Kortney’s Challenge — Every Step Counts

By Allison Merchant

On Sunday August 5 at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, NJ a group of individuals laced up their racing shoes. The Kortney’s Challenge 2 Mile FUN Run/Walk celebrated its 12th year in existence serving as the signature for the Kortney Rose Foundation.

Founder of the organization and host of the event, Kristen Gillette explained the meaning behind the 2 Mile FUN Run/Walk. The foundation began in support for families that have been affected by children with brain tumors and raise money together to support collaborative research.

“The first Kortney’s Challenge was held in September 2006, only four months after Kortney passed,” Gillette explained. “All of Kortney’s nine-year-old friends wanted to help with the foundation and I didn’t know how they could help, but I knew they could walk two miles. That was the reason for the first Kortney’s Challenge and remains this distance to allow all to be able to participate.”

The race results reflected the participants of all ages and fitness levels with the first-place winner crossing the line in 10 minutes and the last strolling in after 45 minutes of fun. “What began in memory of a nine-year-old little girl named Kortney Rose Gillette has grown into something so much larger and more important than we ever could’ve imagined,” Gillette said. She stood at the finish line at greeted each participant with a high-five as they crossed, without even realizing the beautiful symbolism where the Kortney Rose Foundation has touched many, many lives.

Girls 12 & under finishers

Masters women top 2 (1 missing)

Men 13 and over top finishers

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