

Clinton family chairs Walk for Diabetes

The Clinton Courier

This year, a Clinton family is chairing the annual Mississippi Walk for Diabetes in Jackson, set for Sunday, October 2, at Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance. Michael and Andrea Hare of Clinton, whose daughter Amelia has Type 1 diabetes, will serve as the Honorary Walk Chairs for the event that raises funds for education and assistance programs for Mississippi adults and children with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

In January of this year, Amelia Hare, then age six, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in the emergency room. Amelia was barely conscious when she was rushed to the ICU due to ketoacidosis, a potentially life-threatening condition.

“Whenever a health-care worker walked in, we were bombarded with information,” said Andrea Hare, Amelia’s mother. “I was frantically trying to write down and take in everything they said. This was a dark time for our family.”

“Before we knew it, the sun came out in the form of a huge box from the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi, or DFM,” said Andrea. “Inside was a backpack brimming with hope. Of course, there was still more information to digest, but also a cheerful assortment of goodies - like a cuddly toy dog wearing a Camp Kandu T-shirt and carb-friendly snacks. I was stunned by the kindness we were shown. The staff reached out and added me to a Facebook group, where I was able to connect with other moms, thus starting to learn how supportive the diabetes community really is.”

“We attended the spring session of their Camp Kandu just a few months after Amelia’s diagnosis,” said Andrea. “There was so much information, not only for parents, but also friends, relatives, caregivers, etc. Meanwhile, the kids had a blast just being kids and interacting with other kids just like them, and Amelia cannot wait to go back. This camp gives kids the opportunity to meet others just like them, while their families get to connect and exchange diabetes tips with other families.”

The Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi not only sponsors Camp Kandu, but also provides emergency medical supplies, soothes anxious parents, presents a Super Conference that attracts diabetes experts from around the country, and educates educators on diabetes in the class-



Special to The Clinton Courier
Amelia Hare at Camp Kandu 2022



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Andrea Hare, Christina Slater, Grayson Hare, Amelia Hare and Michael Hare



room. The DFM also assists people struggling with the new economic realities with life-sustaining medications and supplies.

The October 2 event will have fun festivities appropriate for the whole family, with registration and activities beginning at 1p.m., followed by the walk’s ribbon cutting starting at 2 p.m. There will be a one-mile family fun route, as well as a 5k walk. Supporters are encouraged to bring their “village” and create a team with their family, friends, classmates, sports teams, Sunday school classes, co-workers, civic groups, or all of the above. Individual walkers are also welcome.

One hundred percent of donations raised by the Walk for Diabetes stay in the state to fund educational and assistance programs, as well as Camp Kandu for children with diabetes.

“As Honorary Chairs of the metro Jackson Walk, Amelia, my family and I invite you to help the DFM continue to better the lives of kids and adults living with diabetes by supporting their largest fundraiser on Sunday, October 2,” said Andrea. “Every dollar raised stays in Mississippi to support their amazing programs and services for families and health professionals alike.”

To register, call the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi at 601-957-7878, or visit MSDiabetes.org.



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