



Connecting to Cure Crohn's and Colitis Mentorship Program

There is a need for newly diagnosed kids and teens with Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD) to connect with another patient with Crohn's or colitis who is of a similar age and has had experience coping with their diagnosis and integrating it into their lives. Along with the medical team, the parents can help support the child with any questions, concerns, and issues that they may have. However, it is invaluable to have the perspective of another patient who has already navigated the diagnosis. The goal is to make the patient feel supported and help them realize that they can manage and integrate their disease into their lives, without having it define everything about their lives.

Benefits

1. Having someone who has gone through and IBD diagnosis can help new patients understand their diagnosis better, and also the importance of being involved in their own care.
2. Provides support to new patients and helps build their confidence, can listen to concerns, share experiences and offer information as to what has helped them cope with their disease.
3. A mentor can relieve anxiety at the critical point of getting a new diagnosis.
4. Can provide information that medical staff might not necessarily be able to understand as well as someone who is going through it. Mentors don't offer medical advice and should refer patient back to their doctor if these questions come up.

What is it?

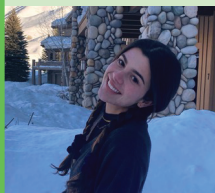
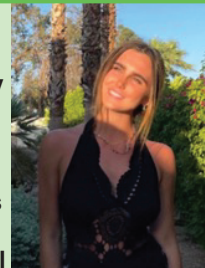
1. A way to connect newly diagnosed kids and teens with an older teen or young adult who was previously diagnosed and is coping with their illness.
2. Teens and young adults who have already been diagnosed and are coping with their IBD could opt in to be a mentor and would be trained and available to connect with a newly diagnosed patient.
3. Teens and young adults who become mentors could use it as community service for high school or as part of their college application. C to C would provide a reference or recommendation if needed.

Biographies



My name is Olin Burke and I am a seventeen-year-old with ulcerative colitis. I was diagnosed the summer before my freshman year and found it to be quite a shock to my life as I knew it. It took a lot of adapting, but I was able to continue the activities I loved, such as surfing, lacrosse, and much else. I hope to help others learn how to manage their diseases and show how they can still do the things that they enjoy.

My name is Julia Philbrick and I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease at the age of twelve. It was an extremely difficult time but ultimately taught me many valuable lessons that I look forward to sharing with others. Taking care of my mind and body has allowed me to live a high quality life playing beach and indoor volleyball as well as participating in my other passions. I look forward to the opportunity to help make a positive impact in someone's else's journey.



My name is Izzy and I live in Los Angeles. I was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease when I was 14 years old. I am now 17 and a senior in high school. When I was first diagnosed I was put on Humira but I am now taking Stellara. I play volleyball and love to go to the beach with my friends. My favorite subject in school is science and I love to travel.