



Please Go And Enjoy Your Life . . . Danny Did!!!!

Danny Did Foundation Kicks Off “Get in the Game” Campaign ***Mass letter writing effort for Epilepsy funding runs through July 31st***

CHICAGO - June 15, 2010 - The Danny Did Foundation, a not-for-profit dedicated to the mission to prevent deaths cause by seizures, has announced its “Get in the Game to Advocate for Epilepsy Funding” letter-writing campaign. This nationwide effort is now underway and runs through the end of July.

The objective of the grass-roots drive is to have Danny Did Foundation (DDF) supporters contact their elected officials and request more government funding to combat Epilepsy. A letter that DDF supporters can print, sign, and mail is available on the DDF website at www.dannydid.org. The idea for the campaign, said DDF founder Mike Stanton, grew out of Illinois State Senator Dan Kotowski’s remarks at the DDF’s *Hearts and Hugs* fundraiser at Misericordia in May.

“Senator Kotowski, in his usual forceful and compassionate way, asked our audience ‘Why not? Why shouldn’t everyone in this room contact their elected officials and demand that they bring the deadly disorder of Epilepsy to the forefront of the nation’s mind? Why shouldn’t we all challenge ourselves and encourage our representatives to produce legislation that brings increased funding to the fight against Epilepsy?’”

Epilepsy, long spoken of in hushed tones, affects over 3 million people in the United States alone, and 50 million people worldwide. This underfunded affliction kills 50,000 people annually in the U.S. ---more than the number of people who die from breast cancer every year--- yet gets five times less federal funding for research than breast cancer receives. In Illinois, the state has allotted a paltry \$500,000 for Epilepsy, or \$3.84 for every person who suffers from the disorder in Illinois. Nationwide, 45,000 children under the age of 15 are diagnosed with Epilepsy every year.

The letter-writing campaign ---an “old-fashioned knock on the door,” as Senator Kotowski phrased it--- urges legislators to increase funding for Epilepsy-related issues such as awareness of Epilepsy, treatment of Epilepsy, Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP), and exploration of seizure-detection device technologies.

The Danny Did Foundation was established in January 2010 by Mike and Mariann Stanton after the unexpected death of their four-year old son Danny, who died of a seizure while sleeping. The Foundation has provided information and education to families across the U.S. and has raised awareness worldwide as part of its aggressive effort to bring Epilepsy out of the shadows. To learn more, visit the DDF at www.DannyDid.org.