

Local

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

T-shirt sale benefits girl fighting brain tumor

More than \$3,500 has been raised so far for Mitchell family; May walk-a-thon being planned in Carlisle

Story



Jason Scott
Reporter
email

By Jason Scott, Sentinel Reporter, January 14, 2010

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A local T-shirt fundraiser started in November to benefit a Mt. Holly Springs girl battling a rare brainstem tumor has raised more than \$3,500 so far, according to its organizers.

As of Monday, about 400 "Keep Fighting Carly" T-shirts have been sold to help 5-year-old Carly Mitchell and her parents, Jamie and Josh Mitchell, with medical expenses.

Last February, Carly was diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), which is life-threatening and inoperable.

Several fundraisers have been held in her honor, including a hair cut-a-thon, a pair of sandwich sales and this T-shirt sale started by three of Jamie Mitchell's high school classmates.

Mitchell is the deputy court administrator for Cumberland County.

"Carly and her family continue this long, hard struggle every day and it makes me want to get the word out about this disease so that we can do something about it," said Stacey Kurtz of Newville, one of the organizers.

Anyone still interested in buying a T-shirt can, she noted. To place an order, e-mail keepfightingcarly@yahoo.com or call 776-6859.

T-shirts are \$10. Long-sleeve T-shirts are also now available for \$20.

Checks and orders should be made payable and sent to: Keep Fighting Carly, P.O. Box 182, Plainfield, PA 17081.

The design on the shirt came from a picture taken at last year's Tour de France.

The Tour has a tradition of people chalking messages on the road for riders to see. The Nike Chalkbot, similar to a line painting machine used by road workers, allowed people from all over the world to contribute a chalked message.

Bill Finnerty, a county co-worker and friend of Jamie's, sent the message "Keep Fighting Carly!" through Nike's Web site and the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

The road message and a smiling picture of Carly were put on the T-shirt.

Walk-a-thon

Along with the continued sale of the T-shirts, Kurtz said, plans are also being made for a May 1 walk-a-thon in Carlisle to help raise awareness for pediatric brain tumors, in honor of Carly and all other children battling brain tumors.

"I want to help these families and children that are robbed of life from this nasty tumor," she said.

She is looking for volunteers to help arrange committees for the event, including sponsorships and donors, concessions, set up and clean up, entertainment, registration, finance and publicity.

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Interested people should e-mail keepfightingcarly@yahoo.com. You can also call Kurtz at 776-6859 or Christina at 226-3685.

All proceeds from the walk will go to The Cure Starts Now, Kurtz said, which is a foundation that is searching for a cure for the DIPG tumor and other pediatric brain tumors.

"Our goal is to turn Carlisle in May as gray (Pediatric Brain Tumor Awareness) as October is pink (Breast Cancer Awareness)," Kurtz added. "Together we can make a difference for these children and their families that have to suffer."

The walk-a-thon slogan is going to be: "Give Children Hope - Be Their VOICE."



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