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**“Points of Light” Award Winner Honored**  
**By Broward County Commission**  
**Proclamation names April 24<sup>th</sup> “Lauren Beeson Day” in Broward County**

Lauren Beeson was diagnosed with linear scleroderma when she was just 6 years old. Linear Scleroderma is a line of thickened skin which can affect the bones and muscles underneath it, thus limiting the motion of the affected joints and muscles. It most often occurs in the arms, legs, or forehead, and may occur in more than one area. As is evident by Lauren’s profiles, it is most likely to be on just one side of the body: only one side shows the ravages of the illness.

Upon becoming members of the Scleroderma Foundation SE FL Chapter Lauren was asked to serve as the Foundation’s poster child. Lauren takes her role as spokesperson seriously. She and her mother travel the country speaking about her illness. She appears on TV shows and at school she addresses an auditorium of her peers, explaining her illness and its effects on her body and her face. She has testified before Congress asking for funding to find a cure. She met with staff of individual Congressional offices to request members’ support of the funding.

On Monday, April 23, 2007 Ms. Beeson will receive the Governor’s Points of Light Award. Established in February 2000, the Governor's Points of Light Award program recognizes those Florida residents and organizations that demonstrate exemplary volunteer service to their community.

On Tuesday, April 24, 2007 Ms. Beeson will be honored by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners. Beeson and her mother live in Pembroke Pines. Vice-Mayor Lois Wexler will present Ms. Beeson with a proclamation that will name April 24<sup>th</sup> as “Lauren Beeson Day” in Broward County. The presentation will take place in the Commission Chambers, 115 South Andrews Avenue, Room 422, in Fort Lauderdale at 2:00 p.m.

"Lauren Beeson is an inspiration to all people as well as a positive role model for people living with scleroderma," said Broward County Vice-Mayor Lois Wexler. "She showed courage and selflessness when she agreed to become the poster child and spokesperson for the Scleroderma Foundation. I applaud her commitment to educating our young people and her tenacity in speaking to lawmakers on the importance of funding and research to treat this disease. I congratulate her on receiving the Governor's Points of Light award and wish her the very best."

Lauren is now a senior in high school. In addition to her numerous speaking engagements, her doctor visits, her ailments and her surgeries (she has had well over a dozen surgeries so far), she is an honor student, living with a single mom.

Lauren has, for the last 12 years, helped countless people deal with scleroderma through her work with both the local Florida Chapter and the National Scleroderma Foundation, where she now serves as their Teen Ambassador. Lauren is admired by her peers because of the courage she shows in facing her disease and her willingness to share her story with others. For more information on scleroderma please go to [www.scleroderma.org](http://www.scleroderma.org)

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**Great Media Photo Opportunity. Interviews can be made available. Advanced publication to assist in promotion of this young woman's accomplishments on behalf of the Scleroderma Foundation is appreciated. Thank you in advance!**