

It's About Ability!

SPRING 2019



Walker Family
in 2008

The Walker Family drives in from Brandon every year for the RBC Cruisin' down the Crescent!



A Family Tradition

Since 2008, the Walker Family has shown up with pure hearts and dedication to support the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation's RBC Cruisin' Down the Crescent Event! The annual fundraising event is a Walker family affair as they make the trek from Brandon to Wellington Crescent every year—with the exception of the past two years. The Walker family is very familiar with traveling, they lived overseas in Western Africa and Egypt.

Fourteen year old Maddy is the family's direct connection to the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation (CRF). Maddy lives with Cerebral Palsy. "We are just so blessed to have an organization like CRF and a place like the Rehabilitation Centre for Children for us to access," says

Meredith, Maddy's mother.

In order to facilitate her mobility, Maddy has received physiotherapy from the Rehabilitation Centre for Children's outreach program, orthopedic services, and specialized equipment like her wheelchair and stroller.

"We have such a tremendous amount of gratitude and respect for everything they do and they help so many people," explains Meredith.

Assistive devices have empowered Maddy in continuing to travel coast to coast in the U.S. and in Canada including adventures of hiking in the glaciers of the Rocky Mountains with her family!

Moving back to Canada over a

decade ago, the family has not missed a beat when it comes to giving back to their communities. Maddy and her two brothers have learned from a young age the value of contributing to the community.

"It is important to teach our kids the importance of giving back," notes Meredith. "Fundraising and participating is our way of saying thank you to those who support us".

The Walker family is always on their feet ready and willing to support whenever and however they are able to! Being able to attend this year's 23rd Annual RBC Cruisin' Down the Crescent and walk with other families is

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the highlight of the year for the Walker's.

"It's amazing seeing everyone coming together to support the children and families who live with disabilities," explains Meredith.

Maddy has a specialized bike from CRF - which she will be bringing with her to RBC Cruisin' Down the Crescent on June 9th! Thank you to the Walker Family for your support and dedication to the RBC Cruisin' Down the Crescent. Your generous support is helping fund the L.I.F.E. Program. Please visit cruisindownthecrescent.ca for more information today!

Sunday, June 9, 2019

Andrew Currie Park

1420 Wellington Crescent

Registration: 8 AM



Walker Family
and Friends in
2016



L.I.F.E. Program Changes Sarah's Life!

For a young person like Sarah, who has unique challenges with gross motor skill development, avoiding gym class that was primarily structured around traditional sports was her norm.

"In gym class, she was always worried about being hit by a ball because she can't react as quickly," explains Sarah's mom, Wendy. "Sarah was always at a disadvantage physically."

When Sarah and her mom discovered the Leisure in Fun Environments (L.I.F.E.) program at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCC) in Winnipeg, they both knew it was an immediate fit. L.I.F.E. provides children, youth and teens with disabilities a wide range of recreational opportunities - including summer day camps and yoga.

"Yoga is now one of my favourite activities," says Sarah, "[L.I.F.E.] has been different from other experiences because they do what is best for each of us. It's been a really great experience."

Children's Rehabilitation Foundation has been able to offer more programs just like L.I.F.E., allowing participants like Sarah to try new sports and activities, learn about exercise and have fun - all while feeling like they belong.



With this new-found confidence, Sarah, who is now 20 years old, has been inspired to give back through volunteering with RCC, in hopes that she can help others gain confidence, make friends and feel good about participating in physical activity programs.

Upcoming Events



**Saturday
June 22, 2019**

Join us on your motorcycle or come watch the ride kick-off at the SSCY Centre! See the joy firsthand as children on their bikes kick off the ride and lead the way as our ceremonial leads! The ride will continue to Pine-Falls Powerview, Lac Du Bonnet, Beausejour, and return at 3 pm for a BBQ, tour of the SSCY Centre, prize draws and fun activities for children!

To register for the third annual Bikes from Bikers ride, contact Adell Gauthier (204) 258-6702 or adell@crf.mb.ca



Bikes from Bikers has a dedicated and passionate committee made of bikers. "Bikers all love to go on rides, but going on a ride with a purpose especially when it helps kids is much more meaningful. Knights on Bikes are excited to host their first annual Biker Breakfast and bike blessing. We are expecting visitors from several other motorcycle groups and kids with bicycles. All are welcome!" said Corey Bossuyt of the Bikes from Bikers organizing committee.

**CHICKENFEST
MAY 7, 2019**

Rotary Club of Winnipeg West's annual Chickenfest is back for another year! Dine in, take out, or order your lunch delivery while supporting CRF! Contact (204) 897-3690 or visit chickenfest.ca to purchase your tickets today!

**BIKER BREAKFAST
MAY 26, 2019**

Knights on Bikes presents, Biker Breakfast! Come to this family and community event for breakfast on Sunday, May 26. Breakfast will be served at 9:45 a.m. and again at 11:30 a.m. at Mary Mother of The Church, 85 Kirkbridge Drive.

**LET'S GO FISHING WITH
BOBBY HULL
JULY 22,23,24,25 OR 26,
2019**

You can go fishing with hockey legend Bobby Hull at Reid's Birch Island Resort in Minaki, Ontario all in support of CRF!

For more information contact Adell Gauthier at (204) 258-6702 or adell@crf.mb.ca

**FOR FULL DETAILS
VISIT CRF.MB.CA**

Thoughtful Thank You

Since birth, Kristen has had to work extra hard and longer than most children to achieve milestones. Born with a rare genetic disorder, only discovered in 2015, trying to find appropriate activities that could challenge Kristen has always been a struggle. No matter what Kristen is going through, she is always smiling and happy. She loves to be outside as much as possible so we are always trying to find activities that she can enjoy outside. About 4 years ago, her physiotherapist suggested a bike from Children's Rehabilitation Foundation (CRF). She arranged to get a bike on loan from CRF. From the moment Kristen sat on the bike, there was a change in her persona, she had achieved a freedom she had never experienced before. Cruising around the neighborhood, connecting with kids and neighbors, she felt like any other kid riding her bike. As a parent, we quickly realized that the bike gave Kristen an opportunity to experience things that most of us take for granted: independence. This past March, Kristen was presented with her own bike thanks to a generous donation from The Motor Club. Words cannot express our gratitude to all the people who helped make this bike a reality for our daughter. The Children's Rehabilitation Foundation and their tireless efforts to support families of children with special needs is a driving force in our community and a voice that highlights the rights of those who cannot speak for themselves. Thank you for being the catalyst for this wonderful gift.

- Kristen's mother, Michele



Kristen on her new bike with Vern and Larry from The Motor Patrol as well Moses from MGM Construction

 Children's Rehabilitation Foundation™

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