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Author and Childhood Cancer Survivor Alesia Shute hosts Cocktail Party Benefit

June 24th fundraiser benefits The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Smithville, NJ. (June 14, 2010) – If Alesia Shute chose to complain about the obstacles she has faced, she would certainly be entitled. Instead, however, she has taken her experiences and used them to help others. After first being diagnosed with cancer at the age of seven, Shute endured six major surgeries and several minor ones. The uncertainty, fear and pain that she experienced could have made her selfishly guard the good fortune she now enjoys. However, Shute decided to spend her time giving back to those who helped her when she was most in need.

Even as a pediatric patient herself, Shute began volunteering to help other sick children, offering encouragement and comfort. Now, as a cancer-free adult, she has spent many years raising funds and donating to the place where she was once a patient: The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP).

On Thursday, June 24th, Shute is inviting others to join her mission to help pediatric cancer patients through a cocktail party fundraising benefit, held at the historic Smithville Inn. The \$25 donation will be used to raise funds to deliver books to local hospitals and organizations. In addition, guests will have the opportunity to buy Shute's book, *Everything's Okay*, a memoir detailing how she came to understand and come to terms with her disease, as an adolescent, through adulthood.

"It's written for the Mom and Dad sitting in the waiting room," Shute says. But it's also written for other members of the patient's family and for the patients themselves. "A lot of teens read it," says Shute. They identify with the stories she tells, not just of her struggles with cancer, but also of the efforts she made to hide her illness from friends, so she wouldn't appear different.

Shute says she wrote the book because she realized she had a compelling story to tell, but she didn't want the sharing to end there. As a result, 100% of the profits from sales of her book are donated to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Named by Bizymom.com as a Momspiration, Shute says that *Everything's Okay* provides a perspective of hope that has always been a part of Shute's personality, a trait she credits with helping her thrive after her experience.

The cocktail party benefit, which will be held from 6 – 8:30 p.m., features a raffle with prizes and a special surprise. Wine, beer and hors d'oeuvres will be served. A cash bar is available.

The Smithville Inn (<http://www.smithvilleinn.com>) is located at 1 North New York Road Galloway, NJ 08205-3040, (609) 652-7777

For cocktail party benefit tickets or for more information, contact Alesia Shute, <http://www.everythingsokaybook.com>, or Corey Blake, <mailto:corey@writersoftheroundtable.com>.

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