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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **My Sister's Keeper Film Sheds Light on Cancer Sibling Impact**

June 11, 2009 (CHICAGO) – Laura Zider knows first-hand the true life journey depicted in the upcoming film, *My Sister's Keeper*. Laura, 24, was the designated marrow donor and subsequent stem cell boost donor for her brother, Marc, who was diagnosed with cancer as a toddler in 1989. Laura, Marc and their family have faced ongoing survivorship challenges and now face additional transplant issues, in a scenario similar to the plot line in film, which stars Cameron Diaz.

“As the sibling of someone who has fought cancer and its affects for years, it often feels like I’m ‘surviving cancer’ too. As brothers and sisters, the ‘well siblings’ often don’t receive adequate support to manage through the emotional turmoil we experience,” said Zider. “Although I didn’t have the physical cancer diagnosis, it has had a huge impact in my life, in some good ways and in other ways that are still difficult to overcome.”

*My Sister's Keeper*, based on Jodi Picoult’s awarding winning novel by the same name, will be released June 26 in theaters nationwide. The film tells the poignant story of siblings whose lives have been intertwined through their donor-recipient relationship when one is facing cancer. Anna, played by Abigail Breslin, is affected as a multiple donor for her sister, and further sacrifices her own dreams as she loses the chance to attend a prestigious hockey camp, in order to support her sister Kate. When Kate later needs a donated kidney, Anna sues her parents for medical emancipation to enable her own decision making on whether or not to donate her kidney to her sister. *My Sister's Keeper* highlights how cancer affects everyone in the family, including the siblings.

"Although *My Sister's Keeper* is a fictional story, there are multitudes of real-life siblings whose lives are deeply affected by a brother or sister's cancer," said *My Sister's Keeper* author Jodi Picoult. “*SuperSibs!* is a fantastic organization that offers support to this often-forgotten group, to help them navigate such a challenging life experience.”

*SuperSibs!* is a national nonprofit organization that is changing the culture of pediatric oncology services to ensure that sibling support is integrated into all aspects of care to ensure total family healing. Over 18,000 new siblings are affected each year, as his or her brother or sister is diagnosed with cancer. A recent research study showed that 53% of siblings reported symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress, and 27% qualified for the diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. *SuperSibs!* addresses this glaring need, providing free comfort and care services to over 17,000 vulnerable siblings of children with cancer across the U.S. and Canada, to help them face the future with strength, courage and hope.

**(MORE)**

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“This is a powerful film,” said *SuperSibs!* Founder and Executive Director Melanie Goldish. “It’s an important wake up call to better understand how siblings are too often collateral damage in the war against pediatric cancer. With greater understanding of this issue, siblings can be supported to “survive cancer,” too.

Warner Bros. and *SuperSibs!* have teamed up on advanced screenings of the film in 13 cities across the U.S.

### About *SuperSibs!*

As a nationally recognized nonprofit organization in the pediatric oncology community, *SuperSibs!* helps children redefine the "cancer sibling" experience by providing needed support services and helping to draw out the greater and important lessons that may benefit these children later in their own lives. For more information about *SuperSibs!*, or to refer a family or make a donation, visit [www.supersibs.org](http://www.supersibs.org) or call 866-444-SIBS (7427).

*SuperSibs!* programming has been made possible by generous grants from the Lance Armstrong Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mia Hamm Foundation, Kenny’s Kids and other generous corporate, foundation and individual donors.

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*Note to Editor: Laura Zider is committed to sharing her story, as is the family, sharing the sibling perspective. With over 17,000 siblings in our program, SuperSibs! can provide reporters with local family contacts to interview, and facts about SuperSibs! in their community.*