

http://www.waaytv.com/tech_alabama/hudsonalpha-s-childhood-champion-is-raising-awareness-on-genetic-disorder/article_1f3c5916-13fc-11e7-b96c-e7258790460e.html

HudsonAlpha's 'Childhood Champion' is raising awareness on genetic disorder research

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WAAY 31 is partnering with HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology in Huntsville to sponsor the 2017 Double Helix Dash.

Proceeds from the event fund research on genetic disorders.

This year's childhood champion is Anna Brooke Ainsworth. Brooke's mom, Miranda Ainsworth, knew Anna Brooke was not developing as quickly as she should and sought out a solution.



Anna struggles with speaking and other cognitive functions. Miranda did not know where to turn for help, but after eight years of searching, she finally got the answer.

After multiple doctors visits, the Ainsworths were encouraged by HudsonAlpha scientists to take part in a research study. Samples of Anna's DNA were tested to see if it matched any rare or under diagnosed disorders.

"We just got the phone call last year that they found the variation in her genes that causes Cornelia de Lange Syndrome," said Miranda.

Miranda said the discovery helps her to communicate with Anna. "It helps us to be more patient with her, it helps us interact with her. It helps us think about in the future what are our expectations," she said.

Genetics testing is not covered by insurance and can get costly. But, it cost the Ainsworths nothing.

"It's free for children with developmental delays or any diagnosis that doesn't complete the puzzle for them," said Miranda.

This is why the Ainsworths say funding for HudsonAlpha's research is important in helping families like hers.

Anna Brooke and her family will sell t-shirts benefiting genetic disorder research at the Double Helix Dash.

The race is Tuesday, April 4, at 5:30 pm on HudsonAlpha's campus.

WAAY 31's Demetria McClenton is emceeding this event and would love to see you there!

For more information about the race, click [HERE](#).

To learn more about Anna Brooke, click [HERE](#).