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## DO-GOODERY

**TAGS:** Jen Rubino, Cards for Hospitalized Kids



Jen Rubino founded Cards for Hospitalized Kids to spread joy to kids with illnesses. PHOTO COURTESY OF JEN RUBINO

# Super girl!

To find out more about CFHK, visit [cardsforhospitalizedkids.com](http://cardsforhospitalizedkids.com) or tweet to [@Crds4HosptlKids](https://twitter.com/Crds4HosptlKids).

Maine South's Jen Rubino talks about her organization, guilty pleasure and hope for the future

**By Fatima Hooda**  
GLENBROOK SOUTH

Jen Rubino, a junior at Maine South, is the founder of Cards for Hospitalized Kids (CFHK). At 11 years old, Rubino was diagnosed with a connective tissue disorder—a chronic illness that made everyday activities difficult.

Having gone through multiple surgeries, she saw other children in the hospital and she wanted to show them that the world hasn't forgotten about them.

Instead of writing messages such as "Get well soon" or "Feel better," CFHK writes encouraging words such as "You're awesome," "You rock," or "You're beautiful."

Started in 2011, CFHK delivers cards to

more than 50 children's hospitals in the nation.

The organization welcomes handmade cards from anyone, but they also hold events where people can make cards together. It has also received support from celebrities such as Cody Simpson and Lauren Conrad.

So far, CFHK has sent more than 5,000 cards. Their goal this year is to deliver 20,000 cards.

Despite her busy schedule, Rubino is still a kid at heart who likes cookies and cream ice cream with sprinkles. We chatted with her about her goals and a celebrity crush.

her perseverance and her strength is very inspiring.

**Your dream vacation spot is ...**  
London. I'd like to ... be a part of that culture.

**What would you like to accomplish in the future?**

I feel like so far (CFHK) had a lot of support especially from many athletes and celebrities. I'd love (for) CFHK to continue to grow and send the message of hope.

### Who's your inspiration?

Bethany Hamilton. She lost her arm in a shark attack in 2003. Even after the incident, she continued to persevere.

### Who's your celebrity crush?

Taylor Lautner

### What's your guilty pleasure?

Every Wednesday, you'll find me watching the show "Revenge."

### Which celebrity would you like to meet?

Demi Lovato. .... She has overcome a lot and

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