

HEALTH

Melanoma put her on a mission

A skin-cancer diagnosis at 24 was a life-altering shock for Lauren Race.

By Steve Dorfman
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Lauren Race is traveling a long way to tell her story. The 25-year-old Colorado Springs, Colo., resident – and skin-cancer survivor – is making the cross-country trip to South Florida next week for an important reason: “I want to help prevent what happened to me from happening to anyone else – especially teens.”

Race will be the featured speaker at next Tuesday’s Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation’s Sunsational Luncheon & Fashion Show at The Breakers in Palm Beach.

The charity fundraiser will be her first public foray in which she shares the harrowing medical journey that she and her family have been on for the last year – and that will continue, in some form, for the rest of her life.

“Lauren is an amazing young woman, and we’re thrilled to have her speaking at our event,” says Melanoma Foundation Executive Director Lisa Richman.

“I’m a little nervous – but, mostly, just really looking forward to helping anyone who has been, or one day will be,



BEFORE: Lauren Race in 2012, before being diagnosed with a Stage 4 melanoma.

affected by melanoma,” Race says.

Fun in the sun

Born and raised in Florence, Colo. (“home to the nation’s most dangerous criminals at the federal supermax prison,” Race mentions with a laugh), she recalls that she spent her childhood outdoors as much as possible.

Energetic and athletic, Race says that she played sports, rode her bike and swam in



AFTER: Lauren Race of Colorado Springs, Colo., underwent two surgeries and four, week-long rounds of aggressive, in-patient chemotherapy to combat skin cancer. She’ll be recounting her journey Feb. 12 at the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation’s 14th annual Sunsational Luncheon and Fashion Show at The Breakers Palm Beach. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

IF YOU GO

What: 14th annual Sunsational Luncheon & Fashion Show

Where: The Breakers Palm Beach (1 S. County Road, Palm Beach)

When: Feb. 12; silent auction begins at 10:30 a.m.; luncheon/fashion show starts at noon

Admission: \$250 per ticket, with all proceeds benefiting the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation

Contact: For more information, call 561-655-9655 or visit melanomaluncheon.com

creeks, “all under the blistering Colorado sun.” She says she was rarely, if ever, instructed to wear sun-block as

a youngster.
(Unknown to her at the

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