

# Julia Rae Schlucter



Julia Rae Schlucter has a clear memory of being an inpatient at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia for the first time when she was 6 years old. Julia Rae has cystic fibrosis, an incurable lung disease. As part of her treatment during that hospital stay, she needed an IV — and she was scared.

Right then and there, one of CHOP’s child life specialists came to the rescue. Using a doll to explain the procedure, she answered all of Julia Rae’s questions and let her give the doll a pretend IV. The fear vanished.

Julia Rae, now a 22-year-old senior at Fordham University, has been a lifelong patient and supporter of CHOP. She is a frequent visitor to the inpatient units, sharing her own experiences with children coping with illness.

And now Julia Rae has a new platform from which to raise awareness of both cystic fibrosis and the important role child life specialists play in a child’s hospital experience: On Feb. 28 she was crowned Miss Philadelphia, and in June she will compete in the Miss Pennsylvania pageant.

Her talent for the pageant? Singing, no small feat for a patient with a serious lung disease. Julia Rae began singing as a child — it helped her feel more like other kids —

and never stopped. You may have seen her perform at the last six Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parades. She approaches every performance as an opportunity to use her voice to help kids facing challenges realize their dreams. And she encourages everyone to use their own talents to participate in Daisy Days 2015!