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GRACE CALLWOOD, FOUNDER, WE CANCERVE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCED AS FINALIST FOR PEACE FIRST PRIZE

Abingdon, Md – Today, Grace E. G. Callwood, 10, founder of the We Cancerve Movement, was named a Peace First Prize finalist. Her nonprofit helps shine a spotlight on the youthful-zeal of children in the most vulnerable situations in hopes of bringing them swift solutions because she said “happiness should not have to wait.”

The We Cancerve Movement is a nonprofit organization that creates giving opportunities that can be supported by the community to bring happiness to homeless, sick and foster children. Callwood established the charity in 2011, when she was a pediatric oncology patient. She completed chemotherapy in April 2014 and remains cancer free.

Peace First is a national nonprofit dedicated to creating the next generation of peacemakers. At a time when violence among youth permeates the news, the Peace First Prize celebrates young people’s achievements and shares their impressive work with the nation. As a finalist for the Peace First Prize, Peace First recognizes Callwood as “an incredible peacemaker for her use of compassion, courage, and collaboration as driving forces behind the positive changes she has made in her community,” prize officials wrote an email.

Winners of the Peace First Prize will be announced this fall and will receive a two year, \$25,000 Fellowship to invest in their leadership as national peace leaders.

“I always knew that Grace was a special little girl, but I am exceedingly proud of the young world-changer she has become. Despite her own health challenges, she opens her heart to others in ways that are spiritually mature and youthfully authentic. Grace’s witness is an example to every generation of the impact that one person can have on her community – no excuses,” said Rev. Dr. Wanda Bynum Duckett, pastor of Mount Zion United Methodist Church, in 2013.

Callwood’s elementary school principal agreed.

“I am extremely proud of the William S. James students, school community and the We Cancerve Movement for coming together in order to help those in need,” said Benjamin D. Richardson, principal of William S. James Elementary. “We are teaching our students that there are so many ways to show ‘compassion’, our school-wide character trait focus for the month, in order to help others. It is inspiring to see our youth participating in community service projects and quite honestly, it gives me great hope for our future.”

Since 2011, the We Cancerve Movement has raised almost \$10,000 in donated merchandise for homeless, sick and foster youth, including 318 stuffed Easter Baskets as part of the Eggstra Special Easter Baskets project; more than \$1,700 in cash grants to Sinai Hospital and Casey Cares Foundation; and nearly 150 new and like-new back-to-school clothes to homeless youth in the Threads of Hope initiative. Signature programs under the We Cancerve movement include *TransFUNers* kits, which contain an assortment of crafts like markers, pipe cleaners, feathers and stickers, to decorate a pillowcase that’s placed over an IV-pole to transform transfusions into fun. Aflac agent Tyler Travis from Kentucky said this about her initiative:

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Peace First Prize

“[Callwood’s story] was exactly what our team was looking for, as we are continually searching for other organizations to support. We, as a team, were able to get together during the Christmas holiday and contribute items to complete the TransFUNer kits.” Father to seven children, Travis said his oldest boys assembled each of the TransFUNer kits and mailed out the boxes to Maryland, where We Canceve is based. “It is our joy to serve your organization,” he wrote in an email to Callwood.

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WE CANCEVE MOVEMENT

We Canceve has established an accumulator fund with the Community Foundation of Harford County (CFHC). The We Canceve Accumulator Fund will eventually become a permanent fund of CFHC to support the work of the We Canceve Movement. Contributions made to the Community Foundation of Harford County are tax-deductible, and can be designated to the We Canceve Accumulator Fund. The Community Foundation of Harford County is a 501(c)(3) public charity (nonprofit) supported by the community through donations. For more information, visit www.wecanceve.org.

WE PROUDLY SUPPORT

Anna’s House
Arrow Family Ministries
Casey Cares Foundation
Eastside Family Emergency Shelter
Harford Family House
Sinai Hospital
University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center