

For Immediate Release



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Mechanicsville, Virginia

NEW MISS GREATER RICHMOND TACKLES SELF IMAGE ISSUES FOR YOUTH

The Miss Greater Richmond Scholarship Program, a Mechanicsville based non profit organization, recently crowned their new winner who will represent the area at the 2010 Miss Virginia Pageant in June. Caitlin Uze is a senior at James Madison University where she is pursuing a degree in Social Work. She is a member of Phi Sigma Pi National Honors fraternity, serving as Chair of the service committee, and has also attained President's list accolades.

Championing her platform of "Building Positive Self Image," Caitlin aims to inspire young people to embrace qualities that make them unique, and to recognize that we are all beautifully imperfect. Caitlin's passion for her work stems from her own personal struggles with positive self image. Diagnosed with a speech impediment in early childhood, Caitlin suffered with self doubt about her ability to fit in with her peers. At the peak of her most difficult time, Caitlin was also 30 pounds overweight and faced ridicule from her classmates. It was at that time that Caitlin decided to make healthy choices for her life and deal with the depression that had held her back. Over the past three years, Caitlin has utilized her positive outlook on life and her speech impediment to become an advocate for youth who also struggle with positive acceptance of themselves and who too, have to deal with the effects of depression and bullying. Highlights of Caitlin's work include being an official spokesperson for Girls Incorporated, creating and implementing a school program presented at various area schools and youth groups, and facilitating a teen outreach group in Waynesboro, Virginia, consisting of underprivileged and at risk youth.

In addition to her person platform, Caitlin is passionate about honoring past and present members of the armed forces. Through her work with the USO and Honor Flight, she has personally greeted over 1,000 World War II veterans as they arrive in DC to visit their memorial, as well as attended the wounded warrior's luncheon at the Pentagon. Caitlin has been recognized by Congressman Gerald Connolly for her outstanding community service efforts, as well as Virginia state senator, Jill Vogel.

Caitlin is a two time finalist at Miss Virginia 2008 and in 2009 where she placed second runner up. Her Miss America scholarship earnings total over \$11,000 towards her education.

As Miss Greater Richmond, Caitlin will make appearances at local schools and businesses, as well as serving to champion *Children's Miracle Network*, the official charity of the Miss America Organization. Caitlin's scholarship is sponsored by The Mechanicsville Rotary and Carpet America. To book Caitlin for your business or school, please contact:

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