CICS Ralph Ellison dedicates itself to offering students an education that emphasizes rigor, relevance, and relationships. Participation in the Rally Against Childhood Cancer, is one of many ways in which Ellison students are encouraged to take on rewarding challenges that positively affect the Chicagoland community and enrich the lives of others.

**About Civitas Schools**

Civitas Schools seeks to operate urban schools that produce student achievement and prompt civic responsibility. It is our mission to create learning communities that value rigorous instruction, relevant curricular design, and responsible leadership.

**About Chicago International Charter School**

The Chicago International Charter School (CICS) is the largest charter school in Illinois, serving over 7,500 students at ten campuses across Chicago. CICS Ralph Ellison dedicates itself to offering students a college preparatory education emphasizing rigor, relevance and relationships. Managed by Civitas Schools, the CICS Ralph Ellison Campus currently serves 475 students in grades 9-11, and with the 2009-2010 school year will add grade 12, reaching its full capacity of 600 students. For more information, please visit [www.cicsellison.org](http://www.cicsellison.org).

**About St. Jude**

St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital is internationally recognized for its pioneering work in finding cures and saving children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases. St. Jude is the first and only pediatric cancer center to be designated as a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute. Founded by late entertainer Danny Thomas and based in Memphis, Tenn., St. Jude freely shares its discoveries with scientific and medical communities around the world. St. Jude is the only pediatric cancer research center where families never pay for treatment not covered by insurance. No child is ever denied treatment because of the family’s inability to pay. St. Jude is financially supported by ALSAC, its fundraising organization. For more information, please visit [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org).