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## THE KORTNEY ROSE FOUNDATION'S 13TH ANNUAL DONATION BRIDGES GAP IN BRAIN TUMOR RESEARCH FUNDING

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Creates Clinical Research Position in Foundation's Name

Oceanport, NJ - January 4, 2020 – The Kortney Rose Foundation (KRF) today announced that its 2019 annual donation to fund research for pediatric brain tumors totaled \$166,500, an increase of nearly 15% over last year. This is KRF's thirteenth annual donation to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), made in memory of nine-year-old Kortney Rose Gillette, who died from a brain tumor in 2006.

The funds raised in 2019 bring KRF close to the \$2.5M mark in cumulative contributions to CHOP. The hospital recently recognized KRF for "bridging the gap in brain tumor research funding in honor of Kortney Rose Gillette." This is inscribed on a plaque installed on the bridge connecting the lobby of CHOP's main hospital to the children's oncology floor. KRF will continue its long-term support of CHOP's world-class Department of Neuro-Oncology, which recently created a new position with the title of "Kortney Rose Foundation Clinical Researcher in Neuro-Oncology," whose work will be heavily supported by the foundation over the next few years.

"For more than a decade, the Kortney Rose Foundation has been an incredible funding partner supporting both cutting edge laboratory and clinical research," said 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. "This incredibly generous pledge supporting a dedicated clinical investigator will allow our program to expand its trial options, develop and test new ideas, and increase our ability to bring new therapies to children."

Other primary investments KRF has identified over the coming year will include: renewing its commitment to the Children's Brain Tumor Tissue Consortium (CBTTC), funding a CAR-T immunotherapy project, co-funding Optic Pathway Glioma research with the Tindall Family and investing in pre-clinical work for a DMG-ACT trial.

"We're truly grateful to our many donors, volunteers, and corporate partners who helped us set fundraising records this year," said Founder and Executive Director, Kristen Gillette. "This incredible support enables KRF to continue making significant and impactful annual donations to accelerate the changes needed in the underfunded pediatric brain tumor space."

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Kortney's Challenge 2 Mile Fun Run/Walk at Monmouth Park, Great Food for a Great Cause Fundraiser at Turning Point Restaurants, and Kortney's Cash for a Cure Fundraiser in area schools all had their largest income years ever. The foundation continued to expand its advocacy efforts in 2019 with campaigns in both September and May. In September, KRF in tandem with high school students, expanded the "Go Gold in September Football Games" for Childhood Cancer Awareness month. Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School was added this year to the existing participating schools; Shore Regional High School, Middletown High School North, and Middletown High School South. The "Go Gray in May" initiative for Brain Tumor Awareness month also grew in 2019. Shore Regional's spring sports teams wore gray socks in recognition of gray as the awareness color, and KRF's "Go Gray in May" campaign expanding to more retail outlets and households.

Notable corporate sponsors in 2019 included Monmouth Park Racetrack, the Turning Point Restaurant organization, the Vonage Foundation, Ports America, Reliable Automotive Equipment Inc. and the Remer Family.

Mark your calendars for this year's "Great Food for a Great Cause" fundraiser taking place at all Turning Point Restaurant locations on Saturday, February 29 and Sunday, March 1, and the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Kortney's Challenge 2 Mile Fun Run/Walk at Monmouth Park on Sunday, August 2.

*Established in Oceanport, NJ in 2006, The Kortney Rose Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) charity whose mission is to eradicate pediatric brain tumors by funding the world's most promising, collaborative research. With a battle cry of "Help Get Brain Tumors Off Kids' Minds," the foundation is responsible for nearly \$2.5 million raised for pediatric brain/central nervous system tumor research. KRF was a founding research partner in establishing the Children's Brain Tumor and Tissue Consortium (CBTTC) and Cavatica. With the operation center based out of the Center for Data Driven Discovery in Biomedicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), the CBTTC is made up of 17 global institutions, working together to accelerate findings and operates the world's largest collection of pediatric genomic data in the world.*

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For more information about our events please follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and at our website <http://www.thekortneyrosefoundation.org>