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Cornelia de Lange Syndrome is a fairly rare genetic disorder that can cause physical, cognitive and medical challenges, but one Paradise girl isn't letting her condition slow her down.

Jessica Rees has been living with CDLS for 30 years, but this past weekend she overcame her condition to take part in the Summer Sizzler 5K.

Rees says, "It was her first race and she's been training with me for a while now. We come here to the community park and run. She did fantastic. She had a 51-minute time, which is just about a 17-minute mile."

A 17-minute mile is pretty impressive for someone living with a condition that can cause mobility issues. Jessica's mother says when they got her diagnosis, they weren't sure what it meant.

Rees says, "It was kind of scary because there were a lot of kids that couldn't walk, couldn't talk, couldn't feed themselves. These were older kids so it was frightening to us as new parents."

Since that time, Jessica hasn't let her condition get the better of her. During the 3-mile race last weekend, her mother says she never gave up and had a smile on her face the entire time.

Rees says, "There aren't words. It's just incredibly rewarding and it just makes me so very proud of her and her spirit. It's her spirit that has done that."

Susie says for her daughter, it wasn't about out-performing the competition, it was about showing what she could accomplish.

Rees says, "You don't have to live within limitations, you just do it differently. She can't do everything the same as everybody, but that doesn't matter, that doesn't stop her."

Jessica says they plan on doing more 5K races. Up next on her list is the CASA Super-Hero run that's coming up in September here in Chico.

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Marge Nelms · Orland, California

I had the privledge of being her instructor and she is an awesome lady! I'm so proud of her!

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Linda Taylor · The National Alliance for Insurance Education & Research

Jessica is one special lady! So proud of her.

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YOU GO GIRL!

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