

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE KORTNEY ROSE FOUNDATION EXPANDS ITS ANNUAL DONATION TO
FUND MULTIPLE PEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMOR RESEARCH PROJECTS**

Investing in immunotherapy for brain tumors

Oceanport, NJ - January 7, 2019 – The Kortney Rose Foundation (KRF) announced today that its annual donation to fund research on pediatric brain tumors for 2018 totaled \$145,000. This is KRF's twelfth annual donation made in memory of nine-year old Kortney Rose Gillette, who died from a brain tumor in 2006. The funds raised will build toward the nearly \$2 million contributed by the foundation to date.

In 2018 KRF was fortunate to have Dr. Peter Phillips, the former Chief of the Section of Neuro-Oncology, Director of the Neuro-Oncology Program at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), join us as the foundation's Scientific Director. With his expertise and guidance, our scientific committee chose important research projects including but not limited to: research through the Children's Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium (CBTTC), a project taking the science from a CAR-T immunotherapy, that's been successfully curing one form of Leukemia, and translating it to brain tumors, a \$10,000 donation to Optic Pathway Glioma research, thanks to the wonderful team fundraising effort by the Tindall family at our Kortney's Challenge 2 Mile Run/Walk event, and support for the Neuro-Oncology Department at CHOP to help enhance its world class department in the care of and research for children with brain tumors.

"We continue to be encouraged that more researchers and institutions are choosing to work together in pediatric cancer research, but there is still a long way to go to further a more collaborative model," said Founder and Executive Director, Kristen Gillette. "the Kortney Rose foundation will continue to only support research using a collaborative model and our 2018 donation will support research projects being done on many different kinds of pediatric brain tumors through the CBTTC and through the Neuro-Oncology Program at CHOP."

"Clinical research is crucial to improving outcomes for children with brain tumors. Just because a new medication works on cancer cells in a petri dish or mice with tumors in a lab doesn't mean it will work in children or will be safe in children. It is crucial to carefully and responsibly test new

therapies. CHOP's brain tumor program is actively involved in this process. At present, we have >30 open clinical trials for children with brain tumors. However, it is crucial to expand our clinical research program, so that we can support the development and testing of new cutting edge therapies, as well as expand the treatment options available for our patients today."

~Michael J. Fisher, MD, Chief of the Section of Neuro-Oncology, Director of the Neuro-Oncology Fellowship Program, and Director of the Neurofibromatosis Program at CHOP.

The foundation expanded its advocacy efforts in 2018 by supporting the "Go Gold in September" campaign for Childhood Cancer Awareness month with football games at Shore Regional High School, Middletown High School North, and Middletown High School South where all of the students wore gold and helped raise money for research. The "Go Gray in May" initiative for Brain Tumor Awareness month also grew in 2018.

Notable corporate sponsors in 2018 included the Turning Point Restaurant organization, Monmouth Park Racetrack, Les Friedland & Associates, LLC, and "Team Super Mike" at RE/MAX Generations,

Mark your calendars for this year's "Great Food for a Great Cause" fundraiser taking place at all Turning Point Restaurant locations on February 23-24 and the 14th annual Kortney's Challenge 2 Mile Fun Run/Walk at Monmouth Park on Sunday, August 4.

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, is approaching \$2 million donated to pediatric brain tumor research, was a founding funder of Children's Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium (CBTTC.org), and was the primary funder of the pilot research study to come out of the CBTTC called "Open DIPG." The foundation was also instrumental in passing legislation naming May as Brain Tumor Awareness Month in the State of New Jersey.

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