

Kade Lamontagne

Mr. Plona

Period: E

Dear Members of the March Madness Committee,

My name is Kade Lamontagne and the charity that I want to give \$500 dollars to is the Danny Did Foundation. This group was created by Mariann and Mike Stanton to help inform the world about a disorder called SUDEP or Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy. They are doing this because on December 12, 2009 at 7:15AM these two parents walked into their son's room, but instead of seeing a happy sleeping four-year-old boy they saw a cold and lifeless body. Danny could have been saved if only he had a seizure monitor. Not wanting this to happen to any more families the Stanton family has been donating free seizure monitors to families with Epilepsy. Unfortunately, seizure monitors are extremely expensive, so let's help support this generous family.

On November 2, 2009 my five-year-old brother Kollin (then four) had his first seizure. This occurred at his preschool and lasted five minutes, during this time a doctor, who was visiting for the day, took notes of what was happening. When Kollin stopped seizing paramedics rushed him to the hospital to take tests on his brain. Four months after his first seizure Kollin had his second seizure, again when he was sleeping. I was the first to realize he was having a seizure because I was in bed. I remember I thought he was playing a game so I told him to stop, but when he didn't I knew something was wrong and quickly went to check on him. When I looked into his room I saw that his arm was twitching and called to my Dad, who was at the time getting my cat off the back porch. I told Kollin I'll be right back and flew down the stairs and saw my Dad through a window, so I shouted his name and instantly he knew what was happening. Quick as a bullet my Dad ran inside and up the stairs telling me to grab the Diastat, a rectal medicine that is supposed to stop seizures. When I got upstairs my Dad was on the phone with 911 and soothing my brother. This was the scariest time of my life.

Since my little brother has partial onset with secondarily generalized seizures, he mainly has seizures when he's asleep. In order to catch my brother having a seizure my parents bought a very sensitive baby monitor. This was very helpful because we would be able to hear Kollin if he was moving around or making any faint repetitive noise. The only downside of only

using a baby monitor is the fact that we have to be quiet all the time, so that we could hear what was happening. A few months ago my parents bought another tool to help tell us if Kollin is having a seizure, and it is called a seizure monitor.

This special monitor is designed to keep track of the sleeper's heart rate and send an alarm if the sleeper has been having unusual movement for more than thirteen seconds. Since this is fairly new technology the seizure monitors are quite expensive. This is the main reason why I chose the Danny Did Foundation because they spend tons of money to help a family buy a seizure monitor. If I were to win this essay contest I know that the \$500 dollar prize will be greatly appreciated by not only an important foundation but also a family in need.

As you can see the foundation that I chose is not only important to me but also important to everyone with Epilepsy. Without the Danny Did Foundation tons of people who have seizures can and will start dying due to the lack of money to buy a seizure monitor. Over 3,000,000 in the U.S have Epilepsy and, unfortunately, some people will die because their family didn't know they were having a seizure. These monitors can help change that. I am aware that the March Madness committee has hundreds of letters and hundreds of different important charities to choose from, but my charity is different from all the rest because not so many people know that SUDEP even exists just like how very few people know about Epilepsy. So please choose the Danny Did Foundation because you may very well be the only hope to thousands of people.

With hope,

Kade Lamontagne

Charity: Danny Did Foundation

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