



CdLS Foundation

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

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Team CdLS heads to Chicago, October 11

(September 8, 2009)—Team CdLS runs the Chicago Marathon, October 11, to honor and support children with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS).

Among this year's 21 members are six parents of children with CdLS and seven siblings. Runners include college students, a doctor, a nurse, a personal trainer, and a contractor. They range in age from 19 to over 60.

Team ambassador is Will Smisloff of Ballston Spa, NY, son of Team CdLS co-captain, Beth Smisloff, who is running the 26.2-mile course for the fifth time. Smisloff is joined this year by her teenaged daughter Grace, a first-time marathoner.

Since 2000, Team CdLS has raised more than \$335,000. In 2008, the team's average amount raised per runner was \$4,522.56—the highest of any charity team at the Chicago Marathon that year.

All money raised goes to the CdLS Foundation in support of its program and services for individuals with CdLS and their families.

CdLS is a little-known genetic disorder that occurs in about 1 in 10,000 births. An estimated 20,000 children in the U.S. have CdLS but remain undiagnosed or without services.

Although children with CdLS range from mildly to severely affected, most have similar physical characteristics: small hands and head, thin eyebrows that meet, long eyelashes, upturned nose, and thin, downturned lips. Children develop both physically and mentally much slower than

their peers. Some have limb differences, missing limbs or partial joining of the toes. Common medical problems include reflux, bowel abnormalities, heart defects, seizures, and cleft palette.

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.

For more information, or to make a donation in support of Team CdLS, call 800-753-2357 or go to www.CdLSusa.org and follow the home page link to Team CdLS.

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