



May 15, 2008

Dear Partner,

Will you join us as we venture down the path to becoming heroes and help us to find a cure for Rett syndrome? We ask you to become a voice for the girls and women who do not speak and give a hand to those who have no use of their own. Please become our Partner at the 4th Annual Cape Cod Strollathon.

What is Rett syndrome?

Rett syndrome is a genetic neurological disorder that occurs almost exclusively in females. Rett syndrome becomes apparent after 6-18 months of early normal development. It results in a regression that leads to lifelong impairments. It is often misdiagnosed as autism or cerebral palsy and has no cure. Those inflicted with this disorder have no purposeful hand use due to their repetitive hand movements, hand wringing and mouthing. Speech is lost, seizures develop and scoliosis occurs. Irregular breathing patterns, hyperventilation and breath holding take place. More than half of the girls and women lose their ability to walk. Those diagnosed with Rett syndrome require maximum assistance with even the most basic daily activities. A girl is born every five hours with Rett syndrome.

What is the International Rett Syndrome Foundation (IRSF)?

IRSF is the largest and most comprehensive non-profit organization for families and friends, scientists, professionals and others concerned with Rett syndrome. The mission of IRSF is to fund research for treatments and a cure for Rett syndrome while enhancing the overall quality of life for those living with Rett syndrome by providing information, programs and services. IRSF was formed in July of 2007 through the merger of the Rett Syndrome Research Foundation (RSRF) and the International Rett Syndrome Association (IRSA).

How can you help?

Please consider becoming a Partner. You will not only be donating to a wonderful, important and worthy cause, but you will also be able to use this as a way to advertise your business and show your support to others. **Your logo will be displayed on 1,000 brochures, 100 posters, 250 t-shirts, on the IRSF website and on our banner at the event.**

Why help now?

Since the discovery of the gene that causes Rett syndrome (1999) and recent research that proves the theory of reversibility in mice (2007), we now have an unprecedented and historic opportunity to fund crucial new research. Rett syndrome is the only autism-spectrum disorder with a known genetic cause. It is often characterized as a “Rosetta Stone”, a key that will help unlock treatments and cures for other disorders including autism, schizophrenia, Parkinson’s, anxiety and autonomic nervous system disorders.

All forms must be mailed by June 23, 2008 in order to have your logo appear on all printed materials.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration!

With many thanks,

Jennifer and Justin Endres

Parents of Jillian, diagnosed at age 17 months, currently 5 years old

Chairs of the Cape Cod Strollathon

www.rettsyndrome.org

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