



Walk for Hope

American Partnership
for
Eosinophilic Disorders



- Who:** The American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED) is nonprofit organization dedicated to patients and their families coping with Eosinophilic disorders. APFED's mission is **Education, Awareness, Support and Research**
- What:** One Mile Walk in honor of Zachary Patterson
- When:** Saturday, May 31, 2008 2:00 pm
- Where:** The Village Green Park on 541 Main St in Lumberton NJ 08048

www.APFED.org

Last year our son, Zachary was diagnosed with an Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Disorder (EGID). Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Disorder is a general term used to describe a group of diseases and disorders caused by the production of too many white blood cells called eosinophils. Zachary has more eosinophils than he is supposed to have, and they are in areas that they shouldn't be (stomach, esophagus and colon). EGID patients suffer from their immune system's eosinophils attacking their body's own normal, healthy tissues. This process results in inflammation and swelling of the affected tissues. EGID is thought to be both an allergic and autoimmune disease, such that the body's immune system that normally fights infection, mistakes common food proteins and environmental allergens as foreign to the body. EGID causes chronic illness that significantly impacts a person's quality of life. Ability to attend school or work is greatly diminished. Diet is based on a non-allergenic formula regimen while the patient endures months or years of "food trials", during which the patient eats a specific food for a specific period, then receives a colonoscopy/endoscopy to determine if there is damage to the affected areas of the body.

Zachary is currently on the elimination diet. He is supplemented with the Neocate E028 formula through a g-tube, which was placed surgically by his doctors. Zack will have to undergo the endoscopy every 4-6 weeks in Cincinnati Children's hospital, until we can establish safe food proteins for him to consume. Zack has a hard time with not eating the foods he loved, but understands that his trials will ultimately save him from the constant bellyaches, vomiting and severe weight loss that had plagued him in the past.

Zachary also has Aspergers and Asthma, both are very common with this disease. Zachary has had OT, Speech and Behavior Therapy since he was two years old. He has had to overcome many obstacles with his disability. Now he has a more difficult obstacle to overcome with not being able to eat. Our son is truly an inspiration to us and everyone that he meets. He has a smile on his face everyday, even when he is not feeling well. How could a 6-year boy that lives with such a life changing disease be so happy? He does not let this disease define him. He is a strong boy. I hope that he will inspire you, as he has inspired us!

This is a complex disease, with many questions unanswered, because there is little awareness or research. There needs to be much more awareness for doctors, health care providers, researchers and the general public. We hope that by hosting this walk, and raising funds for research and education, that we could share our son's story, and help him to live a better life.

Together we can make a difference for Zachary, and other children living with this disease. We would be honored if you would join our Walk on May 31st. Please help us to raise money for this cause. Thanks for your support, and we look forward to seeing you there.

The Patterson Family



Please use the forms below to record all of the donations you receive. Please make as many copies of this form as you will need to record all check and cash donations you receive. Please complete a donation record for each donation you receive. This will ensure that all donations are properly credited. **THANK YOU!**

Please make checks payable to APFED.

Mail to:
Sharon Patterson
7 Neils Ct.
Lumberton NJ 08048

If you have any questions please contact 609.351.7185 or
Spatterson76@comcast.net
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