April Perrino (In Memoriam)
St. Peter’s Health Partners
The Community Hospice

April simply amazed us. She was a bright light who taught us so much beyond her 35 years. In freely sharing her story, she continues to inspire us today and will, no doubt, have a lasting impact on all those who shall meet her through her story despite ultimately losing her battle with stage 4 cervical cancer.

Sadly, New York State ranks among the lowest in the country in the use of hospice services. April’s willingness to share this story and the example she sets by living life to the fullest demonstrate for us how we can maximize our quality of life at the end of life. Her actions will leave a long legacy to other patients, families, and healthcare providers alike. It is in recognition of April’s approach to the end of her life—utilizing hospice services and continuing to enjoy the time she had left, even skydiving with her siblings, that we honor April with the Shining Light Award. April didn’t wait to access hospice care in her last few days of life. April accessed care early and lived her life to the fullest!

The mission of home care and hospice service delivery centers on the patient and the quality care and support entrusted to providers. The individuals we care for are what ultimately calls us to service. They amaze, teach, and inspire us. April is a person who confronted her medical challenges with courage that had far-reaching effects. Through her story and the impact she left, she will touch so many more than we, or her family, will ever know.