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Team CdLS names ambassador for Chicago Marathon

Downers Grove, IL (June 7, 2011) – Breeze Davis of Downers Grove, IL, has been named the 2011 Team CdLS Ambassador for the Bank of America Chicago Marathon. Team CdLS raises money to benefit the CdLS Foundation, a national support organization dedicated to serving families of children affected by CdLS, a commonly unknown genetic condition. Breeze, 7, was diagnosed with CdLS at age three.

Breeze, just like any other child, has a very active lifestyle. She absolutely loves going to school and is welcomed home by her DVD collection. Breeze also enjoys playing outside and swimming. Breeze's mom, Margaret, says. "She is always on the move and is excited by everything. She is possibly the happiest kid in the world."

Breeze, her family and Team CdLS members will attend the Bank of America Marathon in Chicago, IL, on Sunday, October 9. Breeze's aunt, Penelope Prior of Chicago, will be running in the marathon while Breeze and her family are cheering her on from the sidelines.

"Participating in this marathon is very important to my family. Raising awareness about CdLS is something we love to do and is something we need to do," says Davis.

It took a long time for Breeze to be diagnosed and Davis says that the uncertainty was very troubling. "It took us about three years to get a diagnosis for Breeze. So we understand that process and how difficult it can be. We will do anything to raise awareness and help other families get a quick diagnosis," says Davis.

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 obstruction, hearing loss, and congenital heart defects.

About the 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 diagnosis of CdLS make informed decisions throughout their lifetime. For more information, call 800 – 753 – 2357 or go to www.cdlsusa.org.

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