



Hi Friends,

Just a reminder that the 4th Annual Mito March For Kirkland will be taking place in memory of my son on Sunday May 25th, 2008. We look forward to seeing so many of you who have come out in past years to support mitochondrial research at SickKids Hospital in Toronto, but I'd also like to extend a personal invite to those who've yet to experience the magic that Kirkland's life has generated.

Kirkland's fundraiser is a 5km Walk-Run at the Gellert Community Park in Georgetown, Ontario. Yes, we encourage you to complete the route however, spreading awareness of these rare diseases is of equal importance to our organizers so we invite you to join us whether you plan on walking or not.

Please bring your kids...typically they have a blast!

Stanley Cup winner, **Corey Perry** of the **Anaheim Ducks** will be on hand to sign autographs.

Our draw prize tent is spectacular!

Kirkland t-shirts are given out for pledges/donation of \$25 or more.

A prize is awarded to the first runner across the finish line.

Our young, "Kids Believe In SickKids Programme" volunteers will have games and activities set up for the children including free face-painting and balloons. The splash pad is typically a hit when the weather is hot. Kernels popcorn, freezies, a barbeque, and other refreshments are available.

It always proves to be a wonderful morning's worth of fun and camaraderie -all for a good cause. Please consider joining us this year. Mitochondrial disease is rare...research dollars are even rarer. Families of children who suffer from these diseases need your help. One voice might easily be ignored, but over the past 4 years and with your help...we are starting to be heard!

We, the organizers work as volunteers. Donations go to the Kirkland Kilbride Research Fund at SickKids Foundation and are then accessed by the mitochondrial research team. We've donated over \$109,000 to date!!

Finally... three potential drugs are being tested in the Lab! We are searching for the gene for one of the more prevalent mitochondrial diseases- Complex One Deficiency. Our funds enable more extensive tests to be run on difficult-to-diagnose cases, and we have paid for an important piece of genetic equipment!

Better than that, there is a glimmer of hope because of Kirkland. The Mito March has empowered so many and has served to alleviate some of the helplessness associated with fatal diseases such as these.

It has allowed us to give meaning to Kirkland's journey.

Hope you can make it out on May 25th!

Sincerely,

Kelly Johnson Kilbride

Generating Energy Link by Link