

RECORD PARTICIPATION AT KORTNEY'S CHALLENGE SIGNALS GROWING SUPPORT FOR PEDIATRIC BRAIN CANCER RESEARCH

Over 500 Runners/Walkers Raise Over \$64,000 at Tenth Annual Family Fun Run

OCEANPORT, NJ – [August 11, 2015] – The Kortney Rose Foundation (KRF) today announced records for funds raised at its annual family fun run/walk to support research for pediatric brain cancer, the number one tumor-related cause of death in children under age 19. Kortney's Challenge drew over 500 supporters to Monmouth Park raising over \$64,000 that will directly benefit The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's (CHOP) world-class pediatric brain tumor research consortium.

Funds raised increased by 52% percent. Contributing to the growth this year was increased awareness about the organization generated by successful spring fundraising events, including "Great Food for a Great Cause" at the Turning Point Restaurants and Salt Creek Grille's annual martini and wine tasting. KRF also benefitted from an increased number of fundraising teams and individual fundraisers that raised money online in advance of the race.

The Kortney Rose Foundation presents a check to CHOP annually, with donations-to-date totaling \$1 million. During opening remarks, Kristen Gillette, president of The Kortney Rose Foundation, emphasized that, "Only four percent of the National Cancer Institute's research budget is allocated to all forms of pediatric cancer research. It's a crime, and it places the onus almost entirely on small, private foundations like ours to fund life saving research for children with brain and spinal cord tumors."

Trophies were awarded to the top three males and females aged 12 and under as well as the top three males and females aged 13 and over. The top finishers in each category were:

13 and Over Male:

- 1) Brendan Kirchner, Red Bank, NJ, Time – 10:30
- 2) Conor Lunny, Middletown, NJ, Time – 11:28
- 3) Will Foley, Freehold, NJ, Time – 11:50

13 and Over Female:

- 1) Casey Birdsall, Oceanport, NJ, Time – 13:00
- 2) Kendra Harrington, Marlborough, MA, Time – 13:27
- 3) Carolyn Rodgers, Toms River, NJ, Time – 14:14

12 and Under Male:

- 1) Joshua Beer, Oceanport, NJ, Time – 15:16
- 2) Erik Gutleber, Little Silver, NJ, Time – 16:23
- 3) Sean Newbert, Oceanport, NJ, Time – 16:56

12 and Under Female: (A Torchia Trifecta!)

- 1) Kase Torchia, Oceanport, NJ, Time – 14:32:00
- 2) Kambell Torchia, Oceanport, NJ, Time – 14:32:09
- 3) Kassidy Torchia, Oceanport, NJ, Time – 14:14

Following the family fun run, The Kortney Rose Foundation guests were invited to attend the Day at the Races picnic event which is hosted by the Oceanport PBA. People enjoyed the day of racing, the picnic food and especially the fourth race which was run in honor of the foundation with all jockeys wearing pink helmet covers to signify the foundation's colors of pink and purple. KRF supporters get to gather for a group photo before our designated race.

Presenting sponsors for Kortney's Challenge 2015 included Monmouth Park, Les Friedland Associates, WBI, Turning Point, Ports America Chesapeake, Vonage, Pauline Poyner/Heritage House Sotheby's International Realty and Fyzical Therapy & Balance Centers.

The Kortney Rose Foundation is a 501(c) (3) charity created by Kortney's parents, after her death in 2006 from a rare brain tumor, to create her legacy of helping other children through the promise of research. Since inception the foundation has built a playground in Kortney's name, donated \$1 million to the pediatric brain tumor research program at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and helped establish its world-class Children's Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium ([CBTTC.org](http://www.cbttc.org)). More than 95% of every dollar donated to KRF goes directly to this research. The foundation was also instrumental in passing legislation naming May as brain tumor awareness month in the State of New Jersey. In 2014, founder Kristen Gillette was presented with New Jersey Monthly's "Seeds of Hope" award, which honors the state's most dedicated volunteers. <http://www.thekortneyrosefoundation.org>

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