3rd Annual "Climb to Conquer SADS" 2009 - A Huge Success

Mt. Rainier, Washington
July 10-12, 2009

Photos from the Climb

Dear Alice,

We are delighted to announce that our 3rd Annual Climb to Conquer SADS was the most successful yet. Our team of 9 climbers reached the summit of Mt. Rainier and honored families affected by SADS conditions. Enjoy the photos and stories, and for more, visit www.StopSADS.org and go to the photo gallery.

Brian Hoots climbs in memory of Jesse Aaron Smith (Nancy Adam's son).

Photo: Brian Hoots reads Jesse's story to the team

Quote from Nancy: "The Mountain didn't give the summit up easily. Our climbers were socked in and it was extremely windy. Brian chose not to read Jesse's story at the summit, but to get everyone to safer ground. They descended 600ft, sat on their backpacks and Brian began to read Jesse's story. As soon as he finished reading, the clouds parted and the mountain greeted them with clear blue skies and the sun was shining brightly behind him. Evidently some were brought to tears and each acknowledged the higher purpose of why they were doing the climb. A beautiful event happened as they descended, they moved into a world where everything was a fresh white, painted in sunshine (see top photo). He turned around and saw his rope team silhouetted in intense sunshine. He said it was breathtaking and something he will always remember..."
Rich Bennett climbs for the Lucatuorto Family - in honor of daughter Annie
Special thanks to the Lucatuorto Family - they raised more than $6,000 for the Climb to Conquer SADS event. Annie (pictured below) lives and thrives with Long QT.

A note from Annie's parents: "As most of you know, our daughter Annie was diagnosed with LQTS1 on January 12, 2007, at the age of 10, after she fainted in a swimming pool. LQTS1 is a rare but serious genetic heart arrhythmia that has been passed down from Cathy, who like Annie never knew she had it until Annie was diagnosed. Since then, we learned that Aunt Beth, Aunt Megan and Cousin Reese also have this condition. This condition results in the deaths of over 4,000 people each year, many of whom are children like Annie who die never knowing they had the condition. There is no cure for this condition today. With the help of a daily beta blocker, and life style management, Annie is able to live a somewhat restricted, but healthy, and happy life."

Roland Lamarche climbs for the Righeimer Family, in memory of Rebecca.

A note from the Righeimers: "We want to thank you so much for climbing Mount Rainier in memory of our precious daughter Rebecca, it really means the world to us. We saw the wonderful pictures, and seeing you holding up Rebecca's sign just made my day. Rebecca passed away at the tender age of 4 years 8 months due to Long QT syndrome.

Not a day goes by were she is not in our thoughts, we miss and love her so much. It is because of the SADS foundation and it's incredible network that we are able to learn all we need to know about Long QT syndrome. Losing Rebecca is the hardest thing we have ever had to endure, and we think about her every day. Often people around us are afraid to speak her name because they are afraid to make us sad, fact of the matter is, we are sad about losing her every day, but what makes us more sad is not hearing her name. She was a very sweet and compassionate little girl. So what I want to get at is, when someone like yourself does something this remarkable as to climb a mountain for our little girl, it really does mean the world to us. We will never forget this incredible kind and selfless gesture, we are so thankful to you, and we really hope we one day will have the honor of meeting you. Once again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You have made a difference in our lives."

Myia Hackett climbs for the Lentino Family
After many near-drowning episodes, Sharon Lentino was diagnosed with Long QT in 1984. Now this busy mother of three takes beta blockers and has been episode free for 20 years. She writes: “I have three children, Mary, Anne and James. My daughters have Long QT Syndrome and are involved in fun activities such as cheerleading, tap and band.

We have become involved with SADS and this foundation has allowed us to meet others who have this livable but life threatening disease. I try and let my children know the severity of our disease but I also want them to live life and love living it each day.”

**Zach Turner climbs for the Musgrove Family**

Sarah Musgrove (mom) writes: As many of you already know our world changed abruptly last July when (husband) Dave, Aiden and Davis were all diagnosed with Long QT Syndrome. We were so lucky to be connected with amazing doctors who were able to send us for the proper testing so we could begin very effective preventative treatment.

It is so important that more doctors and families are aware of SADS and the symptoms to look for and that is exactly what the SADS Foundation is all about. A donation to the SADS Foundation could help to save a child’s life through awareness. We are lucky to know our boys’ diagnosis and to be able to be proactive in their care; however there are many children out there today that continue to live their lives undiagnosed due to lack of SADS awareness. Help us get the word out about SADS and you could help save the life of a child.

**Special thanks to our sponsors:**

*Event Sponsor: PGX Health*

Climbers also sponsored by: Dr. Susan Etheridge
Dr. Chris Anderson
Scott Dailard

**If you are interested in sponsoring a climber in 2010, e-mail Laura at laura@sads.org**

Special thanks to our climbing team: Leader: Rich Bennett, Roland Lamarche, Myia Hackett, Kathryn Grabel, Brian Hoots, Bryson Williams, Sarah Smeltzer, Zach Turner and Jason Baker

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