



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Ninth Annual Caroline Pryce Walker Memorial Event
A Celebration of Hope and Promise
Raises nearly \$180,000 to Battle Childhood Cancer
Funds Support Hope Street Kids Pediatric Research Efforts

Columbus, Ohio – Hope Street Kids held its ninth annual “Caroline Pryce Walker Memorial Event” on Saturday, August 16, 2008 from 6-10 p.m. at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, 9990 Riverside Drive in Powell. Edward Sawyer served as the Honorary Chairman, and over 1,300 families were in attendance, raising nearly \$180,000 to further pediatric research efforts.

Event emcee Ellie Merritt from *First at Four* at NBC4 Columbus, kicked-off the program featuring performances by the Riverside Rats, Pax Romana and DJ Gary Parks, as well as visits from everyone’s favorite animals! Families took some time out from monkeying around to enjoy the zoo-per delicious food served barbecue-style by Bob Evans Farms. Guests enjoyed wild private viewings of the gibbons and orangutans—but no one could be found in The Roadhouse nocturnal building after dusk! The cost to attend was \$100 per family. Proceeds raised at the event support the Hope Street Kids Pediatric Cancer Research Grants and Fellowship Program.

Founded in 1999 by Congresswoman Deborah Pryce and Randy Walker, Hope Street Kids is dedicated in memory of their daughter, Caroline Pryce Walker, who lost her battle that year to neuroblastoma, a rare and aggressive childhood cancer. Caroline’s parents helped shape the

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mission of the organization and continue to support it today. The organization is committed to the elimination of childhood cancer through pioneering research, advocacy and education.

Hope Street Kids awarded its eighth round of grants and fellowships this summer with \$740,000 dedicated to innovative childhood cancer research studies across the country. Institutions receiving awards this year are: Baylor College of Medicine; Children's Hospital Medical Center – Cincinnati; Children's National Medical Center; Dana-Farber; Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; New York University School of Medicine; Stanford University; Regents of the University of California – San Francisco and Vanderbilt University.

“This event has become a wildly popular Columbus family tradition and an opportunity to help bring hope and promise to the thousands of children diagnosed with cancer each year,” said HSK Co-founder Congresswoman Deborah Pryce.

The Caroline Pryce Walker Memorial Event is presented by Limitedbrands. Major sponsors include American Electric Power, Bob Evans Farms, Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation, Giant Eagle, The Edward Sawyer Fund of The Columbus Foundation and The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. Media sponsors include NBC 4 and Clear Channel Radio - Columbus.

Prevent Cancer Foundation President Carolyn Aldigé said, “The Prevent Cancer Foundation has always believed that children are one of our most important target audiences – through our young people we can begin to build a healthier nation that may ultimately become cancer-free. The Foundation is very proud to help turn Caroline's, Deborah's and Randy's vision for *Hope Street Kids* into a viable program that can make a significant difference in the lives of children with cancer, and the lives of all our nation's children.”

On July 29, the President signed into law H.R. 1553, the *Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act*, legislation authored by Congresswoman Deborah Pryce (OH-15) to dramatically increase federal investment in childhood cancer research and awareness. The bill, an historic step in the fight to eradicate pediatric cancer authorizes \$30 million annually over five years to hasten advancements in pediatric cancer research. It creates a national database on childhood cancers to help researchers detect trends in the disease, and provides educational and informational services to patients and families to ensure they have access to appropriate clinical treatment and the array of vital support services.

“This bill brings great hope and is truly a catalyst to a cure,” adds Co-Founder of Hope Street Kids Randy Walker. “Hope Street Kids along with thousands of families and supporters nationwide leading the fight for their children can stand proud today of their accomplishment.

We are especially grateful to Senators Harry Reid D-NV, Norm Coleman R-MN; Congresswoman Deborah Pryce R-OH; and Congressman Chris Van Hollen D-MD; and to the US Congress for all of their hard work to pass this bill. The passage of the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act will have a positive impact on children, now and in future generations. With each step, we are moving toward our ultimate goal of a generation free of cancer.”

About Hope Street Kids

Hope Street Kids (HSK) is a pediatric cancer initiative of the Prevent Cancer Foundation, founded by Congresswoman Pryce and Walker, in memory of their daughter, Caroline Pryce Walker, who lost a valiant battle against neuroblastoma. Since 1999, HSK has raised over \$9 million, which enabled funding of 90 research projects at leading institutions across the country, including The Ohio State University, Nationwide Children’s Hospital and Rainbow Babies Children’s Hospital in Cleveland. It was Caroline Pryce Walker’s parents that helped shape the mission of the organization and continue to support it today. The organization is committed to the elimination of childhood cancer through pioneering research, advocacy and education.

Each year, more than 12,000 children are diagnosed with cancer, and more than 40,000 children and adolescents are currently in treatment. Of death by disease, cancer is the #1 killer of children under the age of 15. Each day 2 classrooms of children in America are diagnosed with cancer, and we lose over 2,000 kids each year to the disease.

For more information about Hope Street Kids, visit: www.hopestreetkids.org

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