

For Immediate Release

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Teens To Raise Voices in Song for the American Heart Association

Westport, CT – April 22, 2013- Staples High School senior, Lauren Weinberger has been raising money by walking in the American Heart Association's Heart Walk since she was nine years old. Now nearly 18 years old, she's raising her voice, in song, to raise funds for the group.

"My grandmother passed away from a heart attack at 60 and my dad suffers from heart disease. He had stents put in his heart at age 37, when I was only 7 years old. He takes heart medicine but he runs every day and is doing great," she said, "I have been walking in the heart walk since I was eight to support the AHA. I also grew up being very musical, so the combination of the two sparked the creation of the event. As a senior going off to college next year, it has been exciting to watch the concert grow from inception to the third annual concert."

For the third year in a row, she gathered a group of music-minded teens to recreate *Listen to the Beat - A Concert to Benefit the American Heart Association*. Weinberger, a longtime voice and acting student, is organizing the event and working on song selection with the group of 21 students from the towns of Westport, Weston and Fairfield. They will perform popular Broadway tunes and more modern, teen-friendly hits with piano accompaniment.

After raising over \$10,000 the past two years, garnering CVS as a corporate sponsor and being awarded the number one teen fundraiser for the American Heart Association, the Westport teen is pleased to present the third annual concert. "There are so many talented singers involved, I am so glad I was able to make this event continue. There was a great turn out the last two years and the community was so supportive of this amazing cause," she said.

The *Listen to the Beat* concert will be held at 8:00pm on Saturday, **May 4, 2013** at Toquet Hall, 58 Post Road East, Westport, CT. Admission is \$15 for students and \$20 for adults at the door. Advance tickets not available. Additional donations will be welcome at the event.

Join them online at

<http://heartwalk.kintera.org/faf/donorReg/donorPledge.asp?ievent=1049589&supld=null>

For information about the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, visit www.fairfieldcountyheartwalk.org.

About the American Heart Association

Founded in 1924, we're the nation's oldest and largest voluntary health organization dedicated to building healthier lives, free of heart disease and stroke. To help prevent, treat and defeat these diseases — America's No. 1 and No. 3 killers — we fund cutting-edge research, conduct lifesaving public and professional educational programs, and advocate to protect public health. To learn more or join us in helping all Americans, call 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit www.heart.org.

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