



CdLS Foundation

Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation, Inc.
Reaching Out, Providing Help, Giving Hope

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Father, friends run for children with rare genetic disorder ***Team CdLS debuts at the Broad Street Run***

King of Prussia, PA (April 12, 2010) – Mike Feehan would do anything for his toddler son Connor, including running 10 miles through the streets of Philadelphia as fast as he can.

Feehan, of King of Prussia, and 14 of his friends and family take to the starting line of the 2010 Blue Cross Broad Street Run Sunday, May 2, as Team CdLS. The team is raising funds for children with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS), a little-known genetic condition Connor was diagnosed with just before his first birthday.

“He’s faced feeding issues, gastroesophageal reflux, allergies, and delays in speech, development and growth,” says Feehan. “Despite these challenges, he’s made significant strides in his social skills and is a very active boy. He uses basic sign language to communicate and has a great group of friends – including several girlfriends.”

Connor serves as Team CdLS “ambassador,” and will be there with mom Kellie to cheer on his dad and the others running for him.

All funds raised go to the national CdLS Foundation, which provides service and support to thousands of families just like the Feehans. The team’s goal was \$10,000. To date, more than \$20,000 has been raised, most of it by Feehan himself.

About CdLS

CdLS is a genetic syndrome that occurs in about 1 in 10,000 births. An estimated 20,000 people in the U.S. have CdLS but remain undiagnosed and/or without support services.

Although individuals with CdLS range from mildly to severely affected, most have similar physical characteristics: small size, hands and feet; thin eyebrows that meet in the middle; long eyelashes; upturned nose; and thin, downturned lips. Some individuals have limb differences, including missing fingers or arms, and partial joining of the toes. Common medical problems include gastroesophageal reflux, bowel malrotation, hearing loss, and congenital heart defects.

About the CdLS Foundation

Founded in 1981, the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation is a family support organization that exists to ensure early and accurate diagnosis of CdLS, promote research into the causes and manifestations of the syndrome, and help people with a diagnosis of CdLS make informed decisions throughout their lifetime. More information can be found at www.CdLSusa.org.

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