



Please Go And Enjoy Your Life. Danny Did. ®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tennessee Parents Join Danny Did Foundation Ambassador Program

Family-Run Nonprofit Works to Combat Epilepsy and SUDEP

June 2, 2015 – Jackson, TN – The Danny Did Foundation, a Chicago-based nonprofit focused on enhanced awareness of epilepsy and sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP), has announced Julie and John Bezold as its new parent Ambassadors in the State of Tennessee.

Danny Did Foundation (DDF) Ambassadors are volunteers who share their personal story to further the DDF's mission to prevent deaths caused by seizures. DDF Ambassadors advocate, educate, and fundraise as representatives of the foundation in communities across the United States.

The Bezold's son, Nick, is a talented 16-year-old and a standout player for the Madison Academic Magnet High School soccer team. Nick achieves his success while managing epilepsy, a neurological disease that will impact 1 in 26 Americans over a lifetime. Each spring, the Bezolds organize **The Purple Way 5K** run in Jackson. In the events' past three years, the family has raised nearly \$22,000 to fight epilepsy.

"It is incredibly impacting when the Bezolds bring together their community because society needs to learn about and talk about epilepsy," said Tom Stanton, Danny Did Foundation executive director. "Nick has tremendous athletic talent, and his family utilizes sports to elevate awareness of a disease that needs more attention and more progress. They are inspiration to our cause and to many families."

As part of its mission to prevent deaths caused by seizures, the DDF has helped families across 48 states and 7 countries to gain access to seizure monitoring devices that compliment other treatments for epilepsy. These devices enable early intervention when seizure activity occurs, so that a parent or caretaker can do a well-being check on the person who is seizing. Funding from the 2015 Purple Way 5K is being used to purchase monitoring devices for families that cannot afford one.

Julie Bezold is a program director at Jackson State Community College. Nick is the oldest of their three children, and the family resides in Jackson.

For more information:

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About Danny Did Foundation

Founded by Chicagoans Mike and Mariann Stanton in 2010 after the sudden death of their four-year-old son Danny, the Danny Did Foundation's primary mission is to prevent deaths caused by seizures. The Foundation is dedicated to advancing public awareness of epilepsy and Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP), enhancing the SUDEP communication model between medical professionals and families impacted by seizures, and gaining mainstream acceptance and use of seizure detection and prediction devices that may assist in preventing seizure-related deaths. Epilepsy affects nearly 3 million people in the United States and 65 million people worldwide. **One in 26 Americans** will develop epilepsy during their lifetime. Seizures can be fatal—more people die as a result of seizures than from fires and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) combined—and thousands of deaths occur annually from SUDEP, status epilepticus (prolonged seizures), and other seizure-related causes such as drowning and other accidents. The name of the Danny Did Foundation originates from the last line of Danny Stanton's obituary, written by his dad: "*Please go and enjoy your life. Danny did.*" The DDF is currently a participant in the 2015 Art Van Charity Challenge.

Danny Did Foundation

PO Box 46576, Chicago, Illinois 60646

Danny Did Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit incorporated in the State of Illinois

Please remember Danny Did Foundation in your will or estate plan

www.dannydid.org