
From: Woodson Merrell <docmerrell@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 3:53 AM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: Request for Support for Caitlin Merrell's Crohn's and Colitis Foundation Walk Team

Team Young=NYC at the 2011 Take Steps Walk.

Dear Friends and Family,

We were delighted last year when Caitlin's friends came out in force to support her team Young NYC at the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America "Take Steps, Be Heard" Walk. And we are equally thrilled for her that she will lead the team again this year on May 17 at the South Street Seaport Pier 17, where we will walk over the Brooklyn Bridge to raise awareness and celebrate the courage of patients living with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. <=p>

This has got to be a good luck year for her team because Caitlin also happens to be 17 years old, and she is the "Honored Hero" for the New York walk, having been a top fund raiser for last year's walk, even while working from her hospital bed at New York Hospital during a Crohn's flare. Caitlin was diagnosed with Crohn's when she was 13, in 2008, and has been managing with incredible grace and resilience ever since.

In addition to her many academic and extra-curricular involvements as a junior in high school, Caitlin is committed to helping raise money for research into these diseases, which affect 1.4 million people in the U.S. Perhaps even more troubling than the numbers of people who have Crohn's or Colitis is the fact that children under the age of 8 are the fastest growing segment of the population being diagnosed with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis are chronic, autoimmune diseases that can be incredibly painful and debilitating.

Caitlin receives a monthly infusion of a powerful new drug called Remicade, which suppresses one part of her immune system that is causing the damage to her digestive tract. She also undergoes a weekly shot of a second immune suppressing agent, called Methotrexate, which stops her immune system from rejecting Remicade. The CCFA is particularly close to Caitlin's heart because it helped develop these therapeutic advances that are currently helping to keep her in remission. But there are not a lot of therapeutic options for people with IBD, and Caitlin is hoping that someday the CCFA's work will help lead to new and gentler therapies, and perhaps even a cure.

There are two ways to get involved and show support for Caitlin and the CCFA:

(First make sure your email server does not classify this email as "junk.")

- 1) Donate to Caitlin: Click on the red "Support Me" button below. Your internet browser will open up to Caitlin's personal walk page, and you can click "Donate to Caitlin!" No amount is too small....or too big!
- 2) Walk with us, join the team and start fundraising: Click on the red "Support Me" button below. Your internet browser will open up to Caitlin's personal walk page, and you can click "Join Young NYC!" Once you join you can donate and start reaching out to all of your friends and family, and to people you know who may be affected by IBD. (Note: If you plan on walking with us, please join Caitlin's team and donate ANY amount to yourself.)

With Much Love, Appreciation and Hope for a Healthy Future for Caitlin,

Kathy and Woody

<<http://badge.boundlessfundraising.com/image/disp=ay/ccfa/3243/2359505>>

PS. If you prefer not to donate online, it is also possible to send Caitlin a check, payable to The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America

Mailed to our home:

170 East End Avenue, #5J

New York, NY 10128