

# Family honors son with run

## Husband, wife raising funds for epilepsy group

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What began as a pleasant Christmas Eve morning in 2009 turned frightening when 11-year-old Lucas Phillips suddenly began convulsing on the bathroom floor.

Several hospital and doctor visits later, Phillips was diagnosed with epilepsy, a seizure disorder that about 3 million American's share. His parents, Misty and Stephen Phillips, and his siblings have each dealt with the disorder in their own way.

Misty Phillips took to running and has been in several marathons. Her husband has decided to join her in honor of their son at the Chicago Marathon this October. The two are trying to raise \$3,000 as part of a team that is raising money for awareness of those who suffer from seizure disorders.

Diagnosed with an inoperable brain abnormality in August 2010, Lucas takes numerous medications to prevent a fatal seizure.

"Although as parents we do not want to think about it, his life is threatened," Misty Phillips said. "A fatal seizure or SUDEP (Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy Patients) are frightening prospects when you are talking about your child. The best we can do for now is use medicine to control the seizures along with devices that alert us."

### Getting involved

The opportunity to get involved on a national level presented itself when Phillips learned about the Danny Did Foundation, and their affiliation as a charitable partner of the Bank of America Chicago Marathon.

With more than 20 years of running experience, Misty turned to the sport to ease her own stress during Lucas' health struggles.

Danny Did Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that promotes technology and device options for epilepsy patients. Team Danny Did runs to fundraise for Danny Did and participants are asked to raise a minimum of \$1,000 to support the team's mission.

"This is my first marathon," Stephen Phillips said. "I have watched Misty run for years. The children and I

have cheered her on at many races, but I never took up the hobby myself until this January. I would like to pretend that I was not in horrible shape, but you can be the judge. I was a smoker for nearly 20 years and when I got on the treadmill the first time in January, I couldn't run 2 minutes without being completely out of breath. I honestly don't remember ever running more than a mile in my entire life before I started this journey."

Stephen Phillips said his son Lucas is his inspiration to run.

Lucas said he's really just like everyone else most of the time, whether at home or at school. He will begin at Oxford High School this fall and is ready to be a freshman. He takes medication and visits an epileptologist in Memphis regularly to monitor his condition.

Before the 26-mile race, the Phillips are training on smaller races, including this Saturday's Double Decker 10K race, the Coca Cola 10K in Corinth in May and the Cotton Row Run in Huntsville this summer.

Find out more at their fundraising website, [www.events.org/sponsorship.aspx?id=36101](http://www.events.org/sponsorship.aspx?id=36101).

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