

National nonprofit honors local woman

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CAPE NEDDICK — The Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) Foundation recently announced that Kathryn Wagner will be honored as an inductee in the de Lange Society.

Along with attending various family gatherings, Wagner has served on the CdLS Foundation Board of Directors and also served as a regional coordinator. She has raised awareness through letter writing to Congress and has attained a Governor's CdLS Awareness Day proclamation for the state of Maine. She's also been very active in the planning of the New England Golf Tournament and was the CdLS Foundation National Family Conference host family in 1992.

"Our daughter Molly was born in 1988 and diagnosed at three weeks of age," said Wagner. "We were so stunned by the diagnosis that we couldn't remember how to pronounce the name of the syndrome. We called the Foundation several times over the weekend, just to hear the pronunciation again.

"We were given a copy of the foundation's newsletter by the geneticist. The following week we spoke to the foundation and our journey began. I became a regional coordinator for Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont shortly after."

The de Lange Society, named after the doctor who cared so much about children with the syndrome, publicly recognizes individuals and volunteer groups, who, like Dr. Cornelia de Lange, lead the way for others.

The volunteers being inducted have brought creative vision, innovative ideas, vital assistance and leadership to the foundation. Their contributions enhance the quality of service and programs offered to individuals with the syndrome and their families.

For more information about CdLS, the foundation or to make a donation, call (800) 753-2357 or visit www.cdlsusa.org.