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**Teen named ambassador of Team CdLS Chicago Marathon**

*Team to run the Chicago Marathon on behalf of children with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome*

**Sudbury, MA (June 1, 2010)** – Tanaya Mulzan, a 15-year-old Sudbury girl born with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS), has been named the 2010 Team CdLS Ambassador for the Chicago Marathon. Team CdLS raises money to benefit the CdLS Foundation, a national support organization dedicated to serving families of children affected by CdLS, a little-known genetic condition.

Tanaya will travel to Chicago on Sunday, October 10, to support Team CdLS, which includes her mother, Ava Frank. This is Frank's third year running in the Chicago Marathon, and she is excited to compete.

"I want Tanaya to be proud of me for doing something very challenging and sticking with it for multiple years," said Frank.

"Tanaya was thrilled when she found out she was the Team CdLS ambassador for the Chicago Marathon. Even though she doesn't completely understand what that means, it made her feel important, and she was able to share it with all of her friends," said Frank.

Tanaya was diagnosed with CdLS before she was one-and-a-half years old. Some of her symptoms included a non-functioning kidney, slow growth, and delay in all motor skills, according to Frank.

"When Tanaya was diagnosed with CdLS and we discovered the CdLS Foundation, we felt like we expanded our family. I run in the marathon so that I can help raise money for the Foundation, as well as challenge myself and support Tanaya."

To learn more about Team CdLS go to [www.CdLSusa.org](http://www.CdLSusa.org) .

### **About CdLS**

CdLS is a genetic syndrome that occurs in about 1 in 10,000 births. An estimated 20,000 people in the U.S. have CdLS but remain undiagnosed and/or without support services. Although individuals with CdLS range from mildly to severely affected, most have similar physical characteristics: small size, hands and feet; thin eyebrows that meet in the middle; long eyelashes; upturned nose; and thin, downturned lips. Some individuals have limb differences, including missing fingers or arms, and partial joining of the toes. Common medical problems include gastroesophageal reflux, bowel obstruction, hearing loss, and congenital heart defects.

### **About the Foundation**

Founded in 1981, the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation is a family support organization that exists to ensure early and accurate diagnosis of CdLS, promote research into the causes and manifestations of the syndrome, and help people with a diagnosis of CdLS make informed decisions throughout their lifetime. For more information, call 800-753-2357 or go to [www.cdlsusa.org](http://www.cdlsusa.org).

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