



# Wish Upon A Cure™

David P. Campbell Foundation  
for Pediatric Mitochondrial Disease Research

FALL 2003

## ★ Reaching the Stars for those with Mitochondrial Disease ★

I know it has been quite a while since I've sent any news from our end of the world, and many of you have e-mailed us lately to ask how the three of us are doing. We continue to savor the love and support you send our way -- although it's been over two years since our little David was in ICU on life support with his dreaded mitochondrial disease. The three of us he left behind still miss him terribly, and we really appreciate your continued prayers and thoughts. So many said that time would ease the pain of our loss; that doesn't seem to be true yet, except we have learned to channel our love for David and use it to help other children with these awful diseases.

### Nearly as common as childhood cancer

We have learned a few things in these past two years. One in every 2,000 children born will develop mitochondrial disease in their lifetimes. Half of those (one in every 4,000) will develop the disease before their fifth birthday -- nearly the same rate as childhood cancer. The other half will develop the disease between 5 and 65 years old.

### Mitochondrial dysfunction in aging disorders like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Disease

We've also learned a few things well beyond the childhood disorders. The statistics quoted in the previous paragraph are for the inherited forms of mitochondrial disease only. They completely ignore the role of mitochondrial dysfunction in degenerative disorders of aging like diabetes, heart disease, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Disease.

So with all of this new knowledge, it was a natural extension of our love for David that we find a way to carry on his spirit and begin to spread awareness of these devastating diseases.

### The story about mitochondrial disease spreads across the U.S.

Wish Upon A Cure™ fundraising services held three fundraising events in the Orange County, CA area in the fall of 2002, mailed out more than 2,000 letters across the U.S., and launched our website ([www.wishuponacure.org](http://www.wishuponacure.org)). Others organized fundraisers to help our effort, including children raising money at their schools (in VA) and at their lemonade stands (in CA).

Over 50 volunteers regularly gave of their time to David's charity, and donations were received from more than 1,000 people to help us fight this battle. Needless to say, we are thankful for the wonderful support of each and every one of the volunteers, sup-

**"Mitochondrial disease may shed new light on energy loss and ailments of later life."**

*Los Angeles Times, June 30, 2003*

porters and donors who gave so generously last year. *Thank you one and all!* This is the first of what we hope to be many newsletters that share information about mitochondrial disease and the efforts of the Foundation.

This year will bring new challenges to, and opportunities for, the Foundation's growth. Our first and foremost challenge will be to gain recognition for mitochondrial disease as a separate and distinct disease class. This is a critical step, as it helps pediatricians and specialists better recognize symptoms, allows the government to designate vital research dollars, and helps families better cope with the realities of caring for a child with an illness.

Second, and just as important, we have set a goal of funding a research fellow and the equipment needs of the mitochondrial disease research facility at UCSD. Finally, several

families whose children have been diagnosed with mitochondrial disease have contacted us, and we are committed to helping them navigate life with these terrible diseases in any way we can.

### 2003 Outreach efforts are underway

Our 2003 fundraising efforts are well underway. Please note the dates listed below in the "Coming Events" box.

Mere words in this note to you don't begin to express our deepest and sincere thanks for your interest in helping fight mitochondrial disease. With you, Wish Upon a Cure can do great things!

Warm regards,

*Cathy Campbell*

Founder

### 2003 COMING EVENTS

#### October 4

Fore Kidz Charity Golf Tournament hosted by the Chandler, AZ Jaycees

#### October 31

Wish Upon a Cure Breakfast  
8:00 a.m. Westin South Coast Plaza,  
Costa Mesa, CA

#### November 8

ATA Taekwondo Regional Tournament (Foundation is designated charity for this event), 9:00 a.m. Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, CA

#### November 15

Thank you event for our Wish Upon a Cure Multiple-Year Giving Society members (also, this would have been David's 6th birthday)

## ★ What is Mitochondrial Disease?

Every cell in our body contains mitochondria. Mitochondria are the "energy factories" that produce the energy used by our bodies.

When mitochondria fail, a person could have one of many symptoms, including seizures, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), low blood counts, muscle spasms, blindness, deafness, dementia, stumbling or tremors, cerebral palsy, heart failure, stroke, or progressive muscle weakness. Often, three or more organ systems are affected in sequence.

Once thought to be rare, these diseases are now known to be nearly as common as childhood cancer. Nearly 5,000 people will be diagnosed this year in the United States. Many more children will be gravely affected before a diagnosis can be reached. Currently, the diagnosis of Mitochondrial Disease is often missed because sensitive tests to accurately diagnose all of the possible defects have not yet been developed.

### WISH UPON A CURE FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST SAVE THE DATE!

On Friday, October 31, the Foundation will be hosting its major 2003 fundraising event, a breakfast at the Westin South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa, CA. The free breakfast will be from 8 to 9 am and will start and finish promptly allowing everyone to leave in time for his or her busy day. We are hoping to share breakfast with 500 special guests who

will be asked to join our growing number of supporters who share our passion to fight mitochondrial disease. If you are interested in hosting a table or need more information, please contact Michelle Mathison at (949) 837-7922 or [m\\_mathison@msn.com](mailto:m_mathison@msn.com).

### TAEKWONDO TOURNAMENT SELECTS FOUNDATION AS RECIPIENT CHARITY

The ATA Taekwondo Family Center of Mission Viejo, CA is sponsoring a regional ATA tournament on Saturday, November 8th at the Anaheim, CA Convention Center. The martial arts studio has selected the Foundation as the recipient charity of this year's regional tournament.

David's parents, Cathy and Dan, accepted little David's (a.k.a. "Little Dragon") black belt posthumously at the Wish Upon a Cure Luncheon and Silent Auction last November 2002. David's big brother, Danny, earned his black belt at the age of nine in May 2003.

A special thank you to Mr. Tosh Gilbert of the Mission Viejo ATA Taekwondo Studio for making this possible.



### Wish Upon A Cure Luncheon and Silent Auction, November 2002



L to R: Cathy Campbell, Founder, Robert K. Naviaux, M.D., Carol Preston Barham, Christine Haas, Richard H. Hass, M.D., Deborah Rice, Linda Leffel, Kathy Thomas, Chair, Marci Glidden, Jane Lehmann Shafron, Sheree Timmons.

### FUNDRAISING ACHIEVEMENTS A seven-fold increase in 2002

In its first full year 2002, the Foundation raised \$75,000 (we receive our 501(c) nonprofit status as a fund of the Orange County Community Foundation). That's a seven-fold increase over the previous year, and now makes us one of the larger charities in the U.S. fighting mitochondrial diseases.

#### SUMMARY

1. \$85,000 raised over the last two years
2. 2002 Outreach and Awareness Activities:
  - Community Cut-a-thon – Tres Jolie Hair Salon in Mission Viejo, CA
  - Silent Auction and Luncheon – Mission Viejo Country Club, CA
  - Benefit Concert featuring Jana Alayra and Band, Mount of Olives Church, Mission Viejo, CA
  - National outreach campaign

### ★ Our Legacy Begins

Through our fundraising efforts, the Foundation has already been able to make a difference:

We supported research efforts by Dr. Robert K. Naviaux, Co-Director of the Metabolic and Mitochondrial Disease Center (MMDC) at UC San Diego School of Medicine for a three month-period with a grant of \$35,000. Dr. Naviaux, the gifted physician and researcher who helped care for David in his final days, was recently awarded a national Congressional Leadership Award for his outstanding achievements in the area of mitochondrial disease research. The Foundation is honored to be able to sponsor Dr. Naviaux's important work in mitochondrial medicine.

In addition, the Foundation supported Dr. Naviaux's consultation to the Grand Rapids, MI DeVos Children's Hospital. There, he trained local specialists on the method of diagnosis used at UCSD's Mitochondrial and Metabolic Disease Center (MMDC). He also met with four patients and their families, helping the DeVos Children's Hospital team with the diagnosis of those children.



Wish Upon A Cure™ fundraising services is dedicated to raising funds for the David P. Campbell Foundation for Pediatric Mitochondrial Disease Research.

Wish Upon a Cure™ is a trademark of Cathy Campbell. The David P. Campbell Foundation for Pediatric Mitochondrial Disease Research is a fund of, and receives charity status through, the Orange County Community Foundation (Tax ID # 33-0378778).

