

# Casey E. Warren is HAP's 2002 Porrath Fellow in Cancer Patient Advocacy

The Health Advocacy Program is pleased to announce this year's Porrath Fellow in Cancer Patient Advocacy, Casey E. Warren of Fort Montgomery, New York. Casey will be working this summer at the Zalmen A. Arlin Cancer Institute at the Westchester Medical Center, under Executive Director Constance Engelking. She will be helping to create a model pilot cancer patient advocacy program that could be replicated elsewhere. To develop the program, Casey will be researching the best practices of cancer patient advocacy in clinical care settings. Casey, a first year HAP student, is the ideal Porrath Fellow. In her application for the \$10,000 fellowship, she wrote the following:

*At the age of 32, I found myself in the unimaginable position of being a cancer patient. The mother of two small children, I had been an extremely active and healthy individual. Being diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma felt like being thrown into a small rowboat and told to row across the Atlantic. The route was choppy, filled with danger, fraught with frustration and made me prone to bouts of nausea. The worst part about the trip was being alone.*

Casey's goal is to become a professional cancer patient advocate and help others navigate the difficult, frustrating, complicated and often lonely path of a cancer patient. Both Casey's goal and her summer project fit the vision of the Porrath Foundation for Patient Advocacy: "Every person diagnosed with cancer, regardless of personal resources or geography, will have access to the vital information, tools and trained Cancer Patient Advocates they need to proactively manage the cancer process. These resources will immediately help cancer patients address their fears and effectively sort through the overwhelming array of information to: get answers, make decisions and outwit cancer."

Connie Engelking, the Executive Director of the Arlin Cancer Institute, is also the Vice President for Clinical Research and Grants Administration at the Arlin Cancer Institute. In fact, the Resource Center for cancer patients and families at the Arlin Cancer Institute was developed by Connie and a Health Advocacy Program intern, now graduate, Eleanor Scarcella. ■