

June 2007

TEE UP  TO CURE DIABETES



dedicated to finding a cure

Hi! We hope you are well. We are proud to report that by golf cart, by foot, and by bicycle, the Ellie's Elephants team raised over \$24,000 for diabetes research last year!

We started with golf. The 2nd annual JDRF—Ellie Clark Charity Golf Outing last August was a huge success—100 golfers, enjoying the summer sun and swinging clubs for research. Our walk in September was not so fortunate with the weather—but our team of 20 braved cold & rain to walk 5K in Grand Rapids for the Walk to Cure Diabetes. Our 2006 fundraising efforts wrapped up with three teammates riding 105 miles on their bicycles in Death Valley, CA last October. You can check out all the details of our 2006 efforts and see pictures here: www.ellies-elephants.com.



Our family struggles daily with the challenges presented by diabetes. We find ourselves in a constant dance—waver-
ing between worry about what diabetes is doing to Ellie's body in the short and long term, and hope that she can **just be a normal kid**. We've lost count of the finger pokes and pump site changes, although a reminder every few hours (or more) must always seep its way into our lives.



The work of JDRF has taken a front seat in our lives, too. Katie is busy daily with Government Relations work, Children's Congress, West Michigan chapter responsibilities, supporting other parents, and countless other ways of making a difference. Our family is even part of revolutionary new technology—**continuous glucose monitors**. Both Katie and Ellie now wear devices with a catheter just under the skin, alarming if glucose levels become too high or too low. These devices are expensive (\$35 each, every three days), but the dreaded complications we hope to avoid are worth every penny for the monitors.

You—our family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues can help us fight type 1 diabetes and give Ellie, Katie and 3 million other people in the US the cure they need. It might mean sending a donation to our team. Or, if you are looking for a little something more and to have some fun, we invite you to join us at the **3rd Annual JDRF—Ellie Clark Charity Golf Outing** on Friday, August 3, 2007. We would be thrilled to see you there!

If a monetary donation is just not possible this year, you can still help. We ask that you support Ellie's advocacy efforts for JDRF. In the two years since Ellie went to Washington D.C. to testify at a Senate hearing, we continue to work with Congress to increase awareness and encourage funding to find a cure.

Visit <http://www.ellies-elephants.com> for more details on all of these things.

You can:

- Join our Walk Team and join us on September 29, 2007
- Sign up a team for the 3rd Annual JDRF – Ellie Clark Golf Outing
- Donate to Ellie's Walk effort (receipts available for all online donations!)
- Donate to Anna's Walk effort
- Donate to Steve or Katie's Ride efforts – each has a \$4,000 goal
- Sign up to be an Advocate for JDRF

We thank you for your support, now and in the future. We **will** be known as the people who cured diabetes. Just how long will it take?

Warm Wishes,
Steve, Katie, Ellie & Anna Clark

