



My name is **Danielle Swoboda**. I am 3 years old and live in Nanuet, NY with my mom, dad and two sisters. Unfortunately I have been diagnosed with Rett Syndrome, a neurological disorder. The symptoms do not show themselves until a child is between six and eighteen months. All Rett Girls begin to develop normal. I am unable to walk, talk or use my hands. I can't actually grab my toys or even hold my bottle yet. I also get very frustrated because I am unable to tell my mom when I am hungry, tired or even scared.

In addition to not being able to walk, talk or use their hands are, Rett children also develop: breathing disorders, cardiac concerns, scoliosis, seizures, and gastrointestinal complications.

Rett Syndrome effects 1 in 15,000 girls. It effects all races and ethnic backgrounds. Recently scientists have discovered the gene which causes Rett, MECP2. They actually have been able to reverse Rett symptoms in some laboratory rats. We are still a long way from human testing but it is very exciting to know that with the proper funding that they may find a cure for Rett Syndrome. I hope that one day I can walk and play. You know, do everything many people take for granted, even clean my room and go to a real school.

My family needs the community's support to help find a cure or treatment for thousands of girls like me with this genetic disorder. Please join us at The Clarksville Inn, 1 Strawtown Road, West Nyack, NY on September 14, 2008 for a buffet 3-7 pm. Donations of 20.00 per adult at the door will include a DJ, Clown, Chinese Auction and all around family fun.

For more information, please contact my family at [darrenrosie96@optonline.net](mailto:darrenrosie96@optonline.net) or [datr6@aol.com](mailto:datr6@aol.com) and put "A Day For DanI" is the subject line.