

## **KORTNEY'S CHALLENGE CONTINUES TO SPREAD HOPE FOR PEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMOR RESEARCH**

Record Number of Local Companies Join Battle Against the Leading Tumor-related Cause of Death in Children

OCEANPORT, NJ - [August 10, 2017] - The Kortney Rose Foundation (KRF) today announced another successful event, its 12th annual Kortney's Challenge family fun run/walk to support pediatric brain tumor research. The event drew over 550 participants and had a record number of sponsors. The money raised at Kortney's Challenge, held at Monmouth Park, directly benefits the world-class Children's Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium (CBTTC) whose operations center is at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). The funds raised will build upon the over \$1.5 million KRF has donated to date.

Contributing to the success this year was increased sponsorship support most notably from Monmouth Park Racetrack, Les Friedland Associates, LLC, WBI Investments, Turning Point Restaurants, "Team Super Mike" at RE/MAX Generations and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Division of Neurosurgery. The number of teams raising money online in advance of the race also increased with 19 registered at this event.

"One of the most encouraging signs is the increased collaboration amongst leading cancer research institutions focused on the rarest forms of brain tumors," said Kristen Gillette, Founder of The Kortney Rose Foundation. "Years ago, hospitals competed with one another in research and here we are today with two different hospitals talking about how they are working together."

Those doctors included Dr. Adam Resnick, Director of The Center for Data Driven Discovery in Biomedicine (D3b) at CHOP who stated, "In just 7 years, the consortium that KRF helped established has grown to include 15 institutions from around the world striving to improve genomic-driven therapeutic approaches for children with brain tumors."

Also in attendance was Dr. Derek Hanson of Hackensack Meridian's Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital, who is in charge of their brain tumor trials. Since 2016, Hackensack University Medical Center has been an affiliate member hospital of the CBTTC. He acknowledged the significant role private fundraising institutions like KRF play when he stated, "Only four percent of the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) research budget is allocated to all forms of pediatric cancer research."

Kortney's Challenge kicked off with a show by the Dance Plus Performance Team and the national anthem sung by brain tumor survivor, Brett Roysdon, 21. Gillette also recognized two students from Monmouth Beach schools whose designs were featured on the front of the participant and volunteer tee shirts. Riders from the Blue Nights New Jersey XV International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club kicked off the race.

Children enjoyed attractions including tattoos, face painting, and balloon animals. Lots of fund continued in the finish area with refreshments from Strollo's Lighthouse Italian Ices and Rook coffee. Afterwards, many participants attended the Day at the Races event at which jockeys wore pink for the designated Kortney Rose race.

Trophies were awarded to nine males and nine females in three age categories for the two-mile race. The top finishers were:

Men's Master:

- 1) Charlie Hartman – 13:17.4
- 2) Charlie Horse – 13:33.6
- 3) Rosendo Meza-Soriano – 14:13.3

Women's Master:

- 1) Tara Barnett – 14:12.2
- 2) Susan Torchia – 15:03.5
- 3) Mary Kinch – 15:08.3

Age 13-29 Males:

- 1) Brendan Kirschner - 10:29.5
- 2) Crispin D. Augusta - 10:42.7
- 3) Conor Lunny – 11:13.0

Age 13-29 Females:

- 1) Caroline Meany – 13:55.8
- 2) Krissy Birdsall – 14:23.4
- 3) Gillian Thorp – 14:28.8

Under 12 Males:

- 1) Liam Barnett - 13:27.9
- 2) Zachary Jersey – 13:41.3
- 3) Justin Monchinsky – 14:22.9

Under 12 Females:

- 1) Catherine DeSousa – 12:53.3
- 2) Ava Morgan – 15:07.0
- 3) Cassidy Torchia – 15:19.5

[VIEW ALL RACE RESULTS](#)

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 over \$1.5 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). The foundation was also instrumental in passing legislation naming May as Brain Tumor Awareness Month in the State of New Jersey. <http://thekortneyrosefoundation.org/>