

THE KORTNEY ROSE  
FOUNDATION

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# Press Release

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## **The Kortney Rose Foundation Raises over \$1,200 at 5K walk/run at Monmouth University**

Over 70 participants braved the cold and rainy weather on Friday, April 8 to run/walk in the second annual Global Understanding Convention's 5K at Monmouth University. This year the event was done in honor of The Kortney Rose Foundation to raise funds and awareness for pediatric brain tumor research. The event was sponsored by the Political Science Club, the Sociology Club, Aramark, and The Institute for Global Understanding at Monmouth University.

Over \$1,200 was raised at this event to support The Kortney Rose Foundation. The top three finishing men were Paul Dement, Chris Hirschler and Fred Strahl. The top three women were Jenna Interdiome, Kamerina Gibson and Pat Sonne.

**Kortney Rose Gillette** was a vivacious nine-year old girl with a winning smile and unparalleled zest for life. She loved playing with friends and animals (stuffed or real) and enjoyed school at Wolf Hill Elementary School in Oceanport, NJ. This didn't change even after her diagnosis of a terminal brainstem glioma. On April 27, 2006, four months after her diagnosis, Kortney lost her brave battle with this pediatric brain cancer.

The Kortney Rose Foundation (KRF) was founded by Kortney's mother, Kristen Gillette to honor Kortney's memory and celebrate her life. It was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 2007, to raise money for pediatric brain cancer research and awareness. In the past four years the foundation has donated over \$378,000 to the brain tumor research at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) specifically to their Large-Scale Genome Project and the new World Class Tissue Bank.

This year the foundation's goal is to give \$125,000 to bring their five year total to over a half million dollars donated.

The Kortney Rose Foundation is holding many fundraisers in the month of **May, which is Brain Tumor Awareness Month** in New Jersey, thanks to a resolution drafted by the foundation with help from local legislature and signed into law by Governor Corzine in 2009. Several area schools and stores will be holding a fundraiser called "Kiss Childhood Brain Cancer Goodbye." The foundation is also involved in the NJ Marathon Kid's festival on April 30. People may sign up for the 3 mile run/walk, 1.2 mile kid's marathon or kid's races and have their entry money go to benefit The Kortney Rose Foundation. Cheer on the almost 30 runners who will be participating on Sunday, May 1 as part of TEAM KORTNEY in the NJ Marathon events. Save the date for the foundation's signature event, Kortney's Challenge 2 Mile FUN Run/Walk at Monmouth Park on Sunday, August 28. A fun-filled day for the whole family! For applications and more information on all of our upcoming events please visit our website [www.thekortneyrosefoundation.org](http://www.thekortneyrosefoundation.org). For an interview with Kristen Gillette please email her at [kortneyroseorg@aol.com](mailto:kortneyroseorg@aol.com) or call (732)222-1491.

**\*Pediatric brain tumors are the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in children 19 and under.**

**\*Children are now being diagnosed with brain tumor as often as Leukemia**

**\*Five year survival rates for a child with a brain tumor is a dismal 33%.**

*If you would like more information about The Kortney Rose Foundation, to make a donation, or to schedule an interview please call Kristen Gillette at (732) 222-1491, or email [kortneyroseorg@aol.com](mailto:kortneyroseorg@aol.com). Visit our website: [www.TheKortneyRoseFoundation.org](http://www.TheKortneyRoseFoundation.org).*

*(see photo below)*



Top 3 female and male finishers at the Second Annual Global Understanding Convention 5K. This year the race raised over \$1,200 for The Kortney Rose Foundation for pediatric brain tumor research.

From Left-For the women 1<sup>st</sup> place- Jenna Interdiome (21:43), 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Kamerina Gibson (24:08), and 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Pat Sonne (24:30) For them men - 1<sup>st</sup> place - Paul Dement (20:27), 2<sup>nd</sup> place- Chris Hirschler (21:46) and 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Fred Strahl (21:52) (President of the Political Science Club and organizer of the event.) Behind the finishers stands Kristen Gillette, Founder and President of The Kortney Rose Foundation.