



# KORTNEY ROSE FOUNDATION

## KORTNEY'S CHALLENGE CONTINUES TO GROW AND RAISE FUNDING FOR PEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMOR RESEARCH

### Record Number of Teams Help to Boost Participation

OCEANPORT, NJ - [August 10, 2018] - The Kortney Rose Foundation (KRF) today announced its most successful Kortney's Challenge 2 Mile Fun Run/Walk at Monmouth Park ever. In its 13th year the annual event drew over 600 participants boosted by a record number of 34 teams to raised nearly \$82,000 to support pediatric brain tumor research. The money raised at Kortney's Challenge, held at Monmouth Park, directly benefits research through the world-class Children's Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium (CBTTC). The KRF was a primary funder of the CBTTC and continues to support the collaborative effort as it grows. The CBTTC, as well as the first of its kind pediatric data cloud, are operated out of the Center for Data Driven Discovery in Biomedicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). The funds raised will build upon the nearly \$2 million that KRF has donated to research within the 17 collaborating institutions of the CBTTC.

Contributing to the success of Kortney's Challenge 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 Vonage.

"The Kortney Rose Foundation supports only researchers/institutions that are working collaboratively sharing specimens and data through the CBTTC and the pediatric cancer cloud, Cavatica," said Kristen Gillette, Founder/Executive Director of The Kortney Rose Foundation. In addition Gillette stated, "Foundations like ours are helping to break the current model that encourages researchers and institutions to hold their research findings until publication which can take anywhere from two to ten years. Imagine a researcher who discovers a treatment that could save kid's lives but holds this information in hopes of notoriety, an increased salary and/or receiving more grant funding from the National Institute of Health (NIH). KRF funding has helped to create and grow the Children's Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium where experts at 17 worldwide institutions are more interested in working *together* to find answers for kids with brain tumors than being awarded credit."

In attendance and speaking at Kortney's Challenge, was Dr. Adam Resnick, Director of The Center for Data Driven Discovery in Biomedicine (D3b) at CHOP who stated, "In just 8 years, the consortium that KRF helped establish has grown to include 17 institutions from around the world striving to improve genomic-driven therapeutic approaches for children with brain tumors and beyond."

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



# KORTNEY ROSE FOUNDATION

acknowledged the significant role private fundraising institutions like KRF play and spoke specifically about the research project that KRF has been supporting.

Kortney's Challenge kicked off with the national anthem sung by brain tumor survivor, Brett Roysdon, 22. In the finish area, Gillette honored the Team Run BFE (Best Family Ever) captain, Melanie Tindall with three awards for the largest number of participants on a team, team that raised the most in donations, over \$10,000, and the largest individual fundraiser was given to team member Laura Millen. The Shore Regional High School Field Hockey Team won the Team Spirit Award. Gillette also recognized two students from Middletown Township schools whose designs were selected from a contest and featured on the front of the official race shirts. Riders from the Blue Nights New Jersey XV International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club led out the race field.

The finish area was full of food and fun for participants of all ages. Children enjoyed attractions including tattoos, face painting, crafts and balloon animals. Afterwards, many participants attended the Day at the Races event. The sixth horse race was run in honor of The Kortney Rose Foundation and jockeys wore pink helmet covers to signify the foundation's colors of pink and purple.

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

## **Age 13-29 Males:**

- 1) Brian Dengler, 10:15.5 – Rumson, NJ
- 2) Brendan Kirchnir, 0:19.4 – Rumson, NJ
- 3) Antonio Meza Soriano, 11:00.6 - Red Bank, NJ

## **Age 13-29 Females:**

- 1) Allison Lawson, 13:26.3 – Red Bank, NJ
- 2) Haven Dora, 13:31.5 – Spring Lake, NJ
- 3) Casey Birdsall, 13:48.5 – Oceanport, NJ

## **12 & Under Males:**

- 1) Liam Barnett - 13:02.2 – Fair Haven, NJ
- 2) Justin Monchinski, 13:35.9 – Marlboro, NJ
- 3) Nicholas Ouida, 15:31.1 – Monmouth Beach, NJ

## **12 & Under Females:**

- 1) Lillah Gordon, 12:29.7 – Crosswicks, NJ
- 2) Cassidy Torchia, 16:06.0 – Oceanport, NJ
- 3) Grace Heaton, 16:33.0 – Atlantic Highlands, NJ

## **Men's Master:**

- 1) Thomas Duffy, 12:51.7 - Crosswicks, NJ
- 2) Justin Time, 13:26.1 – Mahwah, NJ
- 3) Charlie Hartman, 14:26.5 – Centreville, VA



# KORTNEY ROSE FOUNDATION

## **Women's Master:**

- 1) Tara Barnett, 14:05.7 – Fair Haven, NJ
- 2) Susan Torchia, 15:34.6 – Oceanport, NJ
- 3) Wendy Hoyt, 16:08.7 – Monroe Township, NJ

For event details or to schedule an interview, please contact Kristen Gillette at (732) 222-1491 or [kristen@thekortneyrosefoundation.org](mailto:kristen@thekortneyrosefoundation.org).

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 nearly \$2 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/>