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For Immediate Release

## Foundation Makes Record Donation

Oceanport (12/11/08). –On December 11, 2008, Kristen and Rich Gillette presented a \$100,000 check to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in memory of their daughter, Kortney, who died of a brain tumor. The timing is especially poignant as the Gillette's would have been celebrating Kortney's 12th birthday at this time. Through the Kortney Rose Foundation (KRF) they are able to support advances in research and treatment and raise awareness of pediatric brain tumors.

Kortney's mom and president of the Kortney Rose Foundation Kristen Gillette said, "When we set the goal of donating \$100,000 in 2008 we knew it was a lofty one. We are very grateful for all of the continued support we have received. Donating the Foundation's annual efforts around Kortney's birthday helps turn a sad time into a more positive one and is creating her legacy of helping other children through the promise of research."

Also taking part in the check donation were Principal of Wolf Hill Elementary School Renee Bonin, math teachers Ms. Reardon and Mrs. Saffiotti, and 20 fourth grade "top" math students. These students as well as last year's fourth grade "top" math classes helped to count change in the Kortney's Coins for a CURE Program; a KRF fundraiser held at the school in May. Several schools raised money through the fundraiser, but Mrs. Bonin, Mrs. Gillette and the school's "top" math teachers worked together to build the program into Wolf Hill's math curriculum. As a result, the school collected almost three quarters of the total \$15,000 raised by all of the schools. Principal Bonin said,

*The Kortney Rose Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the attorney general of the State of New Jersey (973) 504-6215. Registration with the attorney general does not imply endorsement. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. ID#20-5350807*

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Richard Breslin, Major Gifts Officer of the Foundation for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia was on hand to accept the check and said, "The \$175,000 that the Kortney Rose Foundation has donated to Children's Hospital in the past two years has been earmarked specifically for the Large-Scale Genomics Project to hunt genes behind brain tumors and use the gene knowledge to guide therapy, devise new tests and treatments."

The Kortney Rose Foundation, a New Jersey based 501(c)(3) foundation was established in August 2007 by the Gillettes to help channel their grief into something positive. Kortney was a vivacious nine-year-old with a winning smile and a zest for life. In December 2005, she was diagnosed with a brain stem glioma and succumbed to the disease just four short months later.

The 2008 donation was raised with the generosity of corporate sponsors Pink Rose Corporate Sponsor World Subaru of Tinton Falls and Purple Rose Corporate Sponsor Pound Puppies. 2008 fundraising efforts included a dinner gala, Kortney's Coins for a CURE Program, Kortney's Challenge two mile fun run/walk, a night at the Lakewood BlueClaws, The Turning Point Restaurant Fundraiser, fundraising by a New York City Marathon runner, bake sales, garage sales and *many* generous donations. According to Kristen Gillette, "No amount is too small; we are grateful for every penny."

In addition to raising money for research another primary focus of KRF is to raise awareness about the prevalence and severity of pediatric brain tumors. *Brain tumors are the number one cancer-related cause of death in children 19 and under and are diagnosed as often as leukemia.* In 2008 KRF introduced a bill to designate May as Brain Tumor Awareness Month in the State of New Jersey. Passage should be in early 2009.

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia was founded in 1855 as the nation's first pediatric hospital. Through its

long-standing commitment to providing exceptional patient care, training new generations of pediatric healthcare professionals and pioneering major research initiatives, Children's Hospital has fostered many discoveries that have benefited children worldwide. Its pediatric research program is among the largest in the country, ranking second in National Institutes of Health funding. In addition, its unique family-centered care and public service programs have brought the 430-bed hospital recognition as a leading advocate for children and adolescents. For more information, visit <http://www.chop.edu>. For more information on The Kortney Rose Foundation visit: [www.thekortneyrosefoundation.org](http://www.thekortneyrosefoundation.org) Or call 732-222-1491.

