



### **Accomplishments**

- National spokesperson for CureSearch Childhood Cancer Foundation
- Rhodes Scholar finalist
- Accepted to Dartmouth, Georgetown, and University of Alabama medical schools
- Magna cum laude graduate of Samford University
- Echols Scholar at the University of Virginia
- 2005 Public Service Award from the American Association of Cancer Research
- President Bush's Daily Point of Light Award for community service
- Quality of Life Award from Miss America Organization recognizing contestant with the greatest accomplishments in her community service platform
- Creator of *Curing Childhood Cancer* license plate, an official Alabama specialty car tag which to date has raised over \$95,000 for pediatric cancer research

### **Platform Information**

Deidre first realized her passion for working with children when she visited Camp Smile-a-Mile, a camp for children with cancer. She returned for a weekend long camp session as a counselor, an experience that motivated her to champion the cause of pediatric cancer as her platform issue when she began competing in the Miss Alabama Pageant. Continuing her volunteer work at The Children's Hospital of Alabama, she started a high school volunteer program that enabled students to work one-on-one with cancer patients at Children's Hospital. Realizing the importance of research funding in the fight against cancer, she conceived of and designed a specialty license plate for the State of Alabama to raise funding for oncology research at Children's Hospital in Birmingham. The plate is now available statewide and to date has raised over \$95,000 for research. After winning the title of Miss America, Deidre took her advocacy to the national level, partnering with CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation as its official spokesperson. In her role as Miss America, Deidre has spoken to audiences around the country to raise awareness of pediatric cancer and has lobbied on Capitol Hill for additional appropriations for pediatric oncology research funding. She plans to continue advocating for children with cancer even after her year of service as Miss America by speaking, raising awareness and lobbying, and through her career as a pediatrician.