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## INTERVIEW: Cards for Hospitalized Kids, Founder – Jen Rubino



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## PEOPLE &amp; CHARITY: Interview

Jen Rubino, founder of Cards for hospitalized Kids, was diagnosed at age eleven with a chronic illness, and now, at just eighteen years of age, has already undergone a total of twenty three surgeries. You would tend to believe that someone, who has struggled with so much from such a young age in life, would be worn out or at least a bit down in the dumps, which is understandably so. Contrary to typical belief, this incredible young woman did not allow her struggles to rob her of her joy.

Jen Rubino from Park Ridge, Illinois, used her struggles for good and formed the 501c3 non-profit organization called Cards for Hospitalized Kids. Founded in March 2011, Cards for hospitalized Kids has sent 10,000 cards to children in several hospitals all over the country including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Children's Memorial Hospital, and Miami Children's Hospital. Through her cards, she brings smiles to the children's faces and hopes to their hearts.

**Christina Zapata: What was your biggest inspiration for starting Cards For Hospitalized Kids? How did the idea come about?**

Jen Rubino: I received many cards when I was in the hospital from such a young age, they always brought light into my day. I wanted to be able to do that for other children that were going through the same thing.

**CZ: What has been some of your greatest accomplishments and proudest moments while running the organization?**

JR: My proudest moments and accomplishments come from seeing the smiles the cards bring to all the children that receive them. There is one story, I will never forget about a special young girl that was at St. Jude's, she lost her battle with cancer at just nine years old. She had received several cards from us, and her family messaged us saying that the cards brought her such joy and meant so much that they buried them with her. That meant so much to me.

**CZ: How has starting Cards for Hospitalized kids influenced your life?**

JR: It has influenced my life in the best way possible. It allows me to use my own struggles to help others, and it helps me see that everything I've been through hasn't been for nothing.

**CZ: Who is your biggest inspiration? What are your hopes for the future of Cards for Hospitalized Kids?**

JR: Demi Lovato and Bethany Hamilton are two of my biggest inspirations. They use all of their struggles to fuel them to help others and be positive role models. My hopes for the future of Cards For Hospitalized kids is to deliver 20,000 cards to children this year and continue expanding beyond that.

Learn more & Get involved: [Cards For Hospitalized Kids](#)

Connect via Facebook: ([CardsForHospitalizedKids](#)) and Twitter ([@Crds4HosptlKids](#))

Make/Send Cards here! [www.cardsforhospitalizedkids.com/make-cards.html](http://www.cardsforhospitalizedkids.com/make-cards.html)

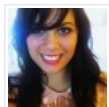
**TAGS:** *Cards for Hospitalized Kids, Charity, giving back, Jen Rubino, St Jude Children's Research Hospital*

**FOOD & DRINK:** PANERA BREA

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**ABOUT CHRISTINA ZAPATA**

[VIEW ALL POSTS BY CHRISTINA ZAPATA](#)



PEOPLE + CHARITY EDITOR. Christina Zapata is 20 years old and currently double majoring in psychology and journalism. She loves to volunteer and write, especially about people and charities that give back! She is the co-founder of Project HEAL (Help to Eat, Accept & Live) New Jersey Chapter.

No comments yet.

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