



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Shayne Squires, American Cancer Society  
217.523.4503

Cindy Davidsmeyer, Simmons Cancer Institute  
217-545-3837

### **Illinois High School Students Offered the Opportunity of a Lifetime Performing Research with the American Cancer Society** *Chatham High School student interns for a cure*

Chatham, Ill. — July 22, 2010 – For most high school students, the final school bell marks the beginning of summer vacation with three months of rest, relaxation and little responsibility. But one local student at Glenwood High School, Michael Korte, will spend his summer doing cancer research. Interested in pursuing a career in science, Korte will get an early start with the American Cancer Society research internship.

The American Cancer Society's high school summer research program, currently in its eighth year, allows students to spend eight weeks gaining experience as professional research scientists. This summer, Korte and 27 other students across Illinois are spending time at some of Illinois' leading medical research facilities. Each student is assigned an established researcher as a mentor and assists in hands-on work in a cancer research laboratory.

Korte will complete his internship at the Simmons Cancer Institute (SCI) at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine alongside Dr. Thomas Robbins, Director of SCI.

"It is important to provide hands-on experience for young men and women interested in pursuing careers in cancer research. Together, the Society and Simmons Cancer Institute work to expand the student's interest and their knowledge of cancer research," said Robbins.

Korte is looking forward to conducting research that may benefit cancer patients, due to his strong interest in biochemistry and career aspiration in the science field.

"I want to put the skills which I have spent hours developing in and out of class to good use," said Korte. "By interning with the American Cancer Society, I can help people while gaining valuable experience in a scientific lab

Hundreds of students applied for the research internship this summer and Korte's application stood out because of his extreme curiosity for the mysteries of science. Outside of school, Korte is a dedicated Boy Scout and hopes to achieve Eagle Scout status within the next 12 months. Other extracurricular activities Korte is involved in include: Glenwood's Scholastic Bowl Team, Key Club, National Honor Society and jazz band.

More than 170 students have participated in the internship for the past seven years. Of those students, 100 percent of them have attended college and more than 81 percent have majored in a science-related field.

"We are very proud to offer this research program to outstanding Illinois' high school students," said Dr. Mary Maryland, President of the American Cancer Society, Illinois Division. "This internship allows students to develop skills in the field of cancer research, through hands-on participation paired with their pre-existing passion for science."

During the research program, students are assigned an individual, limited and achievable project to research four days per week. On the fifth day, students typically attend lectures and present updates of their research. At the end of the summer, students will also present a collective report of their overall findings.

Since 1952, the American Cancer Society, Illinois Division has provided more than \$60 million to scientists for cancer research. More than 75 percent of researchers who receive grants from the Society subsequently receive national-level funding to continue with their research.

### **About the American Cancer Society**

The American Cancer Society combines an unyielding passion with nearly a century of experience to save lives and end suffering from cancer. As a global grassroots force with more than 100,000 volunteers in Illinois and millions elsewhere, we fight for every birthday threatened by cancer in every community. We save lives by helping people stay well, by helping people get well, by finding cures, and by fighting back. As the nation's largest non-governmental investor in cancer research, we turn what we know about cancer into what we do. As a result, more than 11 million people in America who have had cancer, and countless more who have avoided it, will be celebrating birthdays this year. To learn more or to get help, call us anytime at 1-800-227-2345 or visit [cancer.org](http://cancer.org).

###