

Media Announcement

September 25, 2009

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Child Advocates Honored with Children's Hospital's Spirit of Advocacy Awards

RICHMOND, VA – Children's Hospital of Richmond announced the winners of its 2009 Spirit of Advocacy Awards during its annual Advocacy Day program held at the hospital on Sept. 24. Jamie and Kristie Lint were honored with the Family Award, and Jeff Kraus received the Community Partner Award.

The Lints were nominated for working tirelessly to provide support to families with children who have rare and sometimes fatal disorders such as Trisomy 13. The Lints brought their son, who has Trisomy 13, to Children's Hospital in December 2007 to start a ketogenic diet to control his seizures. A ketogenic diet requires a huge family commitment, and the Lints' commitment has benefited their son by helping to reduce his seizures and improve his quality of life. While raising three children, the Lints also serve as advocates and chapter Co-Chairs for the state of Virginia SOFT (Support Organization for Trisomy 18, 13 and related disorders), where they help other families find and obtain resources related to these disorders. This year the Lints are also serving as Co-Chairs for the 2009 International SOFT conference to be held in Roanoke, Va.

A former market manager with Walmart, Kraus was nominated for his personal commitment and his professional dedication to supporting children's healthcare programs. Kraus began his association with Children's Miracle Network Richmond, which supports Children's Hospital and Virginia Commonwealth University Children's Medical Center, in 1998. In 2003, Kraus partnered with Cox radio to plan a golf tournament to benefit Children's Miracle Network Richmond and two years later partnered with Comcast and CBS6 to start the Walmart Miracle Challenge, a mini grand prix that would become the signature event of the market and spread to other Virginia markets within a year. Before retiring from Walmart in May, Kraus supported a statewide fundraising effort that raised more than \$34,000 in less than eight weeks. In the last 11 years, he has helped raise nearly \$1.9 million in Walmart contributions.

The Spirit of Advocacy awards were created by Children's Hospital in 2004 to formally recognize a family or family member of a Children's Hospital patient for their efforts in advocating for the health care needs of their child or the broader needs of children in the community. In 2005, a Community Partner Award was added to recognize the efforts of professionals who use their position and skills to advocate for children's healthcare. Criteria for both awards include taking a positive action in regard to some aspect of advocating for legislative or safety initiatives, influencing funding sources or new program development, obtaining healthcare services for children, influencing improvements to the community for children with special health care needs, and/or suggesting improvements to health care services.



Jamie and Kristie Lint won the 2009 Spirit of Advocacy Family Award, presented by Children's Hospital during an evening program on September 24th. Jamie and Kristie are pictured with daughters Olivia (age 5) and Mariah (age 9), son Zion (age 8), and Kendall Lee, Children's Hospital's Government Relations and Advocacy Coordinator.

About Children's Hospital

Children's Hospital is a resource and provider of specialized medical and therapeutic services customized to meet the specific needs of children and their families. The hospital began as a small clinic in 1917 and now serves more than 7,000 children each year through the main hospital location and Therapy Centers in Fredericksburg, Glen Allen, Midlothian and Petersburg, Va. The Advocacy Program at Children's Hospital coordinates efforts related to children's issues and specific issues faced by children with special needs.